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The University of Texas Permian Basin welcomes applications and nominations for the position of Director of the School of Nursing, who will also serve as a tenure-track Associate Professor or Professor. The University of Texas Permian Basin is located in Odessa, Texas. As a regional, comprehensive institution, The University of Texas Permian Basin with over 7500 students serves a diverse community of students from the region, the state, and beyond. Through excellence in student-centered teaching, learning, research, and public service, the University cultivates engaged citizens and impacts lives while advancing the technology and public interests of West Texas.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PERMIAN BASIN

The Permian Basin is one of the country’s fastest-growing, culturally vibrant, and economically invigorated regions – full of industry, culture, and wide-open spaces. Spanning an area of 75,000 square miles, the low-lying geological formation of the Permian Basin is a stunning stretch of land with unique beauty that’s home to the big, beautiful Texas skies. It’s also home to the world’s largest petroleum field. The population of the immediate area is around 340,000: Odessa (113,000) and Midland (134,000).

Accounting for more than 30% of the domestic oil production in the United States and recently named the largest oil reserve on the planet, the Permian Basin region of West Texas is poised to boost local and global economies for decades. As the U.S. is set to surpass Saudi Arabia as the world’s largest oil producer, much of the growth in domestic oil production will come straight from the Permian Basin. The International Energy Agency expects global oil demand to grow until around 2040, which experts predict will support the creation of approximately 45,000 jobs across the Permian Basin through 2030. In addition, UTPB is working with many community partners, the three large comprehensive hospitals, the soon-to-be constructed Behavioral Health Center, a national model for improving community health, and a collaboration with Texas Tech Medical School to build a pipeline of future medical professionals.

However, it’s not only oil fueling the region’s substantial energy boom; wind and solar developments are diversifying the Permian Basin, putting it on the map as a critical energy provider for the future. West Texas is seeing an explosion in economic activity as other industries such as finance, construction, healthcare, digital technology, transportation, real estate, and public sector jobs grow alongside the energy sector. As the only major university in the Permian Basin, UTPB is positioned as its academic center, providing leadership and skilled professionals across the region’s prominent and growing industries.

The University of Texas Permian Basin is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate and master’s degrees.

VISION
The University of Texas Permian Basin will be an innovative, responsive university that thinks large and lives local. UTPB will lead in advancing education, research, economic competitiveness, and cultural enrichment.

MISSION
As a regional, comprehensive institution, The University of Texas Permian Basin serves a diverse community of students from the region, the state, and beyond. Through excellence in student-centered teaching, learning, research, and public service, the University cultivates engaged citizens and impacts lives while advancing technology and the public interests of West Texas.
HISTORY
In 1969, the Texas Legislature decided to create an “upper-level” university in Odessa—a college that accepted only juniors, seniors, and graduate students. In April of 1972, UT Permian Basin’s new campus broke ground. Little more than a year later—on September 4, 1973—the University opened for classes. Construction wasn’t complete, though, so the 1,112 students in that first class studied in temporary buildings and trailers. It would take almost another year before UT Permian Basin’s permanent facilities were complete.

Eighteen years later, the Texas Legislature passed a bill that turned UTPB into a four-year institution. The first freshman class—known in campus lore as the Pioneer Freshmen—joined in the fall of 1991. From humble, experimental beginnings, UT Permian Basin has grown in nearly every direction.

THE PERMIAN BASIN, ODESSA, AND MIDLAND
Stretching from eastern New Mexico and covering most of West Texas (Lubbock to the north, the Rio Grande Valley to the south), the Permian Basin is actually a collection of smaller basins. In all, the Permian Basin covers 75,000 square miles—making it one of the larger basins in North America. The Permian Basin is a stunning stretch of American land with a unique beauty all its own.

Home to UT Permian Basin’s main campus, Odessa is one of the largest cities in West Texas. A diverse city with a rich history dating back to the 1880s, Odessa has undergone major transformations over the last two decades. Forbes Magazine recently ranked Odessa as one of the fastest-growing small cities in the United States.

Just 15 minutes down I-20 sits Midland. UTPB’s Midland campus houses the music and engineering schools and the Center for Energy and Economic Diversification. As the home to former President George H. W. Bush and major global corporations—like Chevron and Conoco—Odessa offers a depth of prestige and opportunity that few cities like it can match.

