CAMPAIGN UPDATE :: Rallied around the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, the El Paso community has raised more than $16 million for the Infinity Campaign in support of the El Paso School of Medicine. The school would be the first four-year medical school along the U.S.–Mexico border and is expected to improve the local economy by $1.31 billion in the next 10 years.

A four-year medical school at El Paso will also fill a niche in border and Hispanic health by leading research that will have a huge impact on the nation by contributing to literature dealing with Hispanics and diseases that affect the El Paso area – diabetes, obesity and depression.

HASTINGS HONORED FOR RURAL HEALTH WORK :: The Texas Rural Health Association recently presented its 2006 Marion Zetzman Award to Jim Hastings, associate director of the Office of Border Health.

Hastings was recognized for his work with border and rural communities in development of emergency care infrastructure, continuing education opportunities for rural health professionals and assistance with development of community health worker programs.

Faculty, staff and community members were on hand at a reception held in October to acknowledge El Paso School of Medicine Regional Dean Jose Manuel de la Rosa, M.D., for 10 years of dedicated service. Pictured with de la Rosa are Debbie Davila, Patty Martinez and Margie Martinez.

Signing the final beams to be put in place on the Medical Education Building I marks a pivotal stage in construction of the second building for the El Paso School of Medicine. Manuel Schydlower, M.D., assistant dean for medical education, was among the TTUHSC administrators and community and state leaders to add his signature.