

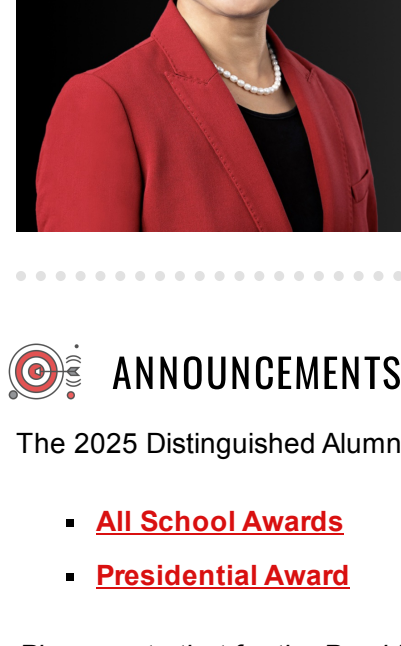
MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Faculty and Staff,
I hope this message finds you well. As we welcome a new year and semester, I want to extend my heartfelt best wishes to each of you.

Our School of Nursing has grown in so many ways—in student enrollment, faculty and staff development, and the expansion of research and clinical opportunities. As we move forward, I am excited about the new opportunities we will pursue together. Whether through innovative curriculum changes, enhanced clinical partnerships, or expanded community outreach, there is so much to look forward to this year. Together, we will continue to build on our strengths to address the evolving needs of our students and the healthcare system while advancing nursing education, improving patient care, and preparing the next generation of nursing leaders.

As we prepare for our upcoming CCNE site visit, I want to express my deepest gratitude for your hard work and dedication. The tremendous effort you have put into this preparation has not gone unnoticed. Your unwavering commitment to maintaining the quality and integrity of our programs reflects the values we uphold as a team. I am confident that, together, we will not only meet the standards set before us but exceed them, showcasing the excellence that defines our school.

Here's to a year filled with growth, achievement, and collaboration. Thank you for everything you do to support our students, advance the nursing profession, and uplift one another. Together, we will make 2025 a year to remember.



With warmest regards,

Holly Wei

Holly Wei, Ph.D., R.N., CPN, NEA-BC, FAAN
Dean and Professor | School of Nursing
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
UMC Health System Endowed Chair for Nursing Excellence

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 2025 Distinguished Alumni Awards are now open. This year, we have two separate nominations forms:

- [All School Awards](#)
- [Presidential Award](#)

Please note that for the Presidential Award, nominators are required to upload at least one supporting document, such as a letter of recommendation, resume, CV, or samples of written articles.

Nominations will close on **Sunday, April 27 at 11:59 p.m. CT**.

SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Kimber Cockerell was recognized this month as one of Lubbock's [Young Professionals Top Twenty Under 40](#) honorees. This award is meant to celebrate young professionals that are making a significant impact in the Lubbock business community.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

6th- Kayla New
7th- Elizabeth Motos
8th- Kelly White
12th- Michelle Spencer
13th- Mercedes Day
14th- Andi Atwood
14th- Emmanuel Sanchez
21st- Amanda Viessort
21st- Christy Thayer
25th- Kyle Chapman

Congratulations

Spring 2025
SON Staff
Scholarship Recipient

Kelton Johnson
IT Tech Support

Congratulation to Kelton Johnson on
receiving the SON Staff Scholarship!

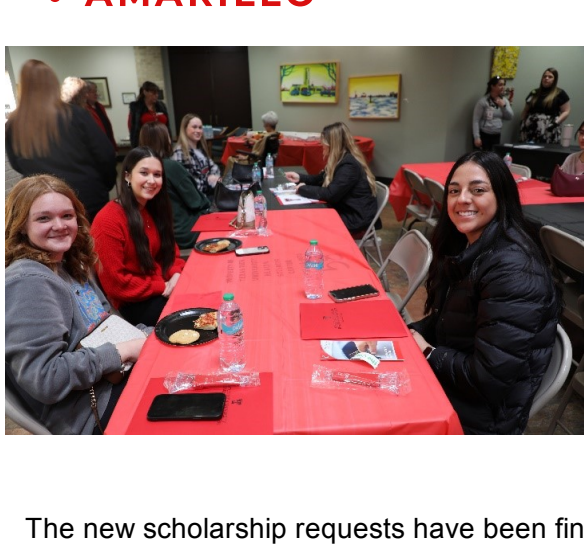
TTU HSC



Acknowledging and Celebrating Excellence

Campus Updates

• AMARILLO



The Amarillo campus welcomed the Spring 2025 cohort, which included 18 ABSN students and 23 Traditional students. Additionally, the campus marked the beginning of the third year of the Traditional program in Amarillo.

