

# Texas State University|SAN MARCOS

News from University News Service  
601 University Drive  
San Marcos, TX 78666  
(512) 245-2180

Mark Hendricks  
[markh@txstate.edu](mailto:markh@txstate.edu)

## **St. David's Community Health Foundation Gives \$6 Million for Texas State Nursing School**

**AUSTIN (November 9, 2006)** – St. David's Community Health Foundation has donated \$6 million to Texas State University-San Marcos to help establish a school of nursing at Texas State's Round Rock Higher Education Center.

The gift was announced Thursday, Nov. 9, at a news conference at St. David's Medical Center in Austin. It will be used as start-up funding to hire new faculty, equip laboratories and offset other costs for a new school of nursing, until the school becomes self-sustaining.

In recognition for the donation, Texas State President Denise M. Trauth announced the school will be named the St. David's School of Nursing at Texas State University when it opens.

"We are grateful for the St. David's Community Health Foundation's generosity and foresight. This is not just a gift to Texas State, it is a gift to Texas. It will allow us to establish a new school of nursing at considerably less cost to the taxpayer than previously expected," said Trauth.

Dick Moeller, president and chief executive officer of the Foundation, said the gift will help Texas State address an essential need in Texas – a severe shortage of nurses.

"We are pleased to be a partner with Texas State in this important effort," said Moeller. "Nursing education programs in Texas are at full capacity and the need for more nurses is critical.

Current data shows that Texas has 646 registered nurses per 100,000 population, compared to the national average of 825.

Trauth said she would go before the Texas Legislature for additional funds to establish the nursing school. The Legislature has previously approved tuition revenue bonds for a second building at the Round Rock Higher Education Center that will house the school of nursing. If debt service on those bonds is approved during the upcoming legislative session, the university plans to break ground in the spring of 2008.

- more -

The first class of 100 junior-level students would be admitted to the school in the fall of 2010, with the first graduating class scheduled for the spring of 2012.

The proposed St. David's School of Nursing at Texas State University will be housed in Texas State's College of Health Professions. Other programs offered by the college are clinical laboratory science, communication disorders, health administration, health information systems, health services research, healthcare human resources, health information management, radiation therapy, physical therapy and social work.

St. David's Community Health Foundation is a not-for-profit partner in the St. David's HealthCare Partnership. The Foundation's mission is to improve access to health care for Central Texans. For more information, visit [www.sdchf.org](http://www.sdchf.org).

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## **Timeline:** **St. David's School of Nursing at Texas State University**

**Nov. 9, 2006** – Texas State University-San Marcos and St. David's Community Health Foundation announce a \$6 million gift from the Foundation to Texas State for start-up operating costs to establish the St. David's School of Nursing at Texas State University to be located at the Round Rock Higher Education Center.

**Fall 2007** – Program director recruited and faculty recruitment begins. Preliminary planning for second building at the Round Rock campus begins.

**Spring 2008** – Construction begins on second building at the Round Rock campus. Curriculum development begins by program director, consultants and initial faculty.

**2008-09** – Approval for the School of Nursing and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program is secured from the Texas State University System Board of Regents and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. A request for a School of Nursing and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing program is submitted to the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas.

**2009-10** – Approval of the School of Nursing and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program is secured from the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas and the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Curriculum planning completed. First class of 100 junior-level nursing students admitted to Texas State.

**August 2010** – The Texas State University System Board of Regents officially names the nursing program the St. David's School of Nursing at Texas State University-San Marcos.

**Fall 2010** – Second building on Round Rock campus opens for nursing classes.

**May 2012** – First nursing graduates of the St. David's School of Nursing at Texas State University-San Marcos receive complete their bachelor's degree program.



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## **BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Dick Moeller, President and Chief Executive Officer St. David's Community Health Foundation**

F.H. (Dick) Moeller is President and CEO of St. David's Community Health Foundation and System and serves as a member of the Board of Governors for the St. David's Healthcare in Austin. Prior to St. David's, Moeller was co-founder and partner of Verity Ventures. Verity is a Texas focused venture capital firm specializing in early stage, technology companies and he was a partner in SSM Ventures since October 1998.

Prior to SSM, Moeller joined VTEL as Chief Executive Officer, President and Director in October 1989 and became Chairman of the Board in March 1992. In April, 1992, Moeller led VTEL through its initial public offering. In 1992 and 1998, he was selected by Ernst and Young's as an Entrepreneur of the Year finalist for his contributions to VTEL.

Moeller is active in his community and church, serving on a number of board positions including the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce, Capital Area United Way, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and the Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest.

Mr. Moeller holds an MBA from Harvard University and a B.S. in Industrial Engineering from the University of Texas at Arlington. Moeller received the Distinguished Alumni Award from University of Texas at Arlington in 1999.

