



UT to expand nursing school

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The Seton Family of Hospitals is donating \$1.6 million to the University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing, which the school plans to use to increase enrollment and expand programs.

Dolores Sands, dean of the School of Nursing, says with the donation the school plans to increase its undergraduate enrollment by 10 to 20 additional students by fall 2007; expand its Bachelor's of Science in Nursing completion program and provide scholarships for the program, and establish a collaborative clinical research center.

Seton officials say the need for skilled nurses in Central Texas is more pressing than ever. Seton plans to double in size within the next 15 years to keep up with the area's growth, says Charles Barnett, president and CEO of Seton. The hospital system will need more than 2,000 additional nurses as that expansion takes place.

"We want to give our nurses every opportunity to advance in their education and continue to gain expertise and knowledge," says Joyce Batcheller, chief nursing officer at Seton. "Working with the UT Austin School of Nursing will elevate the level of our nursing practice and provide exemplary care to our Central Texas community."

UT Austin's School of Nursing was among the top 10 in nursing schools in research funds received from the National Institutes of Health between 2002 and 2007, Sands says.

Courtesy of JB Goodwin