ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY IMPACT

The University of Texas System generates critical tax revenue and thousands of jobs for the Tyler area. The University of Texas at Tyler (UTT) and The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler (UTHSCT) combine for budgets of just over $212 million (FY 2011) and directly employ 1,637 faculty and staff.

Since it was founded in 1971, UTT has grown into a thriving campus with an annual budget of $90.6 million (FY 2011) and directly employs 824 faculty and staff.

UTHSCT has an annual budget of $121.6 million (FY 2011) and directly employs 813 faculty and staff. In addition, the new $67 million Academic Center on the UTHSCT campus – scheduled to be open for business in September 2011 – is expected to contribute over $134 million to the East Texas region in operations and construction dollars in the next five years.

STUDENTS & ALUMNI

In fall 2010, UT Tyler's student enrollment reached 6,446. This is the highest enrollment in the university’s history. With more than 80 bachelor’s and master’s degrees offered through five colleges, the university serves students from 35 states and 45 countries. UTT has a low 16-to-1 student-to-professor ratio and recognized its first Ph.D. graduates in spring 2011. Fifty percent of the 8,616 students from Smith and adjoining counties who enrolled in Texas public, four-year, higher-education institutions attended UT System schools and 40 percent attended UTT (fall 2005).

UTHSCT currently is home to the only two residency programs for physicians in East Texas, in Family Medicine and Occupational Medicine. The institution also offers two masters degree programs – Environmental Sciences and Biotechnology with Stephen F. Austin State University. UTHSCT's Family Medicine Residency Program has been recognized by the Texas Legislature because – of all the state’s family medicine residency programs – it has the largest number of graduating physicians who have elected to stay both in East Texas and in the state.

In March 2010, UTHST partnered with Good Shepherd Health System to create a three-year internal medicine residency program to be located at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Longview. The first internal medicine residents are expected to enroll in July 2012. Since fall 2010, UTHSCT has collaborated with The University of Texas School of Public Health, a part of UTHealth in Houston, to expand opportunities for graduate level public health education throughout Northeast Texas. Students with a bachelor’s degree have been able to take graduate level public health classes and work toward a Graduate Certificate in Public Health. Classes are held on the UTHSCT campus via interactive television.

Alumni from UTT and UTHSCT are making major contributions to the state’s economy and provide invaluable medical care and expertise. Many of UTT's 25,000-plus alums choose to stay and work in the Tyler area, while more than half of the physician graduates of the Family Medicine Residency Program at UTHSCT elect to stay in East Texas — many in rural, underserved areas. Four of every 10 practicing registered nurses in East Texas are UTT graduates.
RECOGNITION

A Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board report shows that UTT tuition and fees are below the state average for Texas public universities.

UTHSCT also received two awards from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association in recognition of its outstanding care of patients with coronary artery disease and heart failure. UTHSCT is one of just 14 hospitals in Texas and 184 hospitals in the nation to receive the Silver Award from the AHA/ASA for its care of patients with coronary artery disease. UTHSCT also received a Bronze Award from the AHA/ASA for its care of patients with heart failure.

PATIENT CARE

The mission of UTHSCT is to provide excellent patient care and community health services, comprehensive education, and innovative research. UTHSCT is a regional health care facility, specializing in pulmonary care and providing primary care for East Texans. UTHSCT offers 30 areas of specialty care, including adult and pediatric pulmonary and infectious disease, cardiology, oncology, family practice and internal medicine, occupational medicine, asthma, allergy, lung disease, diabetes, aging, and gastroenterology. UTHSCT’s more than 20 outpatient clinics see over 158,000 visits a year and more than 2,400 inpatient admissions each year.

UTHSCT provides over $11 million annually in unreimbursed medical care and more than $19.2 million in uncompensated charity care for the area’s uninsured and underinsured. Each year a workforce of over 70 volunteers provide over 12,000 hours of community service.

The UT System provides a wide array of health care services to Texas’ medically uninsured, who represent about 25% of the state’s population. In FY 2010, UT System health institutions’ faculty and hospitals provided nearly $619 million in uncompensated care — measured by cost — for the uninsured and underinsured.

RESEARCH

In October 2009, the International Division of NASA’s GLOBE Program (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment) moved to the University of Texas at Tyler. GLOBE is an international science education program connecting students, teachers and scientists to collaborate on inquiry-based investigations of the environment and the Earth system. GLOBE is implemented in primary and secondary schools, as well as in institutions of higher education.

The Texas Emerging Technology Fund awarded UT Tyler a $3.75 million grant to study indoor air quality in Texas and the impact on health, particularly in young children. UT Tyler received a $3.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to implement the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP), which encourages middle school students to aspire to, prepare for and succeed in higher education, especially those from low-income families.

