

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Valued TTUHSC School of Nursing Faculty, Staff, Students, and Alumni,

As we close out this academic year, I want to reflect on the many accomplishments we've achieved together and express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you.

Our recent Coordinating Board Meeting and State of the School Address were both uplifting and inspiring. The collective energy, thoughtful dialogue, and shared commitment to our mission were evident throughout. It was a powerful reminder of the remarkable community we've built together at the School of Nursing.

I've been deeply moved by the kind and encouraging messages received since the meeting. Your words reflect the extraordinary culture of dedication, compassion, and professionalism that defines our school. It is each of you—through your work, collaboration, and generosity—who makes this such a special place.

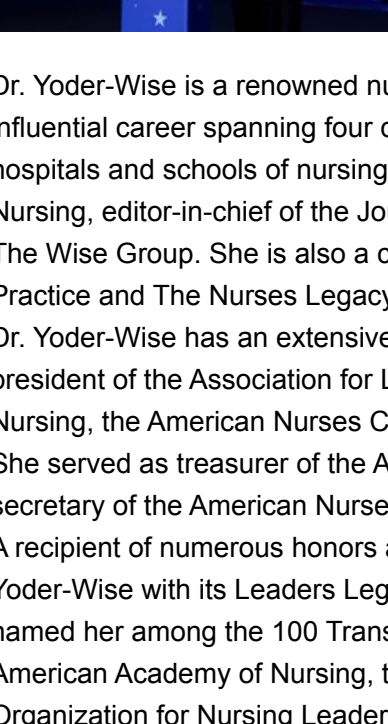
We also celebrated another incredible milestone—our Spring 2025 Graduation Ceremony. We proudly graduated 457 new and advanced practice nurses, nurse educators, and leaders who will go on to serve communities across our region, state, and nation. The Board of Regents and the Provost were especially impressed by the positivity and enthusiasm they witnessed from our faculty and staff. The sight of smiling faces, warm greetings, and roaring applause created an unforgettable atmosphere. Many of you shared how meaningful it was to be part of that moment—thank you for helping make it so impactful.

As we observe Memorial Day, we honor those who gave their lives in service to our country. Their selflessness reminds us to live with purpose, compassion, and a commitment to others—values deeply rooted in nursing and in our School. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the veterans and military families in our community. Your dedication and sacrifices are deeply appreciated. Whether in the classroom, at the bedside, or in the world, we carry forward the legacy of those we remember today through healing, advocacy, and care. May this day be one of reflection and recommitment to the meaningful work we do.

This is a community where every voice matters. I remain committed to supporting your success and well-being. My focus continues to be on fostering a culture of respect, teamwork, and shared purpose. Please know I am here to listen, learn, and ensure you have the resources to thrive. Together, we will continue to cultivate an environment of excellence, innovation, and compassion.

As this is our final newsletter of the academic year, I wish each of you a restful and fulfilling summer. The next edition will return in August 2025 as we gear up for another exciting year ahead.

Thank you for all that you do.

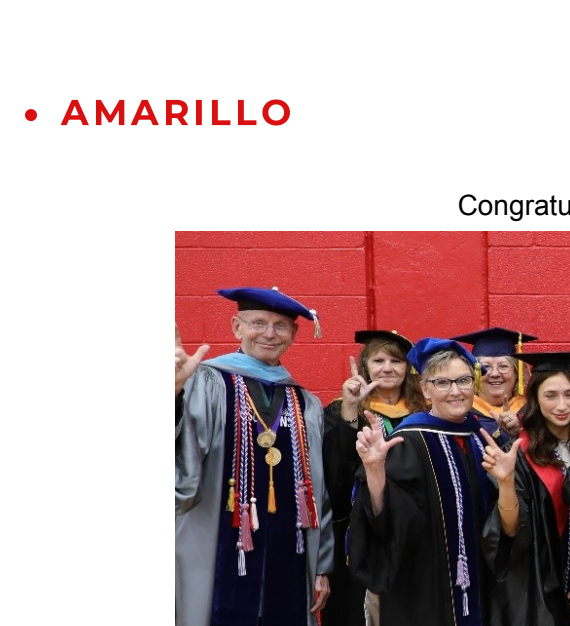


With warmest regards,

*Holly Wei*

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

## SPOTLIGHT



### Dr. Patricia Yoder-Wise Honored as a Recipient of Lifetime Achievement Award

The American Organization for Nursing Leadership announced Patricia S. Yoder-Wise as the 2025 recipient of its prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award. The award honors an AONL member recognized by the nursing community as a significant leader in the nursing profession who has served AONL in an important leadership capacity.

The School of Nursing, in collaboration with the Institute for Advancement and Office of Alumni Engagement, hosted a reception for Dr. Patricia Yoder-Wise on May 15th at the Lubbock Campus.

Dr. Yoder-Wise is a renowned nurse leader, educator, author and editor. During her influential career spanning four decades, she has held formal leadership positions in hospitals and schools of nursing. She is a dean and professor emerita in the School of Nursing, editor-in-chief of the Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing and president of The Wise Group. She is also a co-founder of The National Collaborative for Transition to Practice and The Nurses Legacy Institute, where she serves as vice-president. Dr. Yoder-Wise has an extensive history of volunteer leadership roles. She is past president of the Association for Leadership Science in Nursing, the National League for Nursing, the American Nurses Credentialing Center and the Texas Nurses Association. She served as treasurer of the American Academy of Nursing and first vice president and secretary of the American Nurses Association.

