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TEXAS TECH'S MASKED RIDER TO VISIT HILL COUNTRY UNIVERSITY CENTER CAMPUS

Texas Tech University's legendary Masked Rider will make an appearance at the Hill Country University Center (HCUC) on Saturday, August 15. The public is invited to tour the campus, on which construction of the academic center recently started, and take pictures with the Masked Rider at 9 a.m. The HCUC campus is located on US Highway 290, just west of Fredericksburg and next to Fort Martin Scott Historical Site.

"We are very excited to showcase our blossoming campus with one of our great academic partners, Texas Tech University," said HCUC Executive Director Jimmy Sparks. "We hope everyone will come to see the progress we are making on the Academic Center building, which is scheduled for completion in March 2010."

The new 28,500 square foot academic building will include six video conference classrooms, a computer lab, administrative offices, and two large classrooms, separated by a removable wall. It is the first structure to be built on the 68-acre HCUC campus.

The Masked Rider is the oldest of the Texas Tech's mascots in existence today. Originally called "Ghost Rider", it was an unofficial mascot appearing in just a few games in 1936 and then becoming the official mascot with the 1954 Gator Bowl. The Masked Rider has led the team onto the field at nearly every football game since. It is the nation's first school mascot featuring a live horse used at a football game.

Brianne Aucutt-Hight, a senior animal science major with a specialization in production from Clovis, N.M., dons the Masked Rider's signature black mask and red-lined cape for 2009-2010.

For information on the HCUC, including how to enroll, please visit www.hcucenter.org or call 830.990.4948.