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Professional Development: The International Journal of Continuing Social Work Education is a refereed journal concerned with publishing scholarly and relevant articles on continuing education, professional development, and training in the field of social welfare. The aims of the journal are to advance the science of professional development and continuing social work education, to foster understanding among educators, practitioners, and researchers, and to promote discussion that represents a broad spectrum of interests in the field. The opinions expressed in this journal are solely those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the policy positions of The University of Texas at Austin's School of Social Work or its Center for Social Work Research.

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April 2009

Dear Reader,

The Greater Austin Crime Commission is pleased to underwrite two special issues of *Professional Development: The International Journal of Continuing Social Work Education* to provide informed scholarship and reporting on events in Mexico and along the border. Two of the organization's directors, Dr. Michael L. Lauderdale and Dr. Katherine Selber, were instrumental in producing and writing for these issues.

While the news media focuses attention on the increase in drug-related border crime, the intention of these special issues is to understand more deeply the relationship between Texas and Mexico and seek solutions to the growing violence by examining its causes.

The Greater Austin Crime Commission was founded in 1997 to support regional law enforcement agencies and promote innovative community outreach, crime prevention, and public safety programs. Providing support for *Professional Development: The International Journal of Continuing Social Work Education* is consistent with these objectives by enabling policymakers to analyze regional security issues in a timely fashion.

Sincerely,

Joe E. Holt  
President