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**Our Mission**

To protect and preserve the state's historic and prehistoric resources for the use, education, enjoyment, and economic benefit of present and future generations.

# County Historical Commission TIPS & TOOLS



Former Cameron CHC Chair Lawrence Lof (left) with his crew in front of the Kraigher House.

The recipient of the First Lady's Texas Treasures Award has traditionally fostered strong ties with its local County Historical Commission (CHC). This year's winner, the City of Brownsville (see article on page 6), is no exception.

The Cameron CHC has received the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Distinguished Service Award for the last eight years and, along with local preservation partners, has invested time and money to save the real places that make the area unique. These projects use national preservation standards for rehabilitation (repairing historic material rather than replacing, using construction details specific to the resource, etc.) to revitalize the historic fabric of Cameron County.

An impressive aspect of this preservation partnership is the resulting technical education. One successful local initiative, the Historic Rehabilitation Program, promotes preservation and restoration construction training as part of

the curriculum at the University of Texas at Brownsville/Texas Southmost College.

The program, which connects university students to the community through practice and service, is a result of the experience of former Cameron CHC Chair Lawrence Lof, now the director of the Historic Rehabilitation Program. Students enrolled in this program receive hands-on experience in construction and in historic preservation.

Students make a substantial contribution to their community while learning skills that in many areas are unavailable. Additionally, they work on the county's significant cultural and historic resources, including the Alonso Complex, the Cueto Building, and the Fort Brown Cavalry Building and Commander's House. Most notably, students worked on the Kraigher House, built in 1937 by famous Vienna architect Richard Neutra, known for introducing the International Style to American architecture. ★