

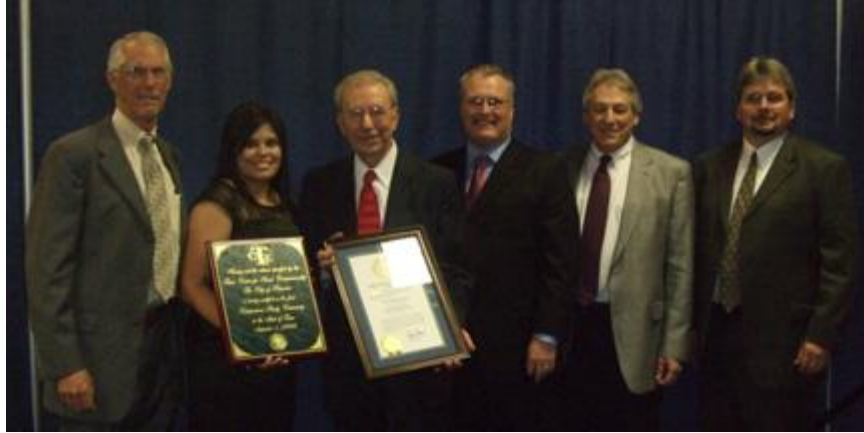
Texas AgriLife Extension Service has spearheaded the certification of Plainview, TX as the first Entrepreneur Ready Community in Texas. Certification was through the Texas Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, a nonprofit statewide network of economic developers, which receives its primary leadership from its Chairman, Extension Economist Dr. Greg Clary.

Certification was awarded after approximately three years of building capacity to support local entrepreneurs. Accomplishments included organization of a leadership team (PEGA, the Plainview Entrepreneur Guide Alliance); completion of a number of entrepreneur education programs and community assessments; providing assistance to numerous local entrepreneurs; assisting in the creation of over new 35 businesses in 2009 alone.

Several local resource providers that help make up PEGA have also been certified as Entrepreneur Guides. These individuals completed several intense educational workshops where they learned about many topics including what entrepreneurs need to successfully create and grow businesses, what they as resource providers can do to help entrepreneurs and what their community need to successfully employ entrepreneurship as an economic development strategy. They were guided through their development by Dr. Greg Clary, Extension Economist.

The success exhibited by Plainview has spurred interest among several other communities around Texas to follow the path to certification. These communities are found across the entire rural landscape in Texas.

For further information and quotes from the certification celebration see [http://www.myplainview.com/articles/2009/11/13/breaking\\_news/doc4afd9817e0efd009554426.txt](http://www.myplainview.com/articles/2009/11/13/breaking_news/doc4afd9817e0efd009554426.txt)



STATE'S FIRST: Dr. Greg Clary (left), chairman of the Texas Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, presented a plaque and proclamation from Gov. Rick Perry designating Plainview as the state's first Certified Entrepreneur Ready Community at a banquet Thursday at Plainview Civic Center. Pictured with Clary are (from left) Main Street/CVB Special Projects Assistant Sarah Castillo, Mayor John C. Anderson, PEGA representative Paul Henderson of South Plains College, City Manager Greg Ingham and Main Street/CVB Director Eric Turner.