A recipient of numerous honors and awards, the Texas Nurses Association honored Dr. Yoder-Wise with its Leaders Legacy Award. The Ohio State University College of Nursing named her among the 100 Transformers in Nursing and Healthcare. She is a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, the Academy of Nursing Education and the American Organization for Nursing Leadership. Dr. Yoder-Wise is board certified as nurse executive and organized with the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

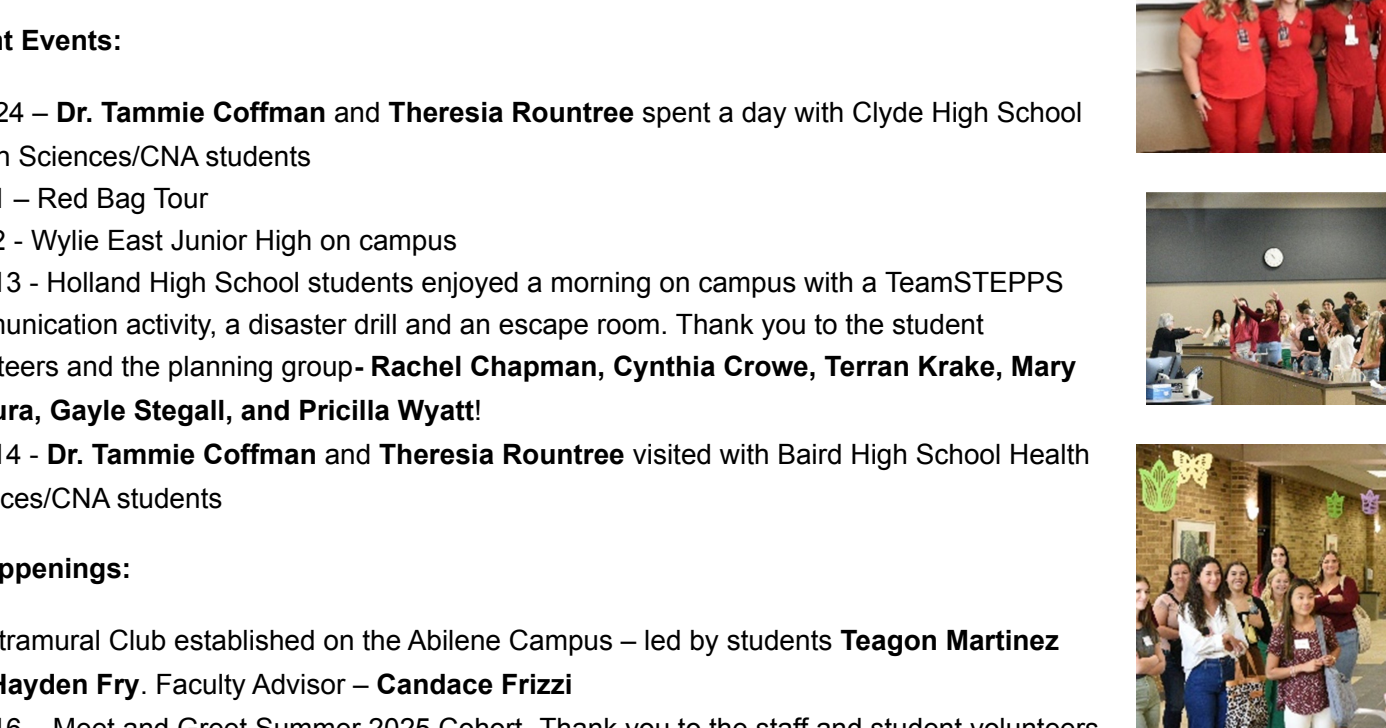


Dr. Yoder-Wise celebrates with Doctor of Nursing Practice Alumni, Dr. Kristin Benton, Director, Texas Board of Nursing and Dr. Serena Bumpus, CEO, Texas Nurses Association.

## Campus Updates

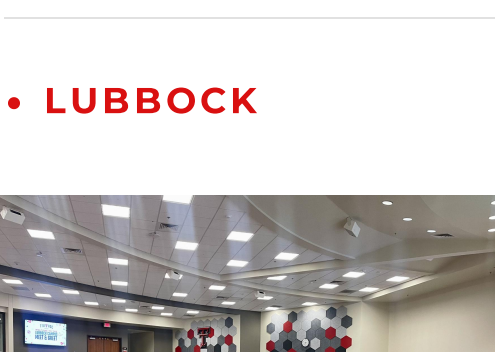
### • AMARILLO

Congratulations to the Amarillo Traditional BSN Spring Graduates.



The Amarillo Campus welcomes continuing and new Traditional Undergraduate students on May 19, 2025, with words of encouragement from **Dean Wei, Dr. Amanda Veesart** (by Zoom), and faculty while enjoying pizza and fellowship.

**Dr. Richard Pullen's** remarks to students: "Study hard, engage with your teachers, engage with your student peers, try to relax and have fun in your personal life, dream big, and climb high."



**Dr. Elizabeth Matos, Sharon Shelton, and Lauren Parker SHINE** while spending time with junior high students from the Gateway Program, offered through the Amarillo Independent School District. Students were a captive audience learning about high-fidelity simulators at Sim-Central in Amarillo. Lunch was sponsored by the Panhandle Area Health Education Center (AHEC). Stephanie Loya with Panhandle AHEC provided information about AHEC scholar and mentoring programs as well as other programs available. **Aricka Cano** provided an overview of the application process to TTUHSC. **Dr. Richard Pullen** spoke to the students as well.

**Dr. Louise Rice** will be attending an AACN conference in June 2025 and will present a poster on "Fostering Resilience in Student Retention." Dr. Rice is also working on a manuscript on faculty wellness to prevent burnout. She is also considering applying for the VP position for the SON Sigma Theta Tau Iota Mu Chapter.

Students enjoyed doughnuts at the School of Pharmacy Academic Event Center on Coulter Blvd sponsored by the School of Nursing Wellness and Retention Departments.

