Two Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing (TTUHSC) faculty members have been named fellows in the American Academy of Nursing.

Pat Allen, RN, EdD, CNE, ANEF and Sharon Decker, RN, PhD, ANEF were among 142 nursing leaders from across the country chosen for one of the most prestigious honors in nursing. The Academy is made up of more than 1,600 nursing leaders in education, management, practice, policy, and research. Allen and Decker will be inducted at the academy’s 38th Annual Meeting Conference on October 15, 2011, in Washington, D.C.

As professor and director of The F. Marie Hall SimLife Center and Covenant Health System Endowed Chair in Simulation and Nursing Education, Decker works to promote quality, safe patient care by transforming clinical education through innovative simulation technologies. She actively engages faculty in the development of teaching activities that enhance interdisciplinary communication, teamwork and collaboration in simulation. Decker came to the School of Nursing in 1984 and has never wavered on her commitment to simulation. Largely due to her efforts the TTUHSC now has one of the nation’s state-of-the-art interdisciplinary simulation centers.

As professor and director of the Center for Innovation in Nursing Education (CINE), Allen works to unite efforts across health care, education, and public sectors to address nursing workforce challenges by creating innovative new approaches to education. She is committed to the ultimate goal of developing and testing new teaching methodologies for implementation across the state and nation to change the face of nursing education. Under Allen’s leadership the CINE has assisted several schools of nursing in the launch of new nursing education programs and through a $1 million Texas WorkSource Commission, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded grant works on the Texas Team executive committee and tactical team to explore a variety of mechanisms for nursing schools to utilize to increase student capacity.

The American Academy of Nursing anticipates and tracks national and international trends in health care, while addressing resulting issues of health care knowledge and policy. The Academy’s mission is to serve the public and nursing profession by advancing health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis, and dissemination of nursing knowledge.