

Governor Celebrates El Paso 4-Year Medical School

"Thank you for believing in the American dream and sharing with the rest of the State how people in West Texas make things happen."

- Governor Rick Perry at the celebration
commemorating the TTUHSC El Paso School of Medicine

Governor Rick Perry visited Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso June 12 to attend a ceremonial signing for higher education legislation and to celebrate the passage of the bill that will provide necessary startup funds for the full four-year El Paso School of Medicine.

Surrounded by staff, faculty, residents, medical students and El Paso community leaders Gov. Perry said, "Thank you for having the faith, staying the course, and never giving up hope that today would become a reality." The event was attended by hundreds, amid a party atmosphere of congratulatory remarks, mariachis, food and celebration.

Texas Tech University System Chancellor Kent Hance said, "Today a dream comes true. Today the perseverance, commitment and hard work of a community is realized. Today, the future of El Paso's healthcare, economy, and influence in the area of border and international healthcare research changes dramatically," He added, "The Texas Tech University System is proud to become home to the first four-year medical school on the United States-Mexico border."

The TTUHSC El Paso School of Medicine has already received the green light for the site visit in November from the Liaison Committee of Medical Education, which is the accrediting organization. The first four-year medical school class is anticipated to begin in 2009.