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CONTACT: Christy Meriwether, christy.meriwether@ttuhsc.edu
(806) 743-4288

Texas Nursing Leaders Will Meet to Improve Access to Care

In the face of an aging population, an increasing level of chronic disease among younger and older populations, and with the promise of most Americans becoming insured, nursing leaders from across Texas will meet at the Texas Team Advancing Health Through Nursing Summit on March 16 in San Antonio to meet the challenge of a provider shortage.

The invitational Texas Team summit is in response to a national initiative resulting from the 2010 landmark report of the Institute of Medicine — Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health. Developed in partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the AARP, the Future of Nursing report recommends maximizing the role of qualified nurses to meet the shortage, thus advancing the health of Americans.

Nurse leaders at the invitational summit will deliberate and guide implementation of the report's recommendations statewide. The conference will be led by Alexia Green, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, professor and dean emerita of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing.

“The nursing profession is the largest segment of the nation’s health care workforce,” Green said. “It makes perfect sense to focus on nursing’s role to lead change in the health care system.”

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas and the Texas Nurses Association are the Texas Team’s lead organizations. Serving nearly 100 million people nationwide, Blue Cross Blue Shield has a stake in ensuring an adequate number of practitioners. The Texas Nurses Association seeks to promote excellence in nursing through high standards of practice, legislative involvement and public policy advocacy.

For more information, contact Green at alexia.green@ttuhsc.edu.

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