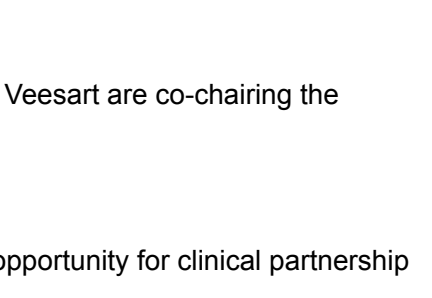
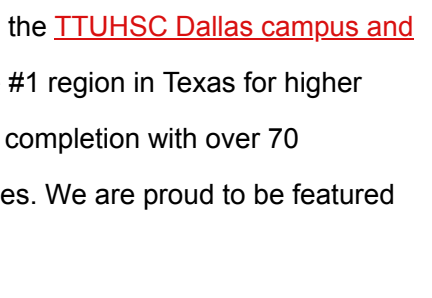
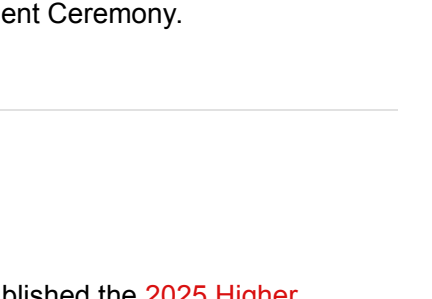
### • ABILENE

#### Faculty Accomplishments:

- Dr. Priscilla Wyatt** successfully obtained her CNE-d.
- Congratulations to our newest doctoral-prepared faculty - **Dr. Jodi Fry** and **Dr. Cynthia Crowe**!

#### Recruitment Events:

- April 24 – **Dr. Tammie Coffman** and **Theresa Rountree** spent a day with Clyde High School Health Sciences/CNA students.
- May 1 – Red Bag Tour
- May 2 - Wylie East Junior High on campus
- May 13 - Holland High School students enjoyed a morning on campus with a TeamSTEPS communication activity, a disaster drill, and an escape room. Thank you to the student volunteers and the planning group- **Rachel Chapman, Cynthia Crowe, Terran Krake, Mary Mwaura, Gayle Stegall, and Priscilla Wyatt**!
- May 14 - **Dr. Tammie Coffman** and **Theresa Rountree** visited with Baird High School Health Sciences/CNA students



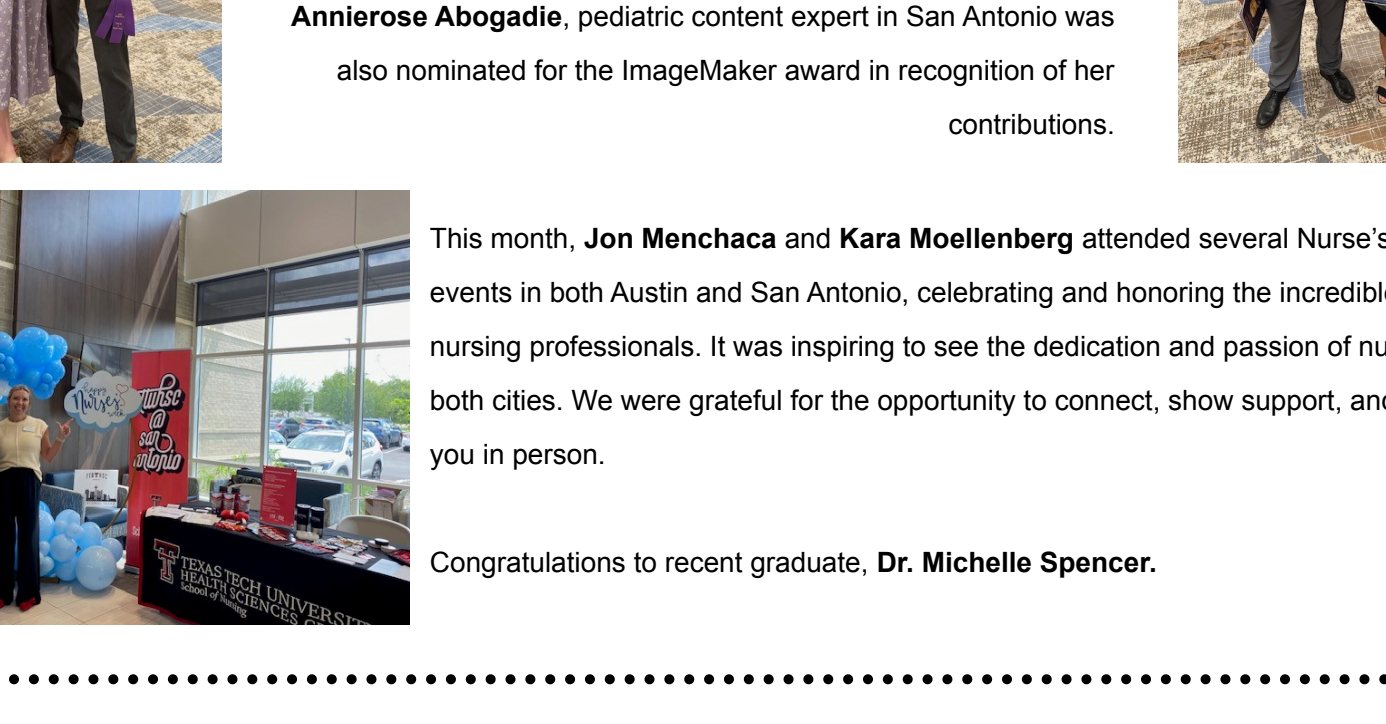
#### Student Happenings:

- 1st Intamural Club established on the Abilene Campus – led by students **Teagun Martinez** and **Hayden Fry**. Faculty Advisor – **Candace Frizzi**
- May 16 – Meet and Greet Summer 2025 Cohort- Thank you to the staff and student volunteers who made the day run smoothly- **Cinda Alexander, Beth Delz, Molly Rake, Theresa Rountree, and Sally Short**!

### • LUBBOCK



Incoming Summer 2025 Traditional BSN students met their new faculty and fellow students at the Summer 2025 Meet & Greet Event on Monday, May 19th, on the Lubbock campus. **Dean Wei** visited with the students, delivering a warm welcome and words of encouragement as they take the next step in their academic journey. New students learned about available resources, and also got to speak with current members of TNSA, who gave tours of the campus to the incoming students so they knew their way around campus. A huge thank you to everyone who helped with the event so our new students were set up for success!



