The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Larry Combest Community Health & Wellness Center marked National Health Center Week August 7-13, 2011 with a Health Fair on August 9 where over 100 visitors received screenings for blood pressure, dental, diabetes and vision. Combest Center board members also gave tours of the facility. Linda McMurry, RN, DNP, executive director and Michelle Hunter, BS, M.Ed, director, marketing and community outreach and several board members for the Combest Center accepted “Special Recognition” from the Lubbock City Mayor Tom Martin on August 11 for the contributions the Combest Center makes to Lubbock citizens.

The theme for this year’s National Health Center Week was “Celebrating America’s Health Centers: Serving Locally, Leading Nationally” to bring attention to how health centers deliver a unique approach that targets health needs and saves taxpayer dollars. Health centers are strong partnerships of people, governments and communities who work together to meet the unique and diverse health conditions of the community. They are run from the bottom up, by a patient-majority governing board who guides how limited resources can be effectively directed to meet the health care needs of the community.

The Nurse Managed Combest Center exists to provide comprehensive health services to the residents of East Lubbock and surrounding areas and to reduce or eliminate health disparities among high risk populations. The Combest Center provides a health care home to over 4,000 people. Its varied services include primary care for all ages chronic disease management, prescription assistance, diabetes and nutritional education, case management and counseling.

The Combest Center also is the hub for Senior House Calls which provides unique primary care to elderly patients in their home; Diabetes Education Center is one of two certified programs in Lubbock and provides one-on-one education, group classes, support groups and home visits; Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) educates low income first time pregnant women using the NFP model of care; Patient Navigator Program uses Community Health Workers to educate patients with chronic diseases on how to adopt healthy behaviors by themselves, not for them by others. The Combest Center also manages the Lubbock Stork’s Nest and has a new location at Sunrise Canyon, helping to provide health services to more people in the community of Lubbock.

“When people have a health care home where they are treated as individuals and with dignity and respect, they use it,” said Linda McMurry. To learn more about the Combest Center visit www.ttuhsc.edu/son/combest.