

# Howard College **Media Advisory**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE:** April 30, 2009

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Cindy Smith

**PHONE:** (432) 264-5034; 517-0073

**WHAT:** Reception Celebrating 50 Years of Nursing Education

**WHO:** Howard College LVN Program

**WHEN:** Wednesday, May 6, 2009; 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

**WHERE:** Hall Center for the Arts on the campus of Howard College  
1001 Birdwell Lane  
Big Spring, Tx

## **Howard College Celebrates 50 Years of Nursing Education**

Howard College officials and staff will be celebrating the 50 year anniversary of the Vocational Nursing Program which started in October of 1958 with 18 students. The event, slated for Wednesday May 6<sup>th</sup>, will feature a reception and presentations by current and former students and faculty and will be held in the Hall Center for the Arts lobby from 5-7 pm.

The initial Vocational Nursing Program was a 2000 clock hour certificate program with no college credit. Local hospitals participating in the student's training were: Malone & Hogan Foundation, Howard County Foundation Hospital (Hall-Bennett) and Cowper Clinic & Hospital. These clinical facilities paid the students \$65.00 a month after they had completed five months of training with the average starting salary for a LVN jumping to \$1.38 an hour in 1960.

In 1966, due to an increase in the demand for trained nurses, Howard College began two classes a year. In 1990, the Vocational Nursing program moved from a 12 month clock hour certificate program with no college credit to a 12 month college credit course.

As of May 2008, the Howard College Big Spring Vocational Nursing program has educated 934 students who went on to pass the State Board of Nurses exam.

Howard College contact: Cindy Smith at (432) 264-5034 or [csmith@howardcollege.edu](mailto:csmith@howardcollege.edu)