

## EXTENSION AGENT CATEGORY

**Vidal Saenz**  
**Extension Agent—CEP (AgNR)**  
**Hidalgo County**

Vidal Saenz's program impact as an Extension agent has reached all across the Rio Grande Valley. He has collaborated with local banks, the Texas Farm Bureau, USDA agencies, local livestock auctions, and local feed stores in the delivery of relevant programming targeted at limited resource producers. Vidal's co-worker stated that after more than fourteen years, he is consistently pleasant to work with and he tackles all assignments with dedication and leadership abilities to address the limited resource agriculture producers of the Rio Grande Valley.

Mr. Saenz's Cooperative Extension Program, "Small Farm Outreach Training and Technical Assistance Program" has developed activities such as the Small Acreage Vegetable Production Workshop, Education of USDA's Rural Youth Loan Program, New and Transitioning Horticulture Producers, Production and Financial Record Keeping Workshop, Land Issues for farmers and ranchers, as well as one on one financial planning and management.

In 2012, one of Mr. Saenz's programs assisted over 45 producers in submitting loan requests for nearly five (5) million dollars. His assistance represents a total fee savings to the producers of over \$135,000.00 or approximately \$3,000.00 per producer. Vidal provides technical assistance to limited resource and socially disadvantaged agriculture producers on filing out loan requests from USDA Farm Service Agency and local commercial lending institutions. He provides outreach on USDA Farm Service Agency loan programs and he discovers and removes obstacles that prevent small farmer's full participation in FSA's loan programs.

Mr. Saenz also published news articles in 2012 in four Rio Grande Valley newspapers and the regional magazines, "The Gulf Coast Cartographer" and "Agriflic Today". As a result of the publication in the regional magazines, his articles were picked up by several other newspapers in the state.

Mr. Saenz has done an outstanding job addressing and servicing the needs of farmers and ranchers in the Rio Grande Valley. He has worked with Extension clients in Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy, and Starr Counties helping them to not only obtain financing through USDA Farm Services Agency but also assisting them in keeping and improving production and financial records to generate personal and farm financial statements.

Many of these producers qualify for financing through USDA Farm Services Agency, but are not aware of their programs or are overwhelmed by the paperwork involved in the application. Mr. Saenz's program offers support in removing many of these obstacles that impede producers from applying and obtaining loans.

Mr. Saenz is truly an asset to the Cooperative Extension Program at Prairie View A&M University and his performance and impact merits recognition for his superior service.

## YEARS OF SERVICE

**5 Years**

Rickey L. Mahaley  
 Timothy K. Sandles  
 Vida B. Harrison

**10 Years**

Grace Guerra Gonzalez  
 Crystal E. Wiltz  
 Brandon C. Hawkins

**15 Years**

Carolyn J. Nobles

**25 Years**

B. Elaine Freency

**30 Years**

Patricia A. Reed  
 Willie R. DeWalt

**35 Years**

Neal Barnes

**Government Service Certificate**

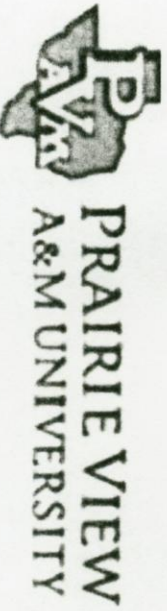
**Carolyn J. Nobles 35 Years**



**PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY**  
**Cooperative Extension Program**

**Awards Committee**

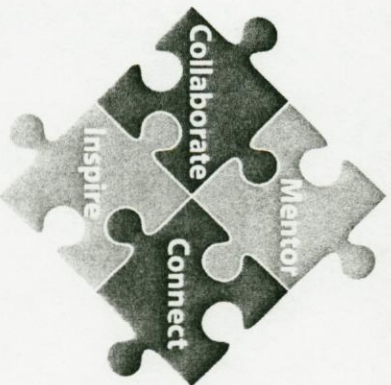
<b>Ms. Dawn Burton, Chair</b> Health Coordinator Family and Consumer Sciences	<b>Mr. Neal Baines</b> Human Resources Officer-CEP College of Ag & Human Sciences
<b>Mrs. Sheila Randle</b> Administrative Assistant I Family and Consumer Sciences	<b>Mrs. Annette Bowdre</b> Administrative Assistant I Family and Consumer Sciences
<b>Dr. Velva McWhinney</b> Cooperative Ag. Research Center Research Scientist	<b>Ms. Kelley Redmon</b> Communications Specialist College of Ag. & Human Sciences



Prairie View, Texas

"It is the policy of the Cooperative Extension Program to ensure that consideration for awards is made without regard to race, religion, sex, age, disability, national origin or other non-merit factors."

**2013**  
*Administrator's Program*  
*Delivery Award*



**Lakeway Resort and Spa**  
Lakeway, TX  
March 20, 2013  
7:00 p.m.



Cooperative Extension Program  
Prairie View A&M University