

**Notification of Change in Administrative Control
Texas Southmost College in Brownsville, Texas
Associate Degree and Vocational Nursing Education Programs**

Summary:

This report is to inform the Board of a change in the administrative control of Texas Southmost College in Brownsville, Texas as the long established partnership between The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College in Brownsville, Texas has ceased. The University of Texas at Brownsville will offer a prelicensure Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Education Program that was approved by the Board in July 2012. Texas Southmost College will continue to provide an Associate Degree Nursing Education Program and a Vocational Nursing Education Program.

Historical Perspective:

- Texas Southmost College (TSC) was established in 1973 and operated as the Junior College of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. It was the first institution of higher education in the region and became the first accredited public junior college in Texas. In 1948, the institution moved to Fort Brown, a decommissioned Army installation adjacent to the downtown business district in Brownsville, one block from the Rio Grande River.
- In 1973, Pan American University in Edinberg, Texas, agreed to incorporate an extension center on the TSC campus to provide upper-level and graduate coursework for students in the Brownsville area. However, the number of majors and services provided through this arrangement was limited and did not meet the increasing demands of the growing community.
- By 1991, the upper-level center was serving approximately 1,500 students and had a full-time faculty of 33 professors. In order to meet the growing demand for university-level opportunities in the Brownsville area, the branch campus separated from The University of Texas-Pan American and The University of Texas at Brownsville (UTB) was established by the Texas Legislature.
- Shortly after UTB's establishment, the Legislature permitted UTB and TSC to enter into a unique partnership, creating a four-year institution offering a full range of certificates and degrees.
- By a majority vote in March 2011, the TSC District Board of Trustees officially withdrew TSC from the 20-year UTB-TSC Partnership. As an entity in the UT system, UTB began planning for the transition to separate and establish operations as a fully autonomous University. This transition process is scheduled to be completed no later than August 2015.
- UTB/TSC administration have been in communication with Board Staff regarding the proposed separation since March 2011 to ensure the process would be in alignment with Board rules. Notification of administrative control forms were timely submitted.
- The Partnership of UTB and TSC is accredited as a single entity by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools through 2016. The Master of Science in Nursing program and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program for Registered Nurses are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, formerly the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission. Both programs are scheduled for an accreditation visit in 2019.
- UTB was approved to establish a new prelicensure BSN Education Program in Brownsville, Texas at the July 2012 Board meeting. Anne R. Rentfro, PhD, RN is the Interim Associate Dean of the BSN Program.

- TSC is offering an Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Program and a Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program. Nora Montalvo-Liendo, PhD, RN is the ADN Program Director, and Carol Pool, MSN, RN is the VN Program Director. New faculty members have been hired for both the ADN and VN programs.
- Although UTB and TSC have formally separated, facilities and resources will continue to be shared.
- UTB and TSC are located at the southern tip of Texas in Brownsville, located on the U.S.-Mexico border. The city of Brownsville is a part of the greater metropolitan area known as the Rio Grande Valley, a bicultural region that has a population of over 1.14 million people. Sufficient and appropriate rich clinical learning experiences are available in the community for BSN, ADN, and VN students.

Staff Recommendation:

This report is for information purposes and no Board vote is required.