



## **TWU Weekend Baccalaureate Nursing Program**

**Dr. Susan Sheriff and Dr. Susan Chaney**  
**TWU –Dallas faculty**

Imagine checking into the hospital or emergency room, only to learn that your care will be delayed due to the lack of trained nursing staff! The current and future nursing shortage is one of the most pressing problems facing healthcare today. TWU College of Nursing is addressing the situation at the most basic level – nursing education.

Texas Woman's University (TWU) proposes to reinvent nursing education through partnering with Baylor University Medical Center (BUMC) to offer baccalaureate nursing education via a weekend/online program to individuals who already have earned a non-nursing baccalaureate degree. The innovative partnership between TWU and BUMC offers a six semester (including summers) upper division nursing program to individuals with a baccalaureate degree in another discipline. All didactic courses are offered via distance education with 100% of course content online. Clinical nursing courses are offered on weekends and taught by masters-prepared nurses employed by BUMC.

The goals of this funded project through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board are to increase the number of registered nurses available for employment in Texas, enhance the availability of nursing as a career choice to individuals with a BS or BA degree through a weekend/online program, demonstrate how a partnership between a nursing program and a health care organization (TWU and BUMC) can benefit both organizations through a sharing of resources and expertise, and accept the challenge of the Texas Nurses' Association to provide a new model for nursing education by demonstrating the efficacy of using distance education and weekend scheduling to increase nursing school enrollment.

This project possesses five unique innovations: 1) BUMC is utilized for clinical experiences during the weekend, a time when nursing programs have traditionally not scheduled clinical courses; 2) Distance education methodology decreases the time students spend in a physical classroom; 3) A weekend/distance education program offers second career individuals an opportunity to work a Monday through Friday work week while pursuing a career change to nursing; 4) The 'loaned' adjunct faculty provided by BUMC addresses the acknowledged faculty shortage; and 5) BUMC will have, upon graduation and successful completion of the licensure examination, a pool of new graduates familiar with, and committed to, the institution.

Two TWU-Dallas professors, Susan Sheriff, PhD, RN, CNE and Susan Chaney, EdD, RN, FNP-C, FAANP, will be spearheading the new program for TWU.

**Dr. Sheriff** currently teaches in the graduate nurse educator program and undergraduate weekend program. In 2006 she was awarded the Texas Woman's University Distinction in Teaching Award. She is an NLN Ambassador for TWU. In 2008 she will serve as a mentor in the TWU Chancellor's Research Fellowship. Currently she has a grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for a new weekend baccalaureate nursing program at TWU beginning May 2, 2008.

Dr. Sheriff's main research interest is in smoking cessation for women. She has received funding for her research and has presented her research findings in several national nursing conferences. Dr. Sheriff's research on smoking cessation for women was published in the American Association of Occupational Nurses in 2008.

**Dr. Chaney** currently teaches in the graduate FNP program and undergraduate weekend program. She is the past Texas State Representative for AANP, and also served on the AANP Nominations Committee from June, 1999 to June, 2000 (Chairperson) and June, 2000-June, 2001 (member). She has also served on the Texas Nurse Practitioner executive board and state conference planning committee. She has been an evaluator for the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) since 1998. She has numerous publications in the nurse practitioner publications, and currently has a grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for a new weekend baccalaureate nursing program at TWU beginning May 2, 2008.

Dr. Chaney has over fourteen years of experience in primary care. She has practiced at Homeless Outreach Medical Services, Parkland Health and Hospital System, Dallas, Texas, since 1994. She is a national speaker at continuing education programs and frequently lectures on domestic violence and smoking cessation.