



**Alcohol & Drug Abuse Council  
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## **ADACCV News Release**

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### **ASU's Community Development Initiatives (CDI) and the Concho Valley Community Action & Resources for Empowerment & Success (CV CARES) Coalition Announces Partnership**

It is with great excitement that the Alcohol & Drug Abuse Council for the Concho Valley (ADACCV), as the fiscal coordinators for the CV CARES coalition, announces our partnership and participation with Angelo State University's Community Development Initiatives (CDI) program. CDI seeks to promote better communities for us all to live in through innovative faculty and student research and learning projects that support individuals and organizations working to find new, effective ways of facing the challenges to the overall development of San Angelo and surrounding communities.

Dr. Kenneth Stewart, CDI program founder and ASU Professor of Sociology, says the CDI program's primary objective "is to conduct projects that spawn new knowledge and skills among faculty, students and community members for sustaining community development into the future."

The CV CARES coalition's primary mission is to unite our community and create an environment that encourages the elimination of substance abuse, so that our children and families can thrive in a spiritual, moral, healthy, drug-free environment. With federal funding from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) the CV CARES coalition plans a Drug-Free Communities Project to reduce substance use by youth, and overtime by adults, while building on the capacity of the community to address substance use issues by utilizing environmental community strategies.

To help advance these missions, Mr. Brian Zitrick, a CDI Student Research Assistant, will work with the CV CARES coalition from January 2009 – August 2009 to provide technical research and evaluation assistance for the Drug-Free Communities Project. In addition, students currently enrolled in the University's new *Community Development* course will gain firsthand knowledge of the workings of a community coalition. Students will be overseeing direct coalition projects, while using innovative techniques for accomplishing the objectives of the Drug-Free Communities Project. Class participants will gain experience and knowledge in such areas as coalition capacity building, resource development and sharing, grant writing, community event planning, and advocacy.

Julie Alonso, DFC Project Director comments: "This is an exciting opportunity to tap into existing community resources and work together to make lasting change in our community. The ASU student population offers a unique perspective and a vast array of talents to address not only substance abuse issues, but to make lasting community changes through practical service learning."

For more information on this partnership and many of the exciting events planned through the CV CARES coalition, you may contact Julie Alonso or Angelina Osornio at ADACCV 325-224-3481. For more information on the CDI program please contact Dr. Kenneth Stewart at (325) 942-2219, ext. 256.

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