### **Denise M. Trauth, President Texas State University-San Marcos**

Denise M. Trauth began her tenure as President of Texas State University in August, 2002. She came to San Marcos after nine years at The University of North Carolina at Charlotte where she had served as Provost since April, 1997. Dr. Trauth is very active both in civic projects in central Texas and in higher education organizations on the state and national levels.

She currently serves as president of the Austin Area Research Organization (better known as AARO) and is also chair of the AARO Executive Committee.

She also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Austin Lyric Opera and on the Board of Directors of the Austin Vision 2010. She is also a member of the Philosophical Society of Texas. She was elected to the Board of Directors of the Roy F. and Joann Cole Mitte Foundation and also serves on the Board of the Emmett and Miriam McCoy Foundation.

Dr. Trauth is a Commissioner of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, and a member of the Commission on Leadership and Institutional Effectiveness of the American Council on Education.

She is a member of the executive committee of the Association of Texas Colleges and Universities and the Chairman of the Texas Council of Public University Presidents and Chancellors.

Dr. Trauth earned her Bachelor of Arts at the College of Mount St. Joseph (Ohio), her Master of Arts at Ohio State University and her Ph.D. at the University of Iowa. She is married to Dr. John Huffman, professor emeritus at Bowling Green State University and UNC Charlotte.

**Ruth B. Welborn, Dean**

**College of Health Professions, Texas State University-San Marcos**

Ruth B. Welborn was named dean of the College of Health Professions at Texas State University-San Marcos in September 2003.

Prior to her appointment as dean, Welborn had served in a variety of leadership positions at Texas State, including chair of the Department of Allied Health Sciences and Health Administration, associate dean of the College of Health Professions and acting dean of the College of Health Professions.

Wellborn received her diploma in nursing from the Jewish Hospital School of Nursing in St. Louis, Mo., and her bachelor of science degree in nursing from the University of Texas Medical Branch of Galveston. She earned her master's from the University of Texas-San Antonio and received her Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. She holds an R.N. license in Texas.

Her research has focused on the health care delivery models for service and the learning styles of health profession students seeking higher education.

**Bonnie Clipper, Chief Nursing Officer**

**St. David's Medical Center**

Bonnie Clipper is the Chief Nursing Officer/VP at St. David's Medical Center. She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Winona State University, her Masters of Arts in Health and Human Services Administration from St. Mary's University and her Masters of Business Administration from Lewis University. As a progressive CNO, Bonnie has developed and championed many innovative strategies to increase the recruitment and retention options available to both St. David's Medical Center and the nursing profession.

She often lectures on generational management and the challenges this presents to health care. She was part of a four person team to develop the concept of the Nursing Fellowship and helped write a grant, which was awarded \$2 million by the Department of Labor. Bonnie is also adjunct faculty for the University of Texas at Austin, School of Nursing and has been a grant reviewer for the State of Texas Higher education Coordinating Board.



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## **QUESTIONS ABOUT TEXAS NURSING SHORTAGE**

### **Why is nursing important?**

As the nation's largest health care profession, the nursing field comprises 2.6 million registered nurses. Hospitals employ 60 percent of nurses, with an increasing number of nurses also employed in home care, clinics, short-stay surgery centers, clinics, rehabilitation, health centers, transitional care, hospices, schools and businesses. The federal government projects that nursing employment opportunities are expected to grow faster through 2008 than the average for all other occupations.

### **How many nurses are there in Texas and how many are needed?**

Current data shows that Texas has 646 registered nurses per 100,000 population, compared to the national average of 825 per 100,000 population. The federal government is estimating a shortfall of one million registered nurses by 2012 around the country. It is estimated Texas will need 138,000 more nurses in the next seven to 10 years, 14 percent of the federal estimated shortfall.

### **Why is there a shortage in nurses?**

The shortages are motivated by demographic forces including the age of nurses and early retirement. They are also motivated by a growing patient population, heightened productivity requirements in hospitals, increasing use of technology requiring a greater level of training and economic strain on hospitals and other providers. In Texas, the average age of an employed RN in 1980 was 38, but that average age increased to 43 in 2000. It is estimated that by 2010, 40 percent of employed RNs and nursing educators will retire. Another major issue in the shortage of nurses is the lack of spots for students in nursing schools.

### **Why is there a need for a new nursing school?**

Nursing students account for 52 percent of all health profession students in the United States. An American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) survey states that the nursing shortage cannot be blamed on a lack of people wanting to become nurses. According to the University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston, Texas nursing schools turned away 4,200 qualified applicants in 2004. Not enough space and resources to train nursing students, along with difficulty in attracting nurses into faculty careers with inadequate salaries, has created a strong need for more schools. In the next few years Texas needs to double the number of graduates from nursing programs, including baccalaureate programs and hospital programs, to react to the increase in retirement of aging nurses in the near future.



