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**EAST TEXAS COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS**



PRESS RELEASE

Longview High School Student Wins \$250 Fair Housing Scholarship Essay Contest

Kilgore, TX, April 29, 2010: ETCOG announces Whitney Williams, daughter of Cedric and Loretta Edwards, of Longview High School as the recipient of its \$250 Fair Housing Scholarship Essay Contest. ETCOG's Housing program, Housing East Texas, sponsored the contest for East Texas high school seniors, and signed a resolution declaring April to be Fair Housing Month throughout the 14 county East Texas region to celebrate the 42nd anniversary of the National Fair Housing Act of 1968.

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, prohibits discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap, familial status or national origin in the sale or rental of units in the housing market. The scholarship was awarded to Whitney Williams for submitting the best essay about the Act's importance and personal relevance and she may use it at the educational institution of her choice.

For more information, contact ETCOG's Housing Manager, Karen Cline, at 903.984.8641 x 220. For information on fair housing or to report possible fair housing discrimination, call the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's toll-free hotline at 1-800-669-9777.

About ETCOG

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) is a voluntary association of counties, cities, school districts and special districts within the fourteen-county East Texas region. ETCOG assists local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development. Established in 1970, ETCOG, either directly, or through its contractors, provides programs and services for East Texas seniors, employers, and job seekers. ETCOG and its contractors also build the 9-1-1 emergency call delivery system, provide peace officer training and homeland security planning services; and deliver rural transportation services, business finance programs, and environmental grant funding for the region.