

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

The Island University

6300 Ocean Drive, Corpus Christi, TX 78412 (361) 825-2420 FAX (361) 825-2620

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CONTACT: Dr. Mary Jane Hamilton 361.825.2649; Steve Paschal 361.825.2336

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi College of Nursing And Health Sciences Recognized for Exceptional Performance \$25,000 grant will be used to develop plan for other schools to replicate

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – The College of Nursing and Health Sciences at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has received a \$25,000 grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) in recognition of its exceptional programs under the Nursing Education Performance Initiative.

The grant was one of three awarded to Texas institutions that have achieved graduation and licensure rates of 85 percent or above during the 2008 academic year. The overall retention and graduation rate for nursing schools throughout Texas is 67 percent.

The Texas A&M-Corpus Christi nursing program is the only one in The Texas A&M University System and in South Texas to receive the award. The grant funds will be used to develop a detailed plan for best practices for other schools to use as a guideline to achieving higher graduation and licensure rates.

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences' "Assisting at Risk Minority Students for Success" (ARMS) program utilizes a database of factors to impact a student's success in the nursing program. The data is collected from each student on admission and is evaluated along with test grades to predict success in the program and to identify students at risk for failure prior to academic difficulty occurring.

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All students are eligible for participation. However, those with risk factors are actively pursued. Students are assigned faculty mentors, tutors are provided, laptops are checked out if needed and courses in study skills and test taking are provided. Resources such as counseling are also utilized.

The initiative is one of several programs that the THECB has implemented to help relieve the state's current and predicted nursing shortage. The THECB also recognized Stephen F. Austin State University and the Collin County Community College District.

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