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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FORMER SENATOR BRINGS DIEZ Y SEIS CELEBRATION TO COLLEGE**

Austin, TX – September 11, 2007 – The Honorable Gonzalo Barrientos and Austin Community College will celebrate Diez y Seis de Septiembre, Mexico’s Independence Day on Friday, Sept. 14, at the Riverside Campus.

Diez y Seis honors Mexico’s independence from Spain, and Barrientos is co-hosting the event with ACC’s Center for Public Policy and Political Studies and the Latino/Latin American Studies Center (El Centro).

“Awareness of culture begins with education, and ACC is at the forefront of creating cultural educational experiences, along with academic enrichment, for its students, faculty and surrounding communities,” said Barrientos, who represented Travis County until 2006. “I am proud to bring this annual Diez y Seis celebration of freedom to the college’s Riverside Campus.”

The celebration will feature live performances by Mariachi Relámpago, Johnny Degollado and Roy Lozano’s Ballet Folklorico de Texas. There also will be inspirational speakers including Amparo Garcia-Crow, Latino playwright and program director of the newly opened Mexican American Cultural Center. The public is invited.

**WHAT:** Diez y Seis Celebration

**WHEN:** Friday, September 14, from noon to 1 p.m.

**WHERE:** ACC’s Riverside Campus, 1020 Grove Blvd, outdoor commons

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