Faculty from all campuses came to the Lubbock campus for the Spring Commencement Ceremony.

### • DALLAS/MANSFIELD



The Dallas Regional Chamber published the **2025 Higher Education Review**, which features the **TTUHSC Dallas campus** and **graduates**. The DFW region is the #1 region in Texas for higher education enrollment and degree completion with over 70 accredited colleges and universities. We are proud to be featured in this publication!

**Dallas Area Regional Dean Search**  
The search for a new Regional Dean for the Dallas area is underway. Drs. Barbara Cherry and Amanda Veesart are co-chairing the search.

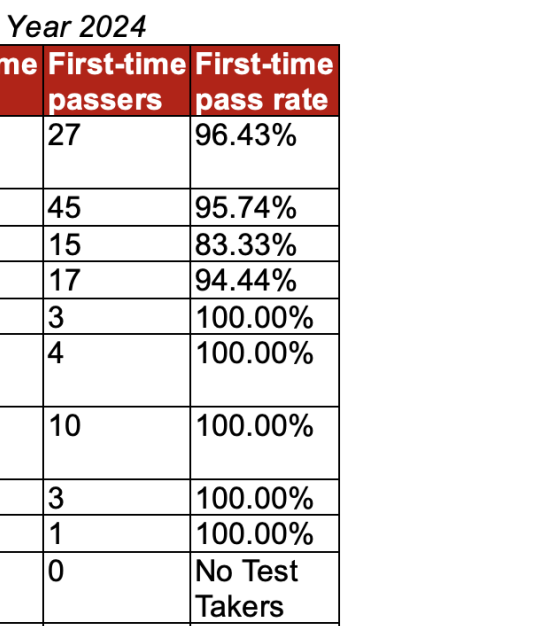
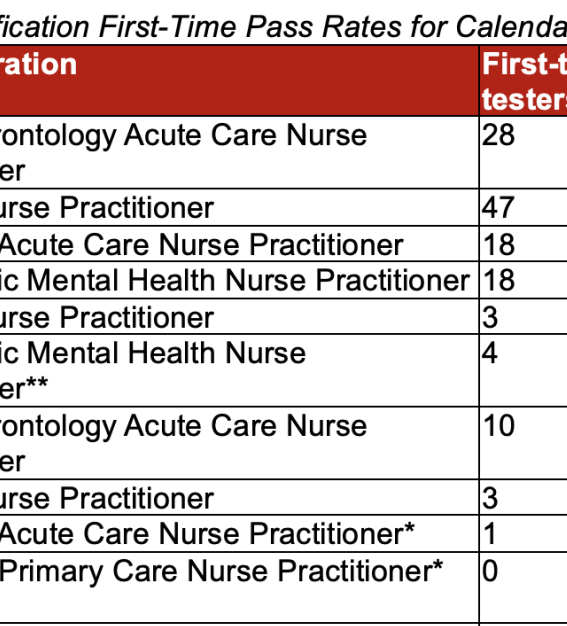
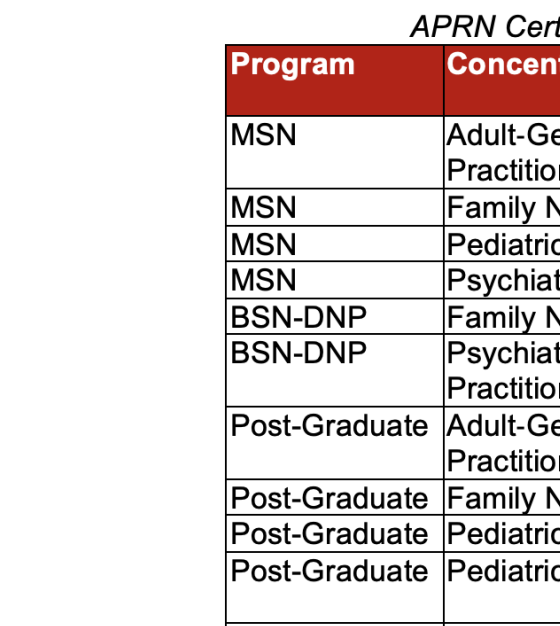
#### Mansfield Expansion

- Our partnership with Mansfield Economic Development & the City of Mansfield has provided the opportunity for clinical partnership growth & larger cohorts for the Undergraduate Department.
  - Contract negotiation is ongoing for a new space for the SON.
- The **Dallas ABSN program** continues to grow and thrive, with student enrollment increasing to 57.
- These students are gaining valuable clinical experience across 19 hospitals, including key partnerships with UT-Southwestern, Portland, VA, Methodist, Medical City facilities, THER facilities, and Methodist Children's.
  - Notably, our program launched its first cohort at UT-Southwestern this year, which is progressing successfully.

The SON DFW area **received a \$50,000 endowment** from a generous donor. This endowment will support scholarships for undergraduate students enrolled in the DFW area.

The first DFW Regional Advisory Council Meeting was held at the Dallas campus at the end of March. The meeting was well attended by key stakeholders from the area, who provided great feedback and accolades for our SON.

### • PERMIAN BASIN

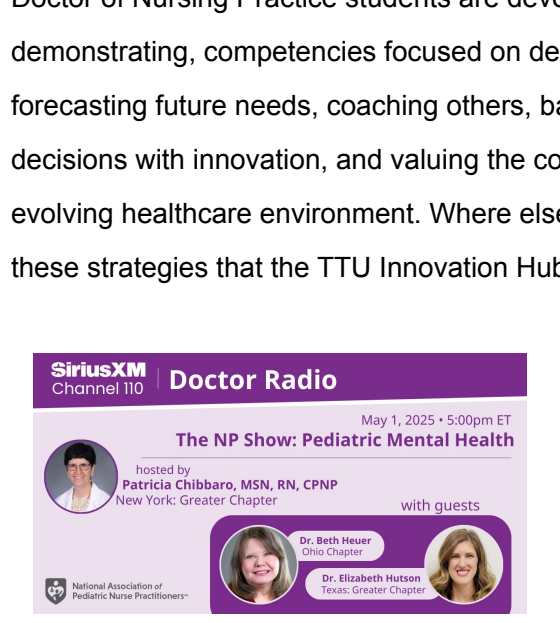


Congratulations to our May graduates, especially **Dr. Melissa Weems**!