A Meet and Greet was hosted for the incoming Level 1 Traditional student cohort, where they were welcomed with pizza and cookies. **Regional Dean Dr. Kiper**, along with Traditional faculty and staff, were present to provide orientation. Upperclassmen also attended, offering support and insight. Additionally, [BSA Health System](#) shared information about their internship program, highlighting the academic and clinical partnership opportunities available.

The new scholarship requests have been finalized and submitted, including \$20,000 from the Mays Foundation and \$50,000 from Amarillo National Bank.

ABSN and TUG students are actively participating in the Amarillo HSC Student Senate and attended the first meeting of the semester earlier this month.

Planning for the Amarillo IPE Disaster Day has officially begun, with the event scheduled for March 7th at the School of Veterinary Medicine.

Upcoming events:

- January 28th: Taco About Mental Health event for students in the PAC
- January 29th: National Puzzle Day – A puzzle will be set up in SOM 4708 for students to participate
- January 30th: Panhandle ISD recruiting event
- Amarillo scholarships will open in February
- Amarillo HSC will host a local high school career fair in February, with several of our students and faculty participating to provide insights and guidance to attendees.
- February 26th: Inaugural Amarillo SON Regional Advisory Council

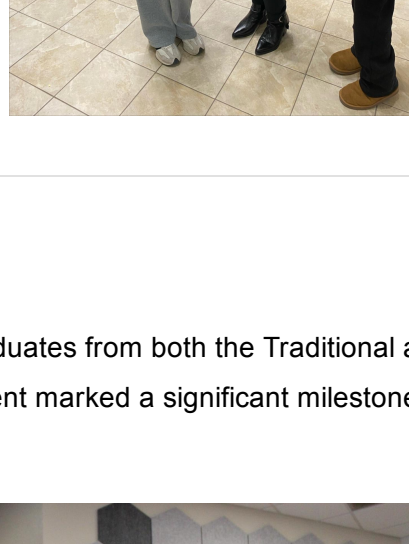
• ABILENE



The Abilene campus hosted "Goodies with Guest" Apple Cider and Popcorn for all students on the coldest day of the year. The students were very appreciative.

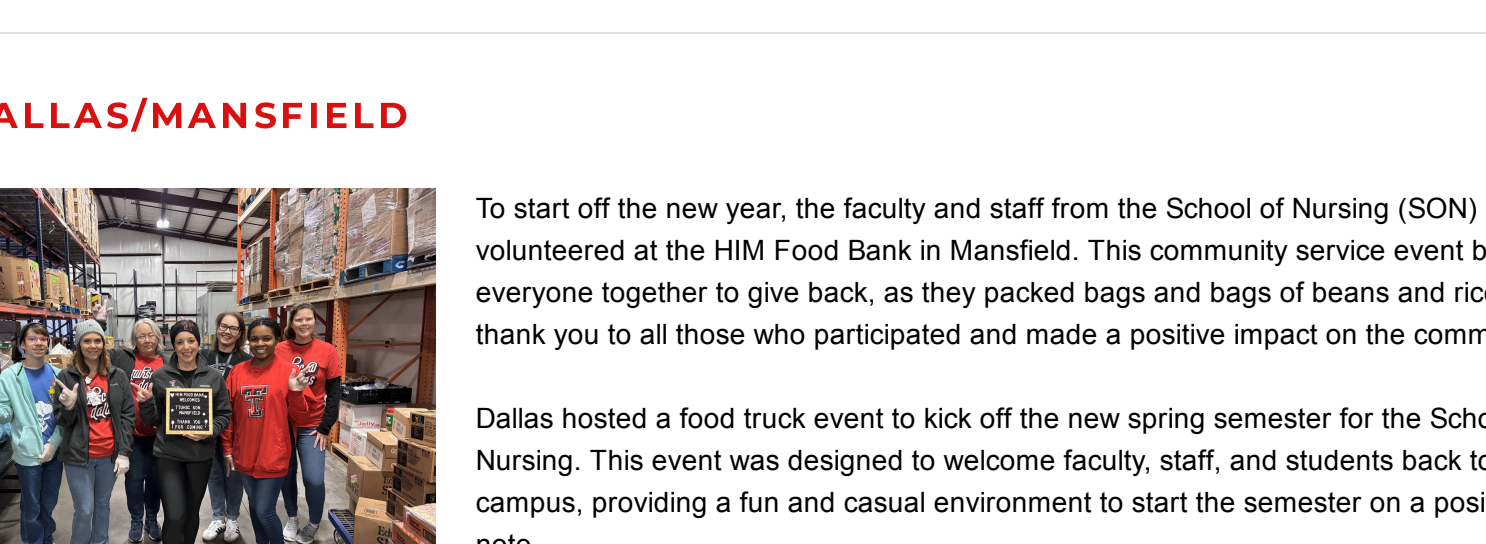
Our Traditional Program "Meet and Greet" was affected by weather. We will serve the Level 1 students pizza this week.