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## **QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DONATION**

### **How much money is St. David's Community Health Foundation donating and what will it be used for?**

St. David's Community Health Foundation is donating \$6 million for a new nursing school at Texas State University. The funds will be used to hire new faculty, equip laboratories and offset other costs for a new school of nursing, until the school becomes self-sustaining.

### **What will the official name of the new school be?**

The official name will be the St. David's School of Nursing at Texas State University. It will be housed in Texas State's College of Health Professions.

### **Where will the school be located?**

The new nursing school will be located on the Texas State Round Rock Higher Education Center (RRHEC) campus. Preliminary plans for a new nursing school building at the RRHEC campus will begin in fall 2007. Construction on the new building is scheduled to begin in spring 2008.

### **When will the new school open and how many students will it hold?**

The first class of 100 junior-level students would be admitted to the school in the fall of 2010, with the first graduating class scheduled for the spring of 2012.



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is St. David's Community Health Foundation?**

We are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to improving community health through leadership, collaboration and education. The Foundation supports programs that address the most pressing health needs and provide the most effective advances in improved health. Where gaps in community services exist, we create new programs to serve unmet needs.

### **What is the Foundation's relationship to the St. David's hospitals?**

St. David's Foundation receives operating support from St. David's Health Care System. We also distribute profits from the six St. David's hospitals to the community through our grants and programs.

### **Why does the Foundation focus on issues related to access to care?**

We researched the health needs of this community and identified access to healthcare as the number one problem that affects the largest percentage of the population. Therefore, improving access to care will have the greatest impact on improving the health of our community.

### **How does the Foundation differ from other community foundations?**

The Foundation focuses exclusively on health and health care. We research the best solutions and focus support more narrowly on specific areas of need that produce the greatest impact, rather than providing broad support to many programs and causes.

### **How does the Foundation differ from other hospital foundations?**

We distribute grants to other organizations in the non-profit sector to help them establish and operate programs to serve the community. We also have the flexibility to shift our funding focus as priority needs change. Typically, hospital foundations raise money to fund the hospital itself or hospital programs in the community.

### **Much of Foundation funding supports existing programs; what are the benefits of contributing through the Foundation rather than giving directly to those programs?**

Working with the community, we identify specific areas of need where we can achieve the greatest impact and we develop and deploy strategic, community-based solutions designed to produce measurable results in those specific areas. By leveraging community resources - knowledge, expertise and funding - in a coordinated, proactive manner, we are able to produce a much greater return per dollar invested in improving community health. We provide financial stewardship of donated funds and professional evaluations of organizations' use of our funds to ensure efficiency and effectiveness.



## **St. David's Community Health Foundation Programs**

### **Community Grants**

We grant money to non-profit organizations working to improve community health. Where significant gaps in community services exist, we create new programs designed around community collaborations. In the past, grants have been awarded in the mental health, physical health, services for older adults/special populations sectors and more.

### **Dental Program**

Two Dental clinics on wheels – Theo's Tooth Mobiles – travel to schools and social service agencies in Travis, Williamson and Hays Counties. Both preventative and emergency dental services are offered free of charge. In 2005, the dental program provided care to 7,544 children, 741 patients from 14 local social service agencies and 337 musicians through the Health Alliance for Austin Musicians.

### **Toast of the Town**

A longtime Austin tradition, Toast of the Town combines unique homes and venues with fascinating special guests and outstanding food. Toast of the Town benefits the W. Neal Kocurek Scholarship Fund. Established in 2004 in memory of longtime president and CEO Neal Kocurek, this fund provides college scholarships to graduates pursuing health-related careers at Texas colleges and universities. The Foundation will match all contributions to the fund until a \$1 million endowment is reached.

### **Kocurek Scholarships**

St. David's Community Health Foundation has established this scholarship program to honor our late president and CEO, W. Neal Kocurek. A native Austinite, Neal never stopped learning and contributing to the community he loved. Our scholarship program seeks students that embody Neal's leadership and commitment to community. The 2006 recipients are Marisol Alvarado, Ashley Criswell, Ricardo Gonzalez, Mario Marchan, Christina Ramirez, Sherrill Rose and Diego Villa.

### **Back-to-School Immunization**

At the beginning of each school year, free vaccinations are available for children enrolled in school. During August of 2005, over 1,100 local children received immunizations through a collaboration involving St. David's Community Health Foundation, the Children's Wellness Center, People's Community Clinic, Travis County Medical Alliance and the University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing.