

Texas Commission on Community College Finance : Workforce Panel Testimony

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 50
YEARS



Objective

To provide TCCCF with the perspective of nurse educators as it relates to workforce solutions and community college finance reform



Why

- More than 50% of our undergraduate nursing applicants take prerequisites courses at community colleges
- Community colleges Associate Degree of Nursing (ADN) graduates are the direct pipeline for RN to BSN program.
- We collaborate with hospitals to mentor ADN nurses to advance nursing education
- Diverse nursing workforce




Healthcare industry/employers Input

- The perspective of industry is a necessary component of the workforce solution
- Nursing is a highly specialized profession, which is constantly evolving to address the needs of our society
- UTHealth as an academic higher education institution
- UTHealth as an employer



Outcome-Based Funding

- Financial incentives should correlate with job placement, affordability, and manageable debt
 - Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies projected that demand for RNs will grow 38.8% between 2018-2032, while supply is projected to grow by 30.5%
 - The Texas Workforce Commissions reported there are 23,000 more unfilled nursing positions in Texas than there are nurses seeking to fill them
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Aligned with State Objectives

- THECB Building a Talent Strong Texas
- The Houston and Texas Gulf Coast region will need
 - 25-30% workers who have bachelor's degrees or higher
 - 30%-35% workers who have education and skills beyond a high school diploma but less than a four-year college degree
- In 2019, 63.6% of RNs had a baccalaureate or higher degree (2019 Texas Professional Nursing Trends, TCNWS)
- UTHealth is the subject matter expert in the nursing field of study that was developed in partnership with community colleges



Summary

- UTHealth employs a diverse workforce with mixed skill levels
- Strong partnerships and investments from employers and government are needed to achieve educational outcomes that are directly tied to strong workforce outcomes
- UTHealth provides a unique perspective as an educator and developer of talent
- Community colleges offer a variety of career-focused programs and provide Texas students an important pathway to academic programs in higher education