A virtual continuing education opportunity was provided for all TTUHSC faculty, staff, students, and community members with over 160 participants. The event, *The Hidden Face of Human Trafficking: Familial Perpetrators* was sponsored by the HSC Presidents' Office and The Laura Bush Foundations from the Abilene and Amarillo campuses. Participants were eligible to receive 1 TTUHSC IPE Credit, 4.0 CE's for nurses, social workers, and physicians, and 4.0 hours for IPCE and Ethics and Professional Responsibility.



• LUBBOCK

Last month, the Lubbock campus had the distinct privilege of celebrating the newest graduates from both the Traditional and ABSN nursing programs during a heartfelt pinning and lamp lighting ceremony. This special event marked a significant milestone in the students' journeys, symbolizing their transition into the esteemed nursing profession.

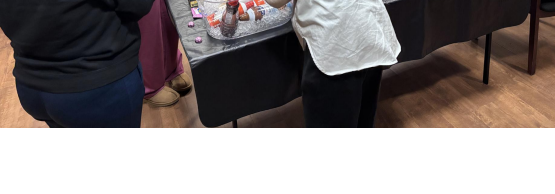


• DALLAS/MANSFIELD



To start off the new year, the faculty and staff from the School of Nursing (SON) volunteered at the HIM Food Bank in Mansfield. This community service event brought everyone together to give back, as they packed bags and bags of beans and rice. A big thank you to all those who participated and made a positive impact on the community!

Dallas hosted a food truck event to kick off the new spring semester for the School of Nursing. This event was designed to welcome faculty, staff, and students back to campus, providing a fun and casual environment to start the semester on a positive note.



Upcoming:

- Student services will be offering gym classes for students on campus. We're working on plans for these.
- Student services will also be bringing a barista to campus for students to warm up with their favorite drink.
- The Texas Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives will be hosting their CE conference from the Dallas campus in mid-February.

• PERMIAN BASIN

In the Permian Basin, we have been fortunate to receive over \$60,000 in scholarship funds from a range of different foundations. Through these scholarships, we've been able to assist numerous individuals in achieving their academic goals and furthering their careers.

Dr. Kelly Moseley and **Lori Lieck** have worked tirelessly to submit a grant request to Abell Hanger in the amount of \$125,000, specifically earmarked for student scholarships.



A Success Event for TUG held in January



Welcome to our new level 2 faculty, **Dr. Rebecca "Becky" Rhodes**

On Monday, January 27th, the School of Nursing (SON) participated in the Junior Leadership of Odessa's Medical Services component.

Upcoming:

- February 4th and 5th -Pizza with the Dean event

Academics

GRADUATE

Dr. Katherine Taylor-Pearson, Dale Pearson and **Dr. Steph Hoelscher's** recent article published in the *Journal of Nursing Informatics, The Role of Nurse Informaticians in Advancing 3D Printing Use in Health Care: A Promising Frontier for Improved Patient Outcomes*, was selected for the 2025 Maggie Cox Award. This prestigious award is presented annually by the American Nursing Informatics Association. This award is outstanding recognition of Dr. Taylor-Pearson's and Dr. Hoelscher's informatics and AI expertise and also excellent recognition for the TTUHSC School of Nursing. Thank you Dr. Taylor-Pearson and Dr. Hoelscher!