#### Upcoming Events:

- May 29th - 30th: Chamber of Commerce Retreat
- June 6th: Rural Health Resource Fair Recruitment at Sul Ross

### • SAN ANTONIO/AUSTIN



**Josh Hinds**, one of our dedicated preceptors in San Antonio, was nominated by **Jon Menchaca** for the ImageMaker award in recognition of the outstanding mentorship he provides to our students. Pictured with him is his wife, who is currently an ABSN student in San Antonio.



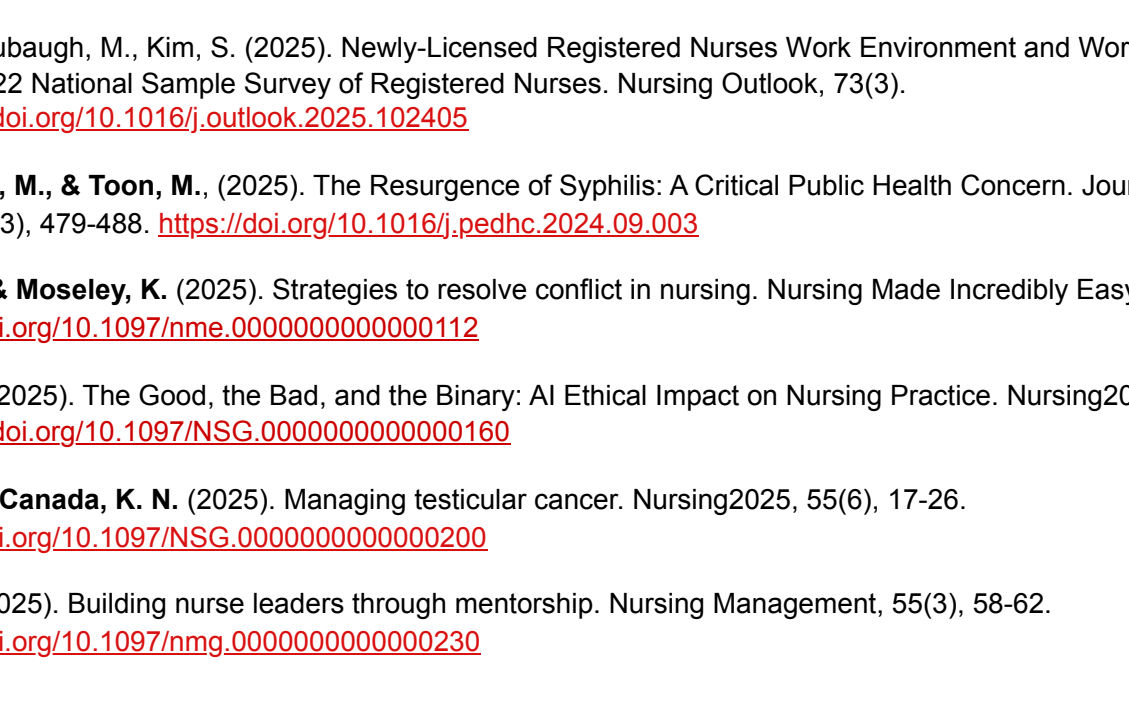
**Annirose Abogadie**, pediatric content expert in San Antonio was also nominated for the ImageMaker award in recognition of her contributions.

This month, **Jon Menchaca** and **Kara Moellenberg** attended several Nurse's Week events in both Austin and San Antonio, celebrating and honoring the incredible work of our nursing professionals. It was inspiring to see the dedication and passion of nurses across both cities. We were grateful for the opportunity to connect, show support, and say thank you in person.

Congratulations to recent graduate, **Dr. Michelle Spencer**.

## Academics

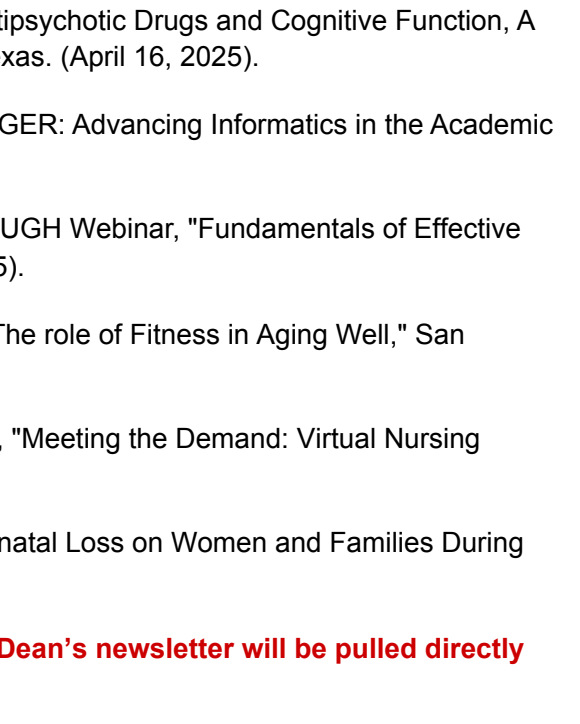
### UNDERGRADUATE



Jonathan Menchaca and Kyle Chapman attending the Fort Cavazos Education Fair on May 15, 2025

