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Grant to Aid Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing
in Decreasing Health Care Disparities in West Texas

More than 2 million rural Texans face barriers to health care including provider shortages, limited services and outdated facilities. They also are often required to travel long distances just to see a health care provider. In addition, this population is largely minority and aging and is in need of more health care services.

An $88,124 grant awarded to the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) School of Nursing by the Human Resources and Services Administration will help address the health care needs of West Texas’ 108 counties by providing traineeships to Master of Science in Nursing and Doctor of Nursing Practice students.

Chandice Covington, R.N., Ph.D., interim dean of the School of Nursing, said nurses with advanced preparation as nurse practitioners, nurse educators, nurse administrators, and nurses with doctoral education are essential to decreasing health care disparities in the region.

“Many of our MSN and DNP students serve in rural and other underserved areas,” Covington said. “Stipends provided through this grant will increase the number of students who can enroll as full-time students, as well as assist part-time students nearing completion of their program, thus producing more nurses with advanced degrees into the workforce in a shorter time period.”

Nurses are seeking graduate education in large numbers. The TTUHSC School of Nursing MSN program receives more than 200 qualified applicants annually and the DNP program receives about 50 qualified applicants each year. Based on projected enrollment, a minimum of 60 students will be eligible to receive between $2,500 and $3,000 annually to support educational costs, such as tuition and books.

For more information about how to apply for one of these traineeships, e-mail Tonia Borrego, senior administrative assistant, at tonia.borrego@ttuhsc.edu.

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