Over the past 4 weeks, the Graduate Program Faculty and Staff have worked diligently to finalize course maps and curriculum maps and spreadsheets, update the website and Catalog and finalize Graduate Program Policy reviews in preparation for the upcoming CCNE accreditation visit. We still have more work to do, but are very close to finalizing all Graduate Program documents so that we will be well-prepared for the CCNE accreditation review. As the Interim Associate Dean, I, Dr. Barbara Cherry, would like to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to the Graduate Program Faculty and Staff for their dedication and hard work over the past few weeks. We are all very proud of our Graduate Program and look forward to showcasing our excellent APRN and Leadership programs for the CCNE site visitors.

CENTER FOR NURSING RESEARCH

We are excited to announce that a TTU SON Ph.D. program is currently in development! **Dr. Alyce Ashcraft** and **Dr. Donna Owen** will be writing the THCB application for a Ph.D. program that focuses on nursing science with an emphasis on a one health perspective. [One Health](#) is a collaborative approach that aims to improve the health of people, animals and environment. This recognizes the importance that these systems are interconnected and interdependent.

Seed grant policy has been approved. If any faculty are interested in a seed grant of \$1,000 please contact **Dr. Alyce Ashcraft** for more information.

January 31st: The Office of Research and Innovation is excited to host a virtual grant writing webinar in partnership with [ScienceDocs](#) from 12-1pm. This session will be conducted by Sandra Cobb, a PhD trained scientist with over 20 years of experience in academic medicine, biotech, and medical writing including funding proposals to agencies like NIH, NSF, DoD and PCORI. Dr. Cobb will give helpful tools and insight to strengthen your grant writing knowledge and enhance the proposal process. She will also give information about the services ScienceDocs offers to researchers. Contact **Audrey DeLeon** in the Office of Research if you have any questions!

April 18th: Save the date for our first annual [Spring Research Conference](#) in the Academic Event Center from 9:00am-4:00pm.

GRANTS IN PROGRESS:

- **Chris Esperat, Dr. Du Feng (UNLV), Dr. Alyce Ashcraft, Dr. Linda McMurry and Monica Garcia:** NIH -Understanding the Intersection of Social Inequities to Optimize Health and Reduce Health Disparities (R01- due Feb 14, 2025)
- **Cory Church, Dr. Holly Wei and Dr. Steph Hoelscher:** NIH –Addressing Organizational Factors to Prevent or Mitigate Nurse Burnout (R01 – due Feb 5, 2025)
- **Bibha Gautam, and Dr. Mary Madeline Rogge:** NIH -Exploratory/Developmental Research Project Grant (R21- due June 16, 2025)

GRANTS SUBMITTED:

- **Demitri Pappas, Dr. Alyce Ashcraft, Dr. Donna Owen, Dr. Jessica Brashear and Dr. Seungnam Kim:** NSF -Collaborative Research: SCH: Development of a Point-of-Care Micro/Millifluidics Biosensor for Urinary Tract Infection Detection - \$600,000 over 3 years
- **Wanda Hilliard, Dr. Rosalinda Jimenez, Dr. Christina Esperat, Dr. Linda McMurray and Dr. Seungnam Kim:** HRSA – Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program for Professionals (BHWET) \$2.6 million over 4 years.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:
NIH -Research to Advance the Science of Primary Care (R01) The purpose of this NOFO is to build evidence about the characteristics and value of primary care that influence patient outcomes and advance health equity, such as care coordination, continuity of care, and comprehensiveness of care, person-centered, whole healthcare, and trust, and how these can be improved and effectively delivered to strengthen primary healthcare. \$2.5 million total funds over 5 years.

DHHS -Examining the Impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on Healthcare Safety (R18) The purpose of this NOFO is to invite grant applications that support healthcare safety by determining (1) whether and how certain breakthrough uses of Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems can affect patient safety; and (2) how AI systems can be safely implemented and used. AI has the potential to improve the safety, effectiveness, efficiency, accessibility, and affordability of healthcare. However, as with most technologies, this potential must be balanced by identifying and mitigating potential risks for patient harm and user burden. \$1 million over 2 years.

HRSA-25-043 -National Telehealth Resource Center program These telehealth resource centers will support healthcare organizations, networks, and providers with telehealth implementation and training for rural areas, frontier communities, and medically underserved areas, as well as for medically underserved populations. \$650,000 total funds available.

EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY



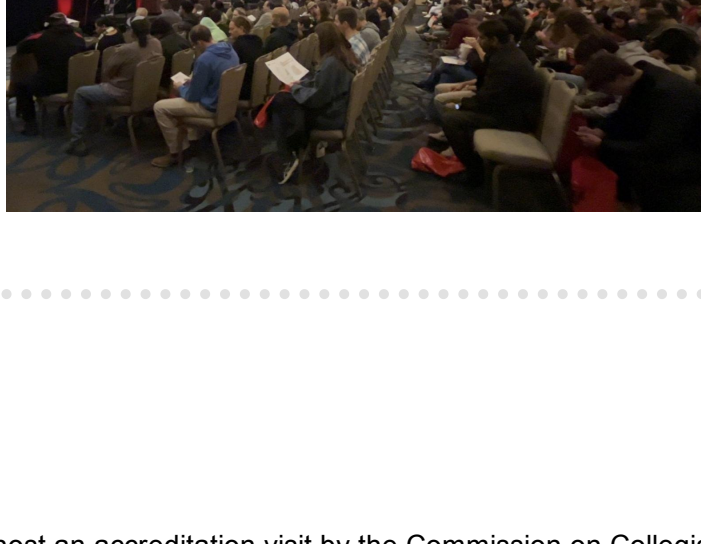
Welcome, **Andrea Albus**! She will be our new Instructional Technologist, who will work primarily with the SON eLearning technology team.

STUDENT SUCCESS & ENGAGEMENT



The recruitment team, **Aricka Cano** and **Stephanie Nichols**, has started the new year off strong by hitting the ground running. They have worked collaboratively with TTU Undergraduate Admissions at Red Raider Orientations for incoming transfer students, and they have hit the road for the first of many Raider Road Shows. Raider Road Shows take place at specific cities across the state (on Saturdays and Sundays). TTU Undergraduate Admissions brings deans, professors and staff representing over 100 academic majors and student services to meet incoming and prospective students to discuss their academic goals.

Recruitment and Admissions have also taken part in the first of many Red Bag tours of the year. TTUHSC Red Bag Tours offer an immersive experience for area high school students, where they'll explore TTUHSC's cutting-edge technology and discover our innovative approach to health care education. These students get a behind-the-scenes look at the future of health care and get to visit with staff from each school about their programs.

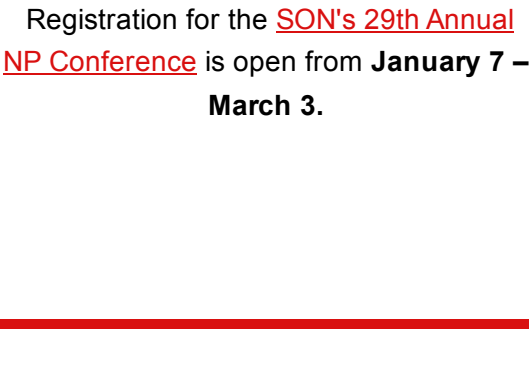


OUTCOMES, MANAGEMENT, & EVALUATION

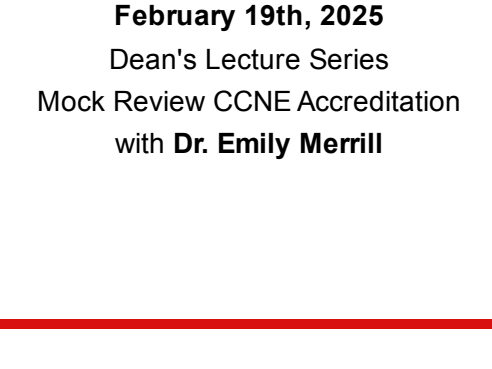
Public Notice of CCNE Accreditation Visit

The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing will host an accreditation visit by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) from March 3 to 5, 2025. This visit aims to seek CCNE ongoing accreditation for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), Master's, Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), and Post-graduate Certificate programs. As part of the accreditation process, CCNE invites constituents and stakeholders to submit third-party comments related to the program's qualifications for accreditation.

Mark Your Calendars!



Registration for the **SON's 29th Annual NP Conference** is open from **January 7 – March 3**.



February 19th, 2025
Dean's Lecture Series
Mock Review CCNE Accreditation
with **Dr. Emily Merrill**



March 3-6, 2025
CCNE Accreditation Site Visit