



# OPEN FOR BUSINESS

## *Gala Celebrates Nation's Newest Teaching Hospital*

By Nadia M. Whitehead Photos by Tommie Morelos

On a chilly evening in January, hundreds of El Pasoans — and residents from across Texas — braved the cold to catch a glimpse of the nation's newest teaching hospital. The Hospitals of Providence Transmountain Campus shined brightly as guests toured the hallways of the brand-new facility, which promises to serve the communities of El Paso and southern New Mexico, and provide cutting-edge treatment options.

Unlike most medical centers, the 106-bed, full service community hospital serves as both a treatment center for patients and a training site for budding health care professionals. Only 7 percent of hospitals in the U.S. receive this special teaching hospital designation. It means that physicians serving in the hospital are constantly learning about the most specialized and up-to-date services for illnesses and injuries. This academic environment is made possible through a special collaboration between TTUHSC El Paso and Tenet, the parent company of The Hospitals of Providence.

"Teaching hospitals are typically associated with the highest quality of care," explained Richard Lange, MD, MBA, president of TTUHSC El Paso. "We can bring state-of-the-art teaching, which is state-of-the-art knowledge, and often times that means state-of-the-art research as well."

Nicholas Tejeda, FACHE, the hospital's chief executive officer, added, "Certainly, this beautiful new hospital will have the latest technology and equipment, but what makes this hospital truly unique is the classroom. Because we're teaching the next generation of providers, our hospital will incorporate the latest evidence-based medicine—taught by world-class faculty and dedicated community physicians working elbow-to-elbow with students and residents."

Medical students are already reaping the benefits of the new training hospital; rotations for TTUHSC El Paso students began in mid-May.

What's even more exciting for West Texas is the draw the hospital is expected to have on future physicians. It's no secret that the Paso del Norte region is woefully underserved when it comes to medical care and specialists. But with the opening of the teaching hospital, up to 100 new residency slots will be created in El Paso.





Leadership from TTUHSC El Paso, The Hospitals of Providence and the El Paso community held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the entrance of the nation's newest teaching hospital.

Residency is the final stage of training after medical school where a physician develops the knowledge and experience to practice in a specific specialty, like surgery or pediatrics. Residency placement often has lasting impacts on where the nation's medical talent is concentrated. Data show that doctors often stay and practice medicine in the community where they completed their residency. By expanding the number of residency slots available in El Paso, the number of doctors who learn and stay in the community to practice will increase.

"By offering a state-of-the-art facility right here in El Paso, the Paso del Norte region will not only retain, but also attract skilled health care professionals from across the U.S.," Lange said. "Once we train them here, they are far more likely to stay here and practice as well."

Adding to this improved outlook for the Paso del Norte region, the gala also celebrated a historic collaboration between two organizations with a common goal of community service.

"We have two organizations coming together to do something that this community desperately needs—and that's to improve access to well-trained physicians and nurses that serve our community," said Tejeda.

The evening culminated in a ribbon cutting at the entrance of the hospital. Key players gathered together, each taking a hold of the long, gleaming white ribbon. Giant ceremonial red scissors took center stage as the ribbon was cut, gracefully gliding to the ground as onlookers cheered.

The next generation of health care has begun, and El Paso is leading the way. 



To learn more about the new hospital and meet the doctors at Texas Tech Physicians of El Paso at Transmountain, visit [elpaso.ttuhsu.edu/teaching-hospital](http://elpaso.ttuhsu.edu/teaching-hospital)

## New Opportunities for Nurses

Medical students aren't the only beneficiaries of the new teaching hospital at Transmountain. Students in the Gayle Greve Hunt School of Nursing began conducting clinical rotations in the hospital in July.

Fledgling nurses are assigned a patient and for two consecutive days assume total patient care under the supervision of a care team. That means they review the patient's disease process, charts, medications and potential side effects, and directly communicate with the patient to address their needs and concerns.

In addition, because of the close collaboration between TTUHSC El Paso and The Hospitals of Providence, nursing students may even catch a class or two taught by a leader from the Transmountain Campus. Nicholas Tejeda, FACHE, the hospital's chief executive officer, has taken an earnest interest in TTUHSC El Paso nursing students and has offered to teach several classes that focus on addressing the unique patient characteristics and needs to improve the quality of care.

Tejeda said, "Every day, lives are profoundly changed due to the incredibly compassionate care delivered by nurses. With this in mind, it is an honor for The Hospitals of Providence Transmountain Campus—and its leaders—to play a part in the training of the next generation of nurses. We face a significant shortage of nurses in our community, but together, we can create a unique learning environment that strengthens the nursing profession within our community and across our region."

## What We Offer Our Patients

The Hospitals of Providence Transmountain Campus is just that—a campus of medical buildings equipped with El Paso's first state-of-the-art teaching hospital. The new hospital is complemented by Texas Tech Physicians of El Paso (TTP El Paso)'s latest clinic location, TTP El Paso at Transmountain—a 110,000-square-foot clinical space for physicians to treat patients.

Thus far, TTP El Paso at Transmountain provides health care services in pediatrics, psychiatry, internal medicine, family medicine, surgery and obstetrics and gynecology. In the future, TTP El Paso at Transmountain is expected to expand and offer more health care specialties.