March 23, 2005

Dear UTEP Students, Staff, and Faculty:

Are you ready to volunteer? We thought you were. You are cordially invited to participate in this year’s National Volunteer Week, which will be the week of April 17 to April 23. The University of Texas System Student Advisory Councils (UTSSAC) has asked the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) to develop a volunteer project based solely on the needs of our campus and/or our local community. These projects are organized to allow students, faculty, staff, and administrators to serve the community in the greatest way possible.

This year, UTEP has decided to focus on literacy with elementary age (pre-kindergarten to 4th grade) students through the Just Read! Campaign. We are asking that you take time out of your schedule to visit a local elementary school and read to the students. We have scheduled reading times with numerous elementary schools, throughout the city of El Paso, on the dates of April 18-22, 2005 and April 25-28, 2005. We are asking, as a volunteer, that you select either the 1:00 p.m. or 2:00 p.m. time slot and read to a class for about 30 to 45 minutes. At the end of the reading time, we hope that you will visit with these young students about the importance of literacy and about why they should go to college (especially UTEP). It is through your experiences and reassurance that they will become excited about their ability to Just Read! We will have prizes for you to give the students as a way of saying thank you and encouraging them to strive even harder to read and go to college.

As added incentive, all volunteers will have their names put into a drawing for gift certificates from the University Bookstore. We will be giving away certificates up to $300! If you have any questions about this program or would like to sign up immediately, please stop by the Student Development Center (SDC) in the West Union, room 106. You can also call or e-mail Zane Reif at (915) 747-5670 or zreif@utep.edu with questions about the campaign.

We really hope that you take the time to volunteer for a worthy cause and help us support the UTEP United to Serve Campaign!

Sincerely,

UTEP United to Serve