With $14.4 million in annual research spending in FY 2010, a 103 percent increase from 2002, UTHSCT scientists direct world-class programs investigating lung disease, cancer, tuberculosis, diabetes and aging. In FY 2010, UTHSCT was awarded 75 research grants and contracts, which included $6.4 million in National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding, as well as $4 million from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The NIH awarded UTHSCT scientist Zhenhua Dai, Ph.D., MD, a $1.4 million, five-year grant for his ongoing study into how to prevent the immune system from rejecting transplanted organs. He is working to develop “transplantation tolerance,” in which transplanted organs can survive and function without organ recipients having to take drugs to suppress the immune system for the rest of their lives. Dr. Dai is investigating how to successfully transplant insulin-producing cells – called islet cells – into children with type 1 diabetes.
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE REGION

• UTT and UTHSCT continue to collaborate on the University Health Clinic at Tyler, which provides health care to UTT students and the community.

• The Texas Allergy, Indoor Environment and Energy Institute (TxAIRE), which conducts research on the quality and impact of indoor air, is a collaborative effort among academic partners UT Tyler, UTHSCT, The University of Texas at Dallas, and the International Center for Indoor Environment and Energy at the Technical University of Denmark. TxAIRE research could lead to better filtration devices and sensors used to operate residential heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems, and it is the first collaborative research institute of its kind in the United States.

• UTT continues to work with Tyler ISD on the GEAR UP grant program – an effort to improve the knowledge of post-secondary education options, preparations and financing. UTT is also working with area school districts to improve instruction and academic performance in science- and math-related subjects.

• UTHSCT offers outstanding expertise in diagnosing and treating lung diseases. Patients come from all over the United States – and beyond its borders – to see UTHSCT physicians who offer advanced treatment for asthma, chronic bronchitis, emphysema, COPD, pulmonary fibrosis, and lung cancer.

• For more than 15 years, the Center for Pulmonary and Infectious Disease Control at UTHSCT has been sharing its proficiency in treating and preventing tuberculosis and other infectious disease across the state via outreach and educational activities.

• Biomedical and clinical research not only save lives and cure diseases, they contribute over $25 million dollars to the East Texas economy each year, and that figure is growing. Much of this research is conducted by UTHSCT scientists and physicians. For example, UTHSCT professor of biochemistry Michael Pangburn, Ph.D., has a small biotechnology firm that supplies unique proteins for medical researchers from around the world who study the immune system.

• The Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention, and Education at UTHSCT is training occupational medicine residents in agricultural and rural occupational health issues with funding from a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health grant. It is one of a network of centers that conducts research, prevention, intervention, education and outreach programs designed to reduce occupational injuries and diseases among agricultural workers and their families.

• A partnership between UTHSCT and the Texas Department of State Health Services in the operation of the Public Health Lab of East Texas makes UTHSCT a vital part of the fight against emerging infectious diseases and bioterrorism.

• Dr. Blake Bextine and a team of UTT students are investigating the causal agent of Zebra Chip, a disease that has caused a potato epidemic in the southern United States and Mexico.

• UTT is collaborating with UTD to study and develop organic electronics – from solar arrays to radio emitters.

• UTT has developed a partnership with LeTourneau University to offer a dual degree program in which students will earn a bachelor of arts in health sciences from LETU and a bachelor of science in nursing from UTT. This partnership is designed to not only address the statewide nursing shortage but also to have a global impact through LETU’s mission outreach.

UT SYSTEM’S COMMITMENT

The core commitment of the University of Texas System is to education as a life-transforming experience. The System is dedicated to strengthening the entire education enterprise, from pre-kindergarten through post-graduate studies. UT System’s 15 institutions are composed of thousands of people who are making a difference in Texas and in the global community.
facts at a glance

UT TYLER
Year Established: 1971
Year Joined UT System: 1979
Enrollment: 6,446 (Fall 2010)
Degrees Awarded: 1,509 (2009-2010)
Faculty: 386 (Fall 2010)
Personnel*: 438 (Fall 2010)
Budget: $90.6 million (FY 2011)
Research Spending: $2.9 million (FY 2010)
President: Rodney H. Mabry
For Information: 903·566·7202
Website: www.uttyler.edu

*Does not include student employees.

UT HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER · TYLER
Year Established: 1947
Year Joined UT System: 1977
Faculty*: 86 (Fall 2010)
Personnel**: 727 (Fall 2010)
Budget: $121.6 million (FY 2011)
Research Spending: $14.4 million (FY 2010)
President: Kirk A. Calhoun, M.D.
For Information: 903·877·7777
Website: www.uthct.edu

Note: UTHSCT does not enroll students.
*For residencies.
**Does not include student employees.