#### RN to BSN Program

- Dr. Rebecca Geist** earned the certificate of completion for "End-of-Life Care Doula" through the International Association of Health Careers.
- Dr. Richard Pullen** and **Dr. Virginia Holler** congratulate RN to BSN students before receiving their diplomas on May 9, 2025. A total of 155 RN to BSN students received their diplomas. The program has approximately 260 enrolled in the summer of 2025.
- The RN to BSN Program Faculty had a retreat in Lubbock on April 23, 2025. The main goal of the retreat was to brainstorm potential ideas for a new and innovative curriculum that will give the RN to BSN Program a competitive edge. The retreat is the first in a series that will be led by **Dr. Amanda Veesart**, **Dean Dr. Holly Wei** also attended the retreat and provided words of encouragement, guidance, and vision.
- The **RN to BSN Program** has an updated website to increase its marketability to potential students. Thank you to **Dr. Ricardo Ledesma**, RN to BSN Student Representative, and **Dr. Melinda Jones**, Professor, for promoting the program.
- Dr. Richard Pullen** was interviewed by Melissa Whitfield with **Texas Tech Health Check Podcast** on "Raising an Understanding and Awareness of Breast Cancer in Males" on May 7, 2025.



### GRADUATE

Three major successes for the Graduate Program as we close out the Spring Semester and begin the Summer semester:

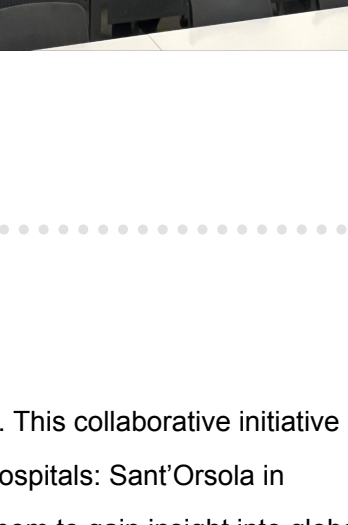
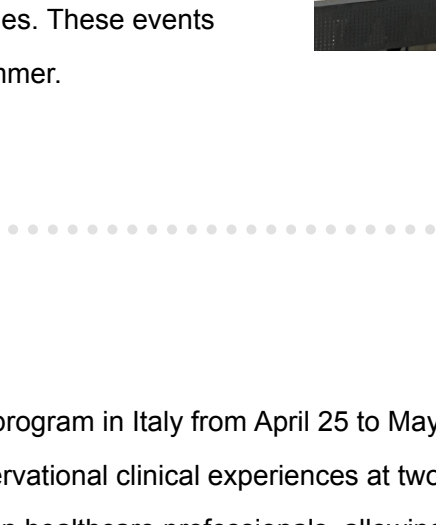
- We successfully graduated **128 Graduate students**. (MSN – 95, PM DNP – 27, Post-Graduate Certificates – 6)
- These course satisfaction results for the Spring semester are outstanding! All programs were "Exceed Expectations" and demonstrate the very strong and dedicated commitment of our faculty to providing an outstanding educational experience for our students.  
MSN: -0.2572  
BSN-DNP: -0.2975  
PM DNP: -0.03493.
- Our final certification rates for 2024 are in and met all CCNE criteria – and demonstrate the excellence and dedication of our APRN faculty!

APRN Certification First-Time Pass Rates for Calendar Year 2024				
Program	Concentration	Overall test-takers	First-time passers	First-time pass rate
MSN	Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner	26	27	96.43%
MSN	Family Nurse Practitioner	47	45	95.74%
MSN	Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner	16	15	83.33%
BSN-DNP	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	16	17	94.44%
BSN-DNP	Family Nurse Practitioner	3	3	100.00%
BSN-DNP	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	4	4	100.00%
Post-Graduate	Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner	10	10	100.00%
Post-Graduate	Family Nurse Practitioner	3	3	100.00%
Post-Graduate	Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner	1	1	100.00%
Post-Graduate	Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner	0	0	No Test Takers
Post-Graduate	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	1	1	100.00%

APRN Certification Overall Pass Rates for Calendar Year 2024				
Program	Concentration	Overall test-takers	Overall passers	Overall pass rate
MSN	Nurse-Midwifery	24	21	87.50%
MSN	Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner	1	1	100.00%
Post-Graduate	Nurse-Midwifery	1	1	100.00%

#### DNP Leading Teams Students Take Over the TTU Innovation Hub @ Research Park

Leading and managing interprofessional groups, as well as nursing groups, is a critical leadership skill. This summer, semester 4 Doctor of Nursing Practice students are developing, and demonstrating, competencies focused on developing teams, forecasting future needs, coaching others, balancing data driven decisions with innovation, and valuing the complexity of the evolving healthcare environment. Where else to demonstrate these strategies that the TTU Innovation Hub?!



May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Listen to **Dr. Elizabeth Hutson's** insightful discussion on pediatric mental health in the **NP Show segment on SiriusXM's Doctor Radio**.

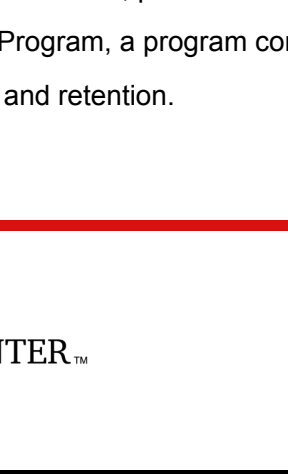
**Dr. Erin Sing** received the W. Newton Long Award for the Advancement of Midwifery from the ACNM Foundation.

