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Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
Anita Thigpen Perry School of Nursing Expands to El Paso

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) Anita Thigpen Perry School of Nursing officials today announced the school’s expansion to El Paso and introduced Regional Dean Josefina Lujan, Ph.D., R.N.

TTUHSC President John C. Baldwin, M.D., said El Paso is the health care center for much of far West Texas, southern New Mexico and Mexico.

“El Paso is a growing community with relatively fewer nurses compared to the county’s overall population. Investment in education will continue to be critical to assist the El Paso community in addressing a number of long-term deficits in the health care system,” Baldwin said.

Alexia Green, Ph.D., R.N., dean of the Perry School of Nursing, said she believes the El Paso nursing program has a strong future under the direction of Lujan.

“Dr. Lujan looks forward to providing tactical leadership for the implementation of the Perry School of Nursing’s Second Degree program in the area and developing a nursing research agenda focusing on Hispanic-border issues and needs,” Green said.

Thomason Hospital also announced a gift to the Perry School of Nursing to fund its accelerated, web-based Second Degree program in El Paso for three years. Ten Second Degree students are expected to begin this spring and Thomason will provide scholarships for each of these students.

“This seed money is a natural growth of Thomason’s more than 35-year partnership with Texas Tech. Our institutions have always worked collaboratively to meet the community’s needs,” said James N. Valenti, president and CEO of the El Paso County Hospital District. “In this instance, we will be educating additional professional nurses to address El Paso’s ever-growing demand for health care services. It is yet another example of Thomason’s evolution into a University Medical Center.”
“Texas has a significant shortage of nurses, particularly along the border, and this generous gift from Thomason Hospital will help us offset the nursing shortage by giving people another choice in pursuing a nursing career,” Green said.

Before coming to TTUHSC, Lujan served as the dean of Nursing at El Paso Community College. She received her doctorate of nursing at the University of Texas Health Science Center Houston School of Nursing in 2006.