Streamlining Success in Nursing Programs in Texas

Team Directory — October 2026

About This Directory

This directory highlights the implementation partners participating in Streamlining Success in Nursing Training Programs in Texas, a multi-year initiative focused on advancing innovative, work-based approaches to nursing education across the state.

The directory is intended to support connection, collaboration, and shared learning among partners and stakeholders working to strengthen nursing education pathways and workforce outcomes.

About the Initiative

Launched in July 2025, Streamlining Success in Nursing Training Programs in Texas is led by UpSkill America at the Aspen Institute, in partnership with the Trellis Foundation. Through a facilitated learning community, eight implementation teams are participating in a three-year initiative designed to improve alignment between nursing education and employment.

The initiative centers on two core objectives:

1. Enable work-based clinical learning by supporting nursing students to earn academic credit toward required clinical hours through employment, informed by Texas Board of Nursing Education Guideline 3.7.4.
2. Address systemic barriers to completion by identifying and advancing policies and practices that allow students to balance academic, clinical, and employment responsibilities more effectively.

Together, the partners featured in this directory represent a statewide effort to expand access to high-quality nursing education and support student success while meeting healthcare workforce needs.

Contact: TXhealthcare@aspeninstitute.org

Learn more: https://www.aspeninstitute.org/programs/upskill-america/streamlining-success/

Kilgore College

Through formalized partnerships with Christus Health System and regional healthcare providers, Kilgore College is launching an innovative Nursing Apprenticeship Model designed to address critical gaps in nursing education and workforce development.

Organization	Name	Title
Kilgore College	Dr. Kelsey Phillips	Nursing Program Director
Kilgore College	Fred Peters	Grant Writer
Christus Good Shepherd Health System	Teresa Halcomb	Chief Nursing Officer
Christus Good Shepherd Health System	Cari Lidgett	Associate Chief Nursing Officer
Christus Good Shepherd Health System	Jade Lacy	PACU Supervisor

Lamar State College Port Arthur

Project Upward Mobility Jasper will expand Lamar State College-Port Arthur's nursing program to the Jasper, Texas, region, admitting 20 students annually. This initiative aims to increase access to local nursing education, addressing critical workforce shortages and providing career advancement opportunities in an underserved area.

Organization	Name	Title
Lamar State College Port Arthur	Mandee Tucker	Chair, Allied Health Department
Lamar State College Port Arthur	Lauren Ratcliff	Simulation Specialist/Instructor
Lamar State College Port Arthur	Andrea Reyes	Instructor

McMurry University

McMurry University's Patty Hanks Shelton School of Nursing's project, *Bridging the Demands: Enhancing Completion of Working Nursing Students through Targeted Support,* will increase completion and transitions into nursing roles for working and low-income nursing students by implementing a work-based learning partnership with Hendrick Health.

Organization	Name	Title
McMurry University Patty Hanks Shelton School of Nursing	Dr. Lisa Washington	Assistant Dean and Assistant Professor of Nursing
Hendricks Health	Susan Greenwood, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE	Vice President, System Chief Nursing Officer
McMurry University Patty Hanks Shelton School of Nursing	Sandra Flores	Assistant Professor/Simulation Coordinator
McMurry University Patty Hanks Shelton School of Nursing	Dr. Sarah Baird	Assistant Professor
McMurry University Patty Hanks Shelton School of Nursing	Megan Driskill	Assistant Professor/Didactic Coordinator

San Antonio College

The Project Clinical Learn and Earn will work with San Antonio College's School of Nursing (Alamo Colleges District) and will target students within the Career Mobility Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) or military combat medic to Registered Nurse (RN) programs.

Organization	Name	Title
San Antonio College School of Nursing	Dr. Tonya Maunsell DNP, RN	Executive Director AAS
Alamo Colleges School of Nursing	Dr. Sitakanta Mohanty	Dean, Academic Success
Methodist Healthcare System	Dr. Crissy Womble	San Antonio Division Associate Vice President, Academic Partnerships
Alamo Colleges District – Office of Workplace Learning	Dr. Martha Trevino	Director – Office of Workplace Learning
Alamo Colleges District – Alamo-on-the-Job	Anna Kuwamura	Director of Talent Acquisition
Alamo Colleges Foundation	Gaston Cantu	Senior Program Officer – Grants Development
San Antonio College	Esther Metcalf	Director of College Grant Development

Texas A&M Corpus Christi

Project SNIPS aims to develop a model where selected nursing students in TAMU-CC's pre-licensure BSN clinical courses are paid for direct patient care clinical hours by 1) increasing the relevance of the academic clinical objectives and 2) potentially increasing the hospital partner's activity in student selection for the project's clinical group.