## Centers and Supporting Departments

### CENTER FOR NURSING RESEARCH

#### Announcements:

The Office of Research and Innovation (ORI) has awarded the Clinician Jump Start Award to **Dr. Wanda Hilliard**. With only one seed grant award of \$200,000 available, Dr. Hillard's proposal was selected by committee as this year's recipient. It is our pleasure to announce Dr. Hillard as the winner of this award and we offer her our most sincere congratulations! It is well deserved Dr. Hillard



#### Grants Submitted:

- Dr. Wanda Hilliard** – NIH, The Rural West Texas Substance Use Disorders Initiative (\$1.5 million)
- Dr. Wendy Thal, Dr. Tara Hilliard & Dr. Rosalinda Jimenez** – Matson Halverson Christiansen Hamilton, Development of a Sustainable Collaborative Geriatric Learning Experience for Nursing Students in a Rural Area of Negros Oriental (\$5,000)

#### Recent Publications:

**Church, C., Curbrough, M., Kim, S.** (2025). Newly-Licensed Registered Nurses Work Environment and Workforce Trends: Analysis of the 2022 National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses. *Nursing Outlook*, 73(3). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.outlook.2025.101495>

**Gilkes, M., Day, M., & Tonn, M.** (2025). The Resurgence of Syphilis: A Critical Public Health Concern. *Journal of Pediatric Health Care*, 39(3), 479-488. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pedhc.2024.09.003>

**Hammond, L. & Moseley, K.** (2025). Strategies to resolve conflict in nursing. *Nursing Made Incredibly Easy*, 23(3), 45-48. <https://doi.org/10.1097/nme.0000000000000112>

**Hoelscher, S.** (2025). The Good, the Bad, and the Binary: AI Ethical Impact on Nursing Practice. *Nursing2025*, 55(4), 26-32. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1097/NSG.0000000000000160>

**Pullen, R. L. & Canada, K. N.** (2025). Managing Intergenerational Conflict. *Nursing2025*, 55(6), 17-26. <https://doi.org/10.1097/NSG.0000000000000200>

**Pullen, R. L.** (2025). Building nurse leaders through mentorship. *Nursing Management*, 55(3), 58-62. <https://doi.org/10.1097/nmg.0000000000000200>

#### Recent Presentations:

**Collier, L., Stegall, G., & Paris, D.** (2025, April 30). Empowering caregiver: Resources for supporting older adults [Conference session]. 10th Annual Health Care Institute Conference, San Antonio, TX, United States.

**Hilliard, Wanda**, TORCH B/Annual Educational Meeting, "Journal Article Review "Antipsychotic Drugs and Cognitive Function, A Systematic Review and Network Meta-Analysis," TORCH Initiative, Dallas, Texas, (April 16, 2025).

**Hoelscher, Stephanie**, Hollis, Diane, HIMSS TIGER Global Community Webinar, "TIGER: Advancing Informatics in the Academic Domain," HIMSS, Virtual, (April 30, 2025).

**Moore, Amy M.** Rose, Elizabeth, Stoggia, Ana, Becker, Joseph, Chatterjee, Purba, CUGH Webinar, "Fundamentals of Effective Mentoring," Consortium of Universities for Global Health, online, (April 24, 2025).

**Moseley, Kelly S, Hammond, Lori**, 10th Annual Health Care Institute Conference, "The role of Fitness in Aging Well," San Antonio, Texas, (April 24, 2025).

Raggio, Kristin, **Hoelscher, Stephanie**, 2025 Dowell Health Informatics Conference, "Meeting the Demand: Virtual Nursing Toolkit," Texas Women's University, Dallas, Texas, (April 25, 2025).

**Weems, Melissa R.** Texas AWOHNN, "The Rainbow in the Storm: The Effect of Perinatal Loss on Women and Families During Subsequent Pregnancies," AWHONN, Allen, TX (May 16, 2025).

**\*Please note that all future publications and presentations that are highlighted in the Dean's newsletter will be pulled directly from Faculty Success.**

#### Funding Opportunities:

Signal/American Board for Occupational Health Nurses (ABOHN) Grant

The purpose of the Signal/American Board for Occupational Health Nurses (ABOHN) collaborative research grant is to encourage qualified nurses to contribute to the advancement of occupational health through nursing research. Proposals for pilot and/or development research may be submitted for this grant. <https://www.signalnursing.org/advance-elevate/research/research-grants/american-board-of-occupational-health-nurses-abohn-grant>

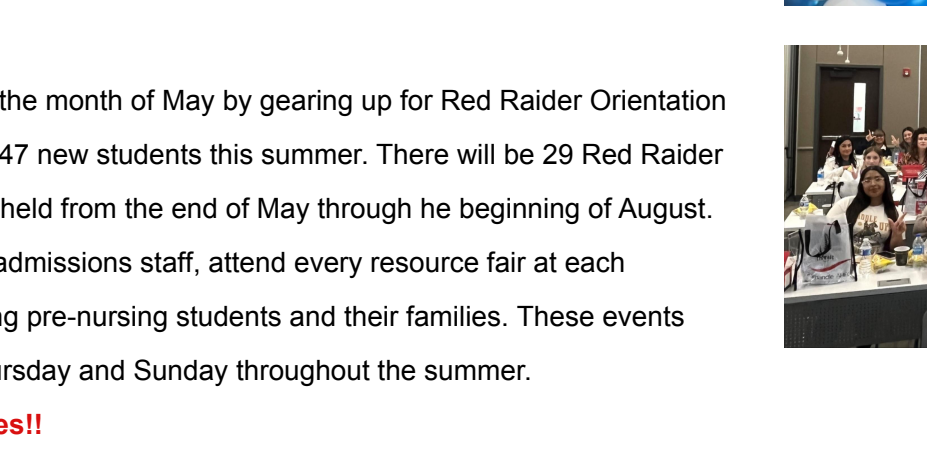
Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Grants

The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) intends to release a Broad Pragmatic Studies (BPS) PCORI Funding Announcement (PFA) on Aug. 12, 2025, with the goal of funding patient-centered comparative clinical effectiveness research (CER) projects. <https://www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities/announcement/broad-pragmatic-studies-pcori-funding-announcement-cycle-3-2025>

