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## HIDALGO COUNTY CELEBRATES APRIL AS NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH

2013 Theme is "Smart Justice: Creating Safer Communities"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2013

### Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court

**Ramon Garcia**  
County Judge

**A. C. Cuellar, Jr.**  
Commissioner, Precinct 1

**Hector "Tito" Palacios**  
Commissioner, Precinct 2

**Joe M. Flores**  
Commissioner, Precinct 3

**Joseph Palacios**  
Commissioner, Precinct 4

### OFFICE OF HIDALGO COUNTY JUDGE RAMON GARCIA

**Public Affairs Division**  
Karina Cardoza  
Director

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**Edinburg, Texas** – Hidalgo County joins county governments across the United States in celebrating National County Government Month this month. The National Association of Counties has designated this month to raise awareness of the roles and responsibilities of counties. This year, the theme is "Smart Justice: Creating



Safer Communities," and County officials are using this opportunity to open the doors of county government to the public, and showcasing projects and initiatives that are helping to pass down smart justice and creating a safer Hidalgo County.

This theme is a fitting and timely tribute to the work that the County has been undertaking to promote government services to the community. Notable activities already held in recognition of National County Government Month include the Justice and

Mental Health Collaboration Program; Adult Probation Evidence-Based Practices presentation in conjunction with George Mason University; Veteran's Court graduation; Drug Court presentation to Palmer Drug Abuse Program's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Substance Abuse and Mental Health Conference; Vote Centers Community Workshop; and a presentation by County Judge Ramon Garcia and County Commissioner Joseph Palacios at this month's Leadership Edinburg class.

Hidalgo County will continue to host and promote additional activities throughout April in recognition of National County Government Month. Upcoming events are detailed below. Media are invited to attend.

### **THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2013**

- 9:00 am  
**RGV LEAD Job Shadow Day**  
Hidalgo County Courthouse (100 N. Closner, Edinburg)  
5 high school students from Palmview HS (La Joya ISD) will "shadow" court and clerk staff in their daily professional activities, as a means to gain experiential knowledge of a career in public service.

- MORE -

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### THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2013 (cont'd)

- 1:00 pm  
**HIDALGO COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK'S 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE**  
Hidalgo County Courthouse (100 N. Closner, Edinburg)  
District Clerk Laura Hinojosa welcomes the public at her offices in the County Courthouse for her 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Open House.
- 4:00 pm  
**HIDALGO COUNTY HOSTS LEADERSHIP MISSION**  
County Courthouse Auditorium (100 N. Closner, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Edinburg)  
County Judge Ramon Garcia and 92<sup>nd</sup> District Judge Ricardo Rodriguez are to address the Leadership Mission class.

### TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2013

- 5:00 pm  
**HIDALGO COUNTY DRUG COURT PROGRAM GRADUATION**  
92<sup>nd</sup> District Courtroom, Hidalgo County Courthouse (100 N. Closner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Edinburg)  
92<sup>nd</sup> State District Judge Ricardo Rodriguez is hosting a graduation ceremony and celebration to recognize the participants who have successfully completed the Drug Court Program.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2013

- 9:00 am  
**HIDALGO COUNTY HOSTS UTPA CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT**  
Courthouse Auditorium (100 N. Closner, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Edinburg)  
Students from the UTPA Criminal Justice Department are visiting the Courthouse for presentations by the Adult Probation Department, Public Defender's Office, District Clerk's Office, and Drug Court Program.

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