



## **Gateway to Health Careers Project Abstract**

The Gateway to Health Careers project is a collaborative partnership involving the following entities:

- Coalition of Health Services, Incorporated of Amarillo
- SimCentral an alliance between Amarillo College, Texas Tech University Health Sciences – Amarillo and West Texas A&M University
- Northwest Texas Healthcare System
- Harrington Regional Medical Center, Incorporated
- Amarillo Independent School District

The purpose of the project is to expand workforce availability for rural community healthcare employers of the Panhandle by increasing the number of area high school campuses offering health science programs.

Requested funds will be used to establish health science programs in 14 rural communities over a 3 year period through distance learning. A Mobile Clinical Simulation Classroom and didactic instruction from Amarillo Area Center for Advanced Learning (AACAL) through video conferencing will provide instruction to multiple rural campuses. AACAL's network infrastructure will be augmented to support the video conferencing capabilities.

The project will support two health science instructors, one to provide didactic instruction from AACAL through video conferencing and the second for clinical instruction on-site in the rural communities utilizing the Mobile Clinical Simulation Classroom supported through SimCentral.

The project will ensure that participation and success align with the demographics of the communities being served by replicating the models well established through AACAL and SimCentral for multiple rural campuses.

High school campuses will provide a program coordinator for the health sciences program. In-kind contributions for the initial four high school campuses for program coordinator salaries will be \$35,793 per year. Each high school campus has/will partner with community long term care, EMS and hospital emergency rooms to provide the remaining clinical experiences needed outside the classroom. Further, each school district will contribute tuition of \$250 per student per semester to ensure project sustainability beyond the three years.

Students participating in the CNA and EMT courses will qualify for dual credit, creating an opportunity for Amarillo College, Frank Phillips College and Clarendon College to expand the number of credits awarded while giving students a head start on credits earned toward postsecondary education programs.

An estimated 835 students will benefit from this learning experience during the three year project.

Evaluation of the effectiveness of the project will be ongoing from start of project. Following 12 full months of instruction and implementation, a comprehensive evaluation will be reported to all participating in the project. Evaluation measures will include but not be limited to number of school districts served, number of students participating and completing programs, number of students achieving initial certification, number of students who enroll in postsecondary education in a health career cluster, and the number of students who gain employment in Panhandle communities.

The approximate cost of 3 year project is **\$1.48 million**.

The project committee is working with the Amarillo Area Foundation, the Bivins Foundation, and the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health, all in Amarillo, the Meadows Foundation in Dallas, and a number of private donors on this project.