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SHANNON WELCOMES HOWARD HEALTH PROFESSIONS CLASSES TO ST. JOHN'S CAMPUS

Shannon Medical Center and Howard College recently completed an agreement to allow the college's San Angelo campus to expand its health education facilities on the Shannon St. John's Campus. The agreement will allow HCSA to lease 16,000 square feet of space inside the St. John's facility, which is located at 2018 Pulliam, creating dedicated classrooms, laboratories and offices for its health professions program.

"HCSA has been growing so rapidly that classroom space has been at a premium, even with the move to the West Texas Training Center," said LeAnne Byrd, provost. "The joint project with Shannon will be a great solution to this issue and allow our health professions programs to relocate to the St. John's facility."

HCSA's Health Professions program includes vocational nursing, radiologic technology, respiratory care, surgical technology, emergency medical services, and nurse aide training.

Construction is currently underway to convert designated space on the facility's first floor into usable classrooms and offices for each of the programs, along with adding a student lounge and additional restroom facilities. The first phase of construction will include renovating the auditorium into a lecture classroom, converting the former lab area into a nursing skills laboratory and turning the former gift shop into a student lounge. It will also renovate areas for the surgical technology program which held classes at the campus during the last year. Phase one is expected to be complete by August for the vocational nursing program to move to the new campus and begin classes August 25. Currently, the nursing program includes about 60 students. Phase two will include renovations for the radiology, respiratory care, CNA, CPR and EMT classes.

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“HCSA has been fortunate to have great support from the medical community,” said Dona Faulkner, campus dean of workforce. “This will be a unique opportunity for our health professions students to have classrooms in a working hospital.”

The Shannon St. John’s campus currently houses an inpatient skilled nursing unit, adult and geriatric behavioral health units, outpatient dialysis center, wound care and hyperbaric medicine, pulmonary rehabilitation, diabetes education, home health, occupational medicine, a pharmaceutical assistance program, Legacy Health Plan offices and a cafe.

“We are very excited to have Howard join us at the St. John’s campus,” said Bryan Horner, CEO of Shannon Medical Center. “It was a mutual idea that came together because we had prime, unused space to offer and have enjoyed having Howard’s students at the campus as they have completed their clinical rotations. There is a growing need to recruit more individuals into the healthcare industry, so we are happy to help facilitate the education of tomorrow’s healthcare workers.”