Organization	Name	Title
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi	Cynthia Delanie	Assistant Professor
Corpus Christi Medical Center	Kathleen Rubano	Chief Nursing Officer
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi	Sheryl McMillan	Senior Research and Outreach Development Officer
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi	Katrina Heinold, MSN, RN	Assistant Professor/Content Expert
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi	Stephanie Meza, MSN, RN	Assistant Professor/Content Expert
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi	Rajesh Malarem, PhD	Assistant Professor/Statistician
Corpus Christi Medical Center Doctors Regional	Lisa Baker, MSN, RN-BC	Director of Nursing Excellence, Nursing Administration
Corpus Christi Medical Center Doctors Regional	Joshua Jansen, RN, BSN, MBA	Assistant Chief Nursing Officer
Corpus Christi Medical Center Doctors Regional	Terri Thomas	Director of Education

UT Health Houston

Cizik School of Nursing (CSON) at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Project "Developing a Work-Based Clinical Model to Streamline Success in Nursing" will create academic-practice partnerships for undergraduate nursing students, because integrating paid clinical employment with academic credit supports student success, workforce readiness, and long-term nursing workforce development.

Organization	Name	Title
UT Health Houston	Erica Yu, PhD, RN, FNAP	Associate Dean & Department Chair for Undergraduate Studies
Memorial Hermann Hospital TMC	Rosemary Pine, PhD, RN, NPD-BC	Director of Hospital Education and Professional Development
Harris Health System	Alicia Hernandez, DNP, RN, NPD-BC, NEA-BC	Administrative Director, Nursing Professional Development
Houston Methodist Hospital	Ashley Tolbert, DNP, RN, FNP-C	Program Lead for the MAPP Program & Nursing Students & Co-Coordinator for the HM Nurse Residency Program
MD Anderson Cancer Center	Kelly LaFrentz, MSN, RN, NPD-C	Associate Director, Nursing Workforce

Workforce Board of West Central Texas

The proposed project will evaluate the return on investment (ROI) of Hendrick Medical Center's paid clinical program, refine and develop a replicable framework, and expand the model to rural partner hospitals to benefit students across multiple regional institutions, because increased access to paid clinical experiences supports stronger healthcare workforce pipelines in West Central Texas.

Organization	Name	Title
Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas	Amanda Elston	Director of Pathway Initiatives
Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas	Manning Marsh	Work-Based Learning Specialist
Hendrick Medical Center	Toni Brockway	Director of Workforce Development
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	Heather Guest	Regional Dean & Associate Professor
Texas State Technical College	Layla Bohall	Program Team Lead - Associate Degree Nursing
Cisco College	Heather McClure	VP of Academic Instruction
Texas State Technical College – Sweetwater/Breckenridge	Lance Eastman	West Texas Associate Provost
Hendrick Medical Center	Susan Greenwood	Chief Nursing Officer
Big Country AHEC	Haley Stuteville	Community Based Education Coordinator
Hendrick Medical Center	Kimberly McCollough	Senior Director of Nursing, Abilene Market

Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area

Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area's Rural Nursing Initiative will convene business and education partners to begin the hard work of changing healthcare policies and practices that currently prevent institutions of higher education from effectively enrolling, retaining, and

graduating nursing students and employers from hiring and retaining nurses in the nine counties they serve.

Organization	Name	Title
Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area	Laura Rosen	Healthcare Partnerships Manager
Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area	Diane Cook	COO
Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area	Yvonne Lopez	Managing Director
TX State University	Theresa Garcia, PhD, RN	Director and Associate Professor, St. David's School of Nursing
TX State University	Dr. Monica Hughes	Undergraduate Program Director, St. David's School of Nursing
Austin Community College	Laura Lucas	Director of Strategic Initiatives
Central Texas College	Dr. Tamara Clunis	Vice Chancellor of Instruction and Workforce Initiatives
Baylor Scott and White	Phil Kendzior	Vice President, Workforce Development Programs
Baylor Scott and White	Beverly Walker, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, NPD-BC	Regional Director of Nursing Practice & Professional Development
Ascension Seton	Steven J Brockman-Weber, DNP, RN, MSHSA, FACHE, NEA-BC, CENP	President, Ascension Seton

Ascension Seton	Dena Shirley	Manager of Workforce Development
Workforce Network, Inc.	Kelly Lofton	Healthcare Sector Coordinator
Workforce Network, Inc.	Gail Davalos	Stakeholder Relations
St. Davids Healthcare	Beth Vaughn DNP, RN, NEA-BC, CNML	Division Assistant Vice President of Academic Partnerships

Leadership Team

For all your questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to the team of leaders working to support the implementation teams.

Organization	Name	Title
UpSkill America	Haley Glover	Senior Director
UpSkill America	Chelsea Miller	Associate Director

Organization	Name	Title
C-BEN	Lisa McIntyre Hite	Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer
C-BEN	Sara Beth Hoffman	Senior Director of Healthcare Innovations
C-BEN	Grace Fowler	VP of Operational Success
Higher Ed Insight	Tashera Gale	Senior Director of Research and Evaluation
Higher Ed Insight	Donté McGuire	Managing Director