



August 19, 2011

North Texas Pharmacy School Results From Senator Nelson's Efforts

The North Texas region's first pharmacy school will open in 2013 as a result of legislative language authored by State Senator Jane Nelson during this year's regular session. Senator Nelson added language to a supplemental appropriations bill that establishes the College of Pharmacy. It will be located at the University of North Texas [Health Science Center](#) at Fort Worth in partnership with the University of North Texas and the University of North Texas at Dallas. The Legislature appropriated \$300,000 for curriculum and accreditation, and required private funds to be raised for construction. "I am pleased that we were able to get this important project moving so that more pharmacists can be trained to serve our growing population," Senator Nelson said. "There will be little cost to the state, but Texas and our region will greatly benefit from the pharmacy school." The UNT System Board of Regents approved plans to start the doctor of pharmacy program by August 2013 with 80 students.

Senator Nelson Praised by Local Health Officials

Senator Nelson, R-Flower Mound, received an award from the [Texas Association of Local Health Officials](#) for passing legislation to ensure that public health funding reflects local needs and priorities. SB 969 ensures the involvement of local health officials in setting policy priorities and minimizes duplication of services between federal, state and local levels. "Local health officials are our boots on the ground in dealing with public health issues such as the spread of infectious diseases and food-borne illnesses," Senator Nelson said.

Annual Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday Begins Aug. 19

Texans can enjoy tax-free shopping this weekend during the 13th annual Sales Tax Holiday, Aug. 19-21. Items including clothes, backpacks and many school supplies are included. For a list, visit www.texasaxholiday.org. "This is a great time for families to do their school shopping and adults also can save on clothing and shoes priced below \$100," said Senator Nelson.

University of North Texas Helps Adults Finish Degrees

The University of North Texas System is one of eight universities participating in Grad Texas, a program designed to help adults return to college and finish their bachelor's degrees. The program targets over 40,000 adults in Texas with 90 or more credit hours who have not finished the 120 credit hour requirement to receive a bachelor's degree. The website, www.GradTX.org, features an online transfer tool that allows returning students to enter completed coursework and

preview how their credits would count toward a bachelor's degree at a participating university. It also connects returning students to counselors who specialize in meeting the unique needs of returning students.

Senator Nelson Receives Award for Foster Care Redesign

Senator Nelson received the Public Policy Leadership Award from the [Texas Network of Youth Services](#) for passing legislation to improve the foster care system. SB 218 overhauls the foster care system to encourage better outcomes for children. Senator Nelson also passed SB 219 to enhance access to mental health care to help children in foster care overcome trauma and break the cycle of abuse and neglect. "Redesigning the foster care system will help displaced children remain in their home communities where they have access to schools, siblings and support networks," Senator Nelson said. "At a time when we need to make every dollar count, it is vital that resources are allocated to systems that truly support children and help them grow up into healthy, productive adults."

Invitations Arriving Soon for Birthday Party

The invitations are at the printer and should be arriving soon in your mailboxes for Senator Nelson's Annual 40th Birthday fundraiser. Visit our Annual 40th Birthday online headquarters for details, <http://www.janelson.org/contribute>. The party is on the eve of Texas-OU weekend -- from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, October 6, 2011.

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