



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER™

News Release

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Texas Tech University System Chancellor Kent Hance Updates and Announces Future Plans for Texas Tech in El Paso

Texas Tech University System Chancellor Kent Hance updated the public and unveiled future plans for the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) at El Paso during a news conference at 3 p.m. Thursday (Dec. 10) in the Medical Science Building I on the El Paso campus.

Since 1969, TTUHSC has played a vital role in the El Paso community, providing educational opportunities for students and serving the health care needs of this region. Today, El Paso is home to the TTUHSC School of Nursing and the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine, the only four-year medical school on the U.S. and Mexico border. This campus is one of eight TTUHSC campuses located across Texas. TTUHSC is home to six schools, more than 6,000 employees and 3,200 students.

“We are growing, but there remains a critical need for additional health care professionals in this area and the rest of the state,” Hance said. “The potential exists in El Paso for us to make great strides in addressing these shortages.”

TTUHSC continues to make a difference by addressing the need for health care professionals, yet El Paso still faces a critical shortage. Currently, there are less than 110 physicians for every 100,000 people in El Paso. The national average is 198 physicians per 100,000 population. The Texas average is only 150 physicians per 100,000 population.

The El Paso area also faces a shortage of nurses with 489 nurses per 100,000 population compared to the statewide average of 668 nurses per 100,000. The School of Nursing joined TTUHSC at El Paso a year ago to enhance educational opportunities in this region. The nursing expansion in El Paso will be TTUHSC’s most immediate priority, with the goal to increase enrollment to 500 nursing students within five years.

“My hope is to establish a free-standing health sciences university in El Paso,” says Hance. “Someday this university could include other schools such as Allied Health Sciences, Pharmacy, the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Dentistry, depending on the health care environment and need,” Hance added.



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Once Texas Tech establishes a free-standing health sciences center in El Paso, it would become one of four universities making up the Texas Tech University System, including Texas Tech University, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and Angelo State University.

Hance credits the strategic growth of Texas Tech in El Paso over the past decade to the dedicated faculty and staff, coupled with support from the El Paso community and its devoted legislators.

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