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Coastal Bend Community Visioning Project

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BoldFuture Initiative Asking Area Youth to Help Shape Future of Coastal Bend *Students living in Nueces and San Patricio Counties can qualify for lap top computers and other prizes offered in essay contest*

Whether students attend elementary school or take college courses, they should have their say in the vision for the Coastal Bend of the future. The BoldFuture for the Coastal Bend initiative is offering great prizes for students Pre-kindergarten through college-age in Nueces and San Patricio Counties to get involved in the BoldFuture Essay Contest that asks participants to address, "I Can Improve My Community By...."

"We chose the topic because we want to inspire students to envision themselves taking positive action and responsibility for their communities," says Chere Large, a volunteer with the BoldFuture Youth Team. "BoldFuture organizers want to gather the visions of our young people, the core of our future. Their input will have long-term effects on the entire Coastal Bend."

The contest is divided by grade categories and includes prizes sponsored by area businesses. Winners in each category will be notified after Jan. 26, 2009, and organizers plan to hold an awards ceremony on Saturday, Feb. 28. Categories and prizes include: Pre-kindergarten through second grade, Leap Frog Reading System; third through fifth grade, Vtech Touch Tablet (Advanced); sixth through eighth grade, Fly Fusion Ultimate Homework Pack; high school, Dell Inspiron Mini 9 PC; and college level, Dell Inspiron Mini 9 PC.

To access contest guidelines, judging categories and a submission form online, go to the BoldFuture for the Coastal Bend homepage at www.boldfuturecoastalbend.org and click on "News/Events."

Students must submit their entries by Dec. 31, 2008 to: BoldFuture Essay Contest, P.O. Box 597, Corpus Christi, TX 78403 or email a Microsoft Word document to BoldFutureYouth@aol.com.

Packets of information are being mailed to local and area schools this week.

Questions? Email BoldFutureYouth@aol.com or call the BoldFuture for the Coastal Bend office at 698-2115. Messages will be retrieved promptly by BoldFuture volunteers.

As a grassroots community visioning initiative, BoldFuture for the Coastal Bend seeks input from all Nueces and San Patricio County residents who want to voice their own community vision. Pre-kindergarten- through college-age students are among those voices needing to be heard.

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