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Good Shepherd Receives Nursing Education Partnership Grant

(LONGVIEW) June 1, 2010-- Today, officials from Good Shepherd Health System were notified that they have been selected to receive a two-year grant in the amount of \$771,035 under the Hospital-Based Nursing Education Partnership Grant Program (HNEP). The HNEP is a competitive peer-reviewed grant program that was created in 2007 by the 80th Texas Legislature, and received an appropriation of \$5 million in 2009 by the 81st Texas Legislature. The purpose of the program is to increase the number of professional nursing education program enrollees and graduates through support for educational initiatives designed to promote collaboration between hospitals and nursing education programs.

Good Shepherd Health System is partnering with the University of Texas at Arlington to offer a 15-month, online, modular BSN program to deliver course content through media-enriched formats. Student success will be supported through the use of online Masters-prepared Academic Coaches and Student Success Coordinators. The initial licensure program will draw students from clinical and non-clinical hospital employees, as well as from the community.

Champion EMS station captain Donnie Reynolds is one of the selected applicants to participate in this online program. He also will receive tuition reimbursement as a Good Shepherd employee. "I could never have afforded to sit in a classroom full-time – I have to work overtime to make ends meet as it is," Reynolds said, who actually started his working life as a 19-year-old unit clerk at Good Shepherd. "The hospital's support means I will be able to carry on working while completing academic work on-line and have the convenience of doing clinical work at the hospital."

A regional simulation center created through HNEP funding and cost sharing by the partnership will also be available to serve other nursing and health-related programs in the area.

"We are excited to receive these grant funds to build such an extraordinary teaching environment for clinicians in this area," said Karen Watts, RN, Chief Nursing Officer of Good Shepherd

Medical Center. “We want to encourage nursing as a career choice and this learning environment will make it easier for individuals to pursue.”

The Board selected eight proposals to receive two-year grants. Together these grants will increase nursing enrollment in Texas by an additional 550 students and will open new paths for students who are interested in becoming a registered nurse (RN). The projects will strengthen the relationships between local community hospitals and community college, general academic and health-related institutions.

Good Shepherd Health System (Tyler)

Education Partner: University of Texas at Arlington

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Planned Enrollment: 80

Funding Amount: \$771,035

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