### STUDENT SUCCESS & ENGAGEMENT

#### Dean's Round Table for Nurse Leaders

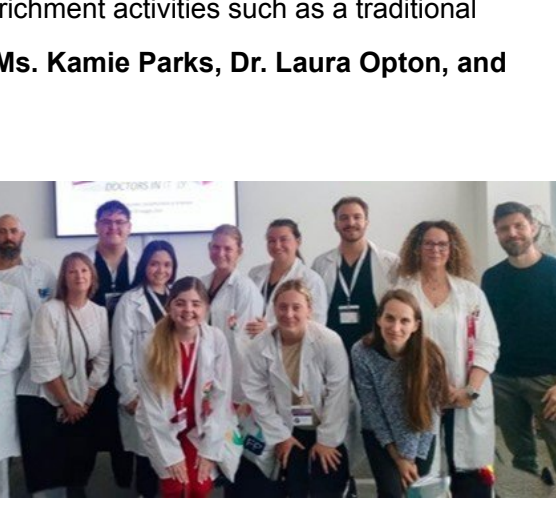
The Dean's Round Table for Nurse Leaders was held on May 16th on the Lubbock Campus. Distinguished and expert nurse leaders in their field were invited to participate in this esteemed group. The Dean's Round Table plays a pivotal role in shaping the strategic direction, fostering innovation, and ensuring the continued excellence of the School of Nursing. We are fortunate to have alumni committed to promoting the mission of the School of Nursing.



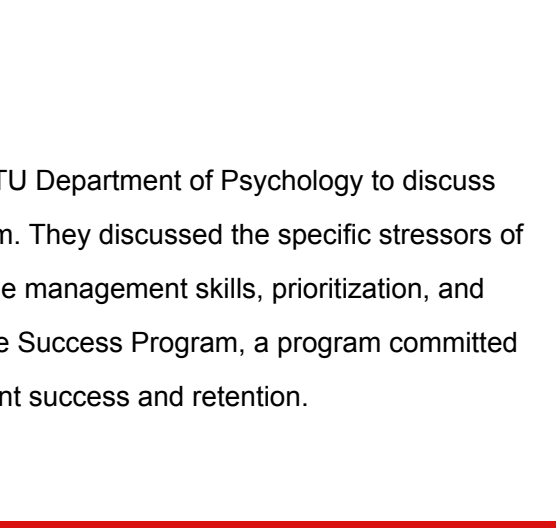
Pictured Left to Right: Dr. Arturo Rodriguez, Dr. Lauren Sullivan, Dr. Jessica Spigelberg, Dr. Laura Oton, Dr. Kristin Benton, Dr. Bob Dent, Dr. Serena Bumpus, Dr. David Marshall, Dr. Rhonda Collins, Dr. Barbara Cherry, Dr. Jamie Hughes, Dr. Patricia Yoder-Wise, Dr. James Dickens, Dean Holly Wei, and Dr. Aaron Salinas. Not pictured: Dr. Joyce Batchelor, Dr. Kendra Statton, and Dr. Sylvia Trepanier.

#### Recruitment:

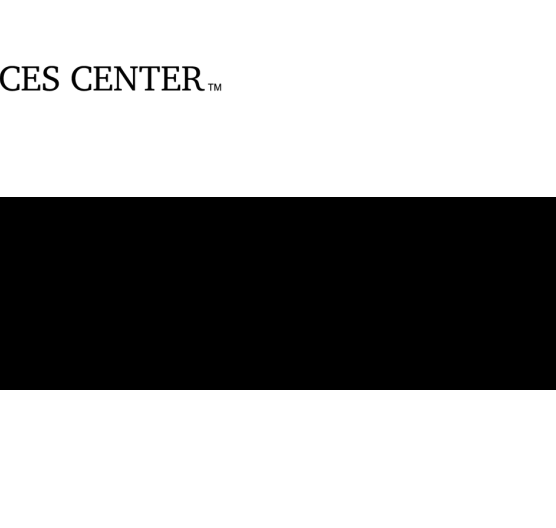
There was so much to celebrate this month, as recruitment focused on **National Nurses Week** (May 6–12) and Commencement. **Aricka Cano** and **Stephanie Nichols** participated in Nurse Education Fairs and Professional Development Days across the state for Nurses Week. It was important to celebrate the extraordinary dedication, compassion, and resilience of nurses who make a difference every single day—on our campus, in our community, and around the world. The recruitment team gets excited about nursing recruitment events aimed at inspiring future healthcare leaders and helping them learn more about the rewarding path of nursing and continuing their education!



One of the special ways Aricka and Stephanie like to celebrate National Nurses Week, is by making rounds during the night shift, to provide nurses with snacks, TTUHSC School of Nursing badge reels, goodies and information about the TTUHSC SON nursing programs. They start making rounds around 10:00 PM and visit every floor in the hospital. Some of the most meaningful recruitment conversations transpire with night shift nurses who are wanting to pursue a higher degree/education.



Aricka Cano also joined **Dr. Liz Matos** in Amarillo for a presentation and tour at the Amarillo campus for local students from **Gateway** who are interested in pursuing a degree in the medical field.



The recruitment team will end the month of May by gearing up for Red Raider Orientation season. TTU is welcoming 9,247 new students this summer. There will be 29 Red Raider Orientations and transfer fairs held from the end of May through the beginning of August. The recruiters, along with the admissions staff, attend every resource fair at each orientation to visit with incoming pre-nursing students and their families. These events take place every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday throughout the summer.

**Wreck 'Em Red Raider Nurses!!**

### WELLNESS & RETENTION

The Raider Nurse Success Program hosted Haley Marshall and Addie Marquez from the TTU Department of Psychology to discuss stress management in nursing school for TTUHSC nursing students on May 20th over Zoom. They discussed the specific stressors of nursing school and how to manage that stress while in the program. Strategies included time management skills, prioritization, and coping strategies for stress and anxiety. This event was part of a series for the Raider Nurse Success Program, a program committed to improving the wellness opportunities of TTUHSC nursing students, with a focus on student success and retention.