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Nursing Professor Changes Lives By Spreading Love of Volunteerism

Linda Brice, Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor in the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) Anita Thigpen Perry School of Nursing, prefers to teach through community involvement rather than just through academic and clinical work.

Bobby Schnittker, a senior nursing student in the Perry School of Nursing, said Brice is a supportive, constructive educator whose teaching style illustrates the importance of community involvement.

“We definitely got to learn a lot through presenting information to the community, whether it was related to substance abuse, alcohol abuse, teen pregnancy or STDs,” Schnittker said. “I’d say her teaching style definitely incorporates classroom learning and relative and effective outside of the classroom learning.”

One project particularly close to Brice’s heart is the Stork’s Nest Baby Shower, an annual event hosted by her students. The shower provides new baby items, auction items and money for the Stork’s Nest, a program sponsored by the March of Dimes, and designed to increase the number of pregnant women and teens receiving early and regular prenatal care.

Interim TTUHSC School of Nursing Dean Chandice Covington, Ph.D., R.N., said the Stork’s Nest Baby Shower not only helps new mothers-to-be, but also motivates the community to help families be strong when they need help the most.

“Dr. Brice embodies the essence of nursing with her team support to community engagement,” Covington said.

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A collection of stories called “Giving Through Teaching, How Nurse Educators Are Changing the World,” features an entry written by Brice detailing the evolution of the Stork’s Nest Baby Shower.

Joyce J. Fitzpatrick, Ph.D., R.N., Elizabeth Brooks Ford Professor of Nursing, Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University, is one of the book’s editors. She said she and the other editors of the book were interested in profiling service undertaken by nurse educators.

“Dr. Brice's work serves as an exemplar and we thought it would inspire others,” Fitzpatrick said. “Many people know little about the nursing professions, and we want to tell the story of the everyday heroes and heroines, thus who are working every day to make their communities better.”

The National League for Nursing, an organization for nurse faculty and leaders in nursing education, issued a call for stories from nurse educators about how they and their students give their time, talents, skills, and resources to make the world a better place.

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