



IT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING

This past year was an exciting one for TTUHSC. We led the state by awarding 2,178 degrees (a university record), surpassed half a million clinic visits for the first time and executed the university's first-ever license agreement with a biotechnology company for a vaccine, which has worldwide humanitarian implications.

Individually, each TTUHSC campus has some significant accomplishments.

The Abilene campus celebrated the naming of the Julia Jones Matthews Department of Public Health and put the finishing touches on the public health building. We anticipate receiving full accreditation this summer, bringing us one step closer to our sixth school.

In Amarillo, we officially opened the new 21,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art SimCentral simulation lab. This is truly a model of institutional collaboration between TTUHSC, West Texas A&M University and Amarillo College that will benefit the entire region. See page 20 for more information. We are also excited about the new Student Center, which officially opened Jan. 31. This area provides the first interprofessional area on campus for students to study, relax and interact.

The School of Pharmacy expanded its Doctor of Pharmacy program on our Dallas campus from a two-year to four-year program.

On the Lubbock campus, we celebrated the ceremonial groundbreaking for three new buildings—the University Center, West Expansion and the Conference Center. (The Summer 2017 issue of PULSE provided complete coverage). This year, we anticipate breaking ground on a new VA Outpatient Clinic. We are honored to be the site of this clinic, which will expand and improve care for South Plains veterans and allow invaluable training opportunities for our students.

At the Permian Basin, we're looking forward to the opening of the 51,000-square-foot Academic Classroom Building. We broke ground last year on this new facility, which will boast state-of-the-art space for lectures, research, conferences and more. This will truly be a significant addition for the entire community.

This is only the beginning of what will undoubtedly be a year full of highlights and accomplishments for TTUHSC; 2017 was a great year, and we move into 2018 with great anticipation!

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FOCUS ON COMMUNITY

In May 2013, TTUHSC El Paso became the fourth freestanding university in the Texas Tech University System with a mission to bring world-class education, research and patient care to the Borderland. I am proud to say that in this short period of time, we have expanded our reach to hundreds of thousands of underserved El Pasoans and provided high-quality, competitive education to nearly 1,000 future health care professionals.

Last September, Texas Tech Physicians of El Paso (TTP) hosted its inaugural West Health Fest. The free community event drew more than 2,000 El Pasoans to the new Transmountain Campus, solidifying TTP El Paso's presence as the largest multispecialty medical practice in the region.

As the nation's newest teaching hospital, The Hospitals of Providence Transmountain Campus is actively recruiting the best and brightest talent to serve the border region. Here, our students are being trained by leaders in their fields, with access to state-of-the-art facilities and advances in medicine including treatment options that patients may not have access to in a traditional hospital setting.

The TTUHSC El Paso campus is also rapidly expanding its enrollment and research capacity. In the past two years, we've added three new programs: the Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences, the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Biomedical Sciences and the leadership-focused Master of Science in Nursing. This year, we also started construction on the five-story, 219,900-square-foot Medical Sciences Building II.

Feasibility planning for the Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine is also well underway. When approved, the dental school will be the first to open in Texas in more than 50 years, bringing much-needed services and career opportunities in dental care to the U.S.-Mexico border.

Another key element in TTUHSC El Paso's growth trajectory is our application for independent accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, which is currently under review. This accreditation is one of the most important steps in our establishment as an independent health sciences center and will be a testament to our effectiveness as a burgeoning institution.

Throughout these first five years, we have remained committed to the community that was so instrumental in getting us to where we are now. I look forward to seeing our university continue to expand its footprint over the next five years.

Richard Lange, MD, MBA
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