

## Lori Rice-Spearman, Ph.D.

### Why is this school something that TTUHSC wanted to pursue?

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So during the pandemic, we realized that the health of our communities really needed to be a priority for our university. As a university, we've been focused on disease management, and educating individuals around disease management. And really, we realized that the health of our communities really needed to be the priority of our university.

### How does that fit into the university's overall mission?

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So the mission of our university is to enrich lives. And we do that through education through providing health care providers, and conducting research. And our vision statement is to transform healthcare through innovation and collaboration. And so public health really brings together all of the health disciplines, whether it be medicine, nursing, pharmacy, health professions, it brings everyone together to really focus on the health of communities as a comprehensive clinical team.

### How will this school broaden the impact we have on communities and what does that say about our programs?

1:03

So this school is going to be unique in the state of Texas and definitely in the southwest, because we're establishing a curriculum that's going to allow us to use this curriculum as a dual degree with other health professions. So these graduates are able to stand alone with their degree but then also we want to educate other health care professionals in the area of Population and Public Health. So for example, physicians will graduate also with a public health degree, pharmacist will also graduate with a public health degree, because we want this group of practitioners to be completely focused on practicing in communities and focusing on the health of that community.

### Why did we choose to honor Julia Jones Matthews by naming the school after her and how did her vision align with our mission?

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So the namesake of the Julia Jones Matthews School of Population and Public Health is Julia Jones Matthews herself, a longtime resident there in the area of the Abilene community. She has a deep commitment to this community. She's contributed in many areas arts, sciences, health, and when the opportunity came for the naming, we knew that this was the perfect fit for her heart and what it was that she was committed to in the Abilene community and what we want to accomplish there as well. I think that she would be thrilled to know that not only is it going to impact the Abilene community, but all through North Texas, West Texas in Central Texas, and this was her home and where her family came from. So we're very proud to be called the Julia Jones Matthew School of Population and Public Health.