The Permian Basin is also home to a vibrant healthcare community. With the regional growth comes a high demand and need for additional healthcare, including expanding current healthcare partnerships, plans to build a behavioral health facility, and enormous collaborative and financial support from organizations such as the Permian Strategic Partnership (PSP), and other local foundations. PSP and other partners have funded over $24 million for UTPB’s healthcare programs. The University is in the strategic planning process now to map out a comprehensive health sciences plan for the next decade, which will include potential new programs and a new Health Sciences complex as part of an exciting community development at UTPB’s Midland campus. This development is expected to include regional expansion of hospital and academic medical campus facilities, a regional trauma center, and new behavioral health facilities. UTPB will be one of the primary providers of health care workers for this exciting community health care expansion. As the only major university in the Permian Basin, UTPB is positioned to be its academic center, providing leadership and skilled professionals across all of the region’s prominent and growing industries.
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
UT Permian Basin is a vibrant learning community with 75+ undergraduate and graduate degrees within five academic colleges:
- Arts and Sciences
- Business
- Education
- Engineering
- Health Sciences and Human Performance

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board recognized UT Permian Basin as the first public university in the state to implement AVID strategies at the post-secondary level. The University offers dual credit courses that serve remote school districts using a blended online and in-person arrangement and with online dual credit courses available to schools throughout the state of Texas.

THE PROVOST
With responsibility for all academic programs at UT Permian Basin, Dr. Rajalingam Dakshinamurthy is the Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs. He came to UTPB in 2020 as the Associate Vice President of Research and Dean of Graduate Studies. Dr. Dakshinamurthy has also served in multiple administrative roles on campus including Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and College of Health Sciences and Human Performance.

Over the past 10 years, Dr. Dakshinamurthy served in various administrative roles, including Vice President for Research, Academic Dean, Graduate Dean, Executive Director of Research and Sponsored Programs, Graduate Program Director, and Assistant Department Chair. He earned a bachelor's degree and a dual Master of Science and Philosophy in Chemistry from St. Joseph's College in India. He earned his Ph.D. in biochemistry and structural biology from the University of Arkansas. He has been recognized several times for excellence in teaching, research, and professional service.

He is a bioanalytical chemist by training, spending his professional career researching protein structure and function, drug discovery, and biological nanomaterials. As a researcher, he has over 40 publications in high-impact journals and 350 research presentations related to the field of biomedical sciences. Additionally, he secured a patent for synthesizing gold nanoparticles capped with drugs. As an investigator, he received more than $10 million in external grants. He's served as a faculty member at two different institutions and served on several professional organizations.

STUDENTS AND CAMPUS LIFE
Home to over 7,500 enrolled students, UT Permian Basin benefits from the vast resources and support of the world-renowned University of Texas System yet is lean enough to foster a connected, tight-knit community while remaining financially accessible to any student. With an unwavering commitment to students, a strategic approach to designing higher education, and the resources to ensure academic success, UTPB is set to nurture the leaders who will go on to shape the future of West Texas and the nation.

UT Permian Basin offers residential, commuter, and on-line educational opportunities. Designated a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), almost half of UTPB’s student population identifies as Hispanic. UTPB is designated as a Minority Serving Institution (MSI). About half of the students at UTPB are first-generation college students.

STRATEGIC PLAN
Falcon Future 2030: A Strategic Framework is the University of Texas Permian Basin’s plan for the future. It represents who the university community is and what they hope to achieve over the next decade and provides clear direction for how to focus efforts and align investments to maximize UTPB’s impact for the region.

The Pillars of Falcon Future 2030 are Student Success, Serve the Region, Advance Creativity and Knowledge, and Responsible Stewardship. The values are Extra Mile Service, Kindhearted, Integrity, Collaboration, and Innovation.
UT Permian Basin takes great pride in being part of The University of Texas System, known for its exceptional academic success, breakthrough research, and international reputation for excellence and innovation. It includes 13 educational institutions throughout the state, including eight universities and five health institutions. For 140 years, The University of Texas System has improved the lives of Texans — and people all over the world — through education, health care and research. With an enrollment of more than 256,000 students at academic and health institutions across the state, as well as an operating budget of $29.1 billion, the UT System is one of the largest public university systems in the nation and the world.

UT institutions are powerful drivers of economic and social mobility in Texas, producing more than 63,000 graduates annually, including more than one-third of the state’s undergraduate degrees and more than 60% of the state’s medical degrees. Almost half of all undergraduate degrees are awarded to students who qualified for a Pell grant based on financial need while enrolled at a UT institution. The UT System is one of the largest employers in Texas, with more than 122,000 faculty, health care professionals, researchers, support staff and student workers.

More than three-fourths of undergraduate students secure jobs in Texas within a year after graduation, providing a skilled workforce and fueling the state’s economy. In fact, UT students who entered the Texas workforce between 2002 and 2019 had cumulative earnings through 2020 of $350 billion.

With the Texas population expected to grow dramatically in the years to come, the UT System will continue to lead in driving prosperity, innovation, and health for the people of the Lone Star State.
Healthcare careers are in high demand in the Permian Basin as well as throughout the nation. The College of Health Sciences and Human Performance offers a variety of degrees in disciplines that contribute to interprofessional health teams. By focusing on providing high-quality, safe, and patient-centered care, students develop valuable skills, knowledge, and passion for improving overall health and quality-of-life of those in their care. The College is home to the School of Nursing, the Department of Community and Family Health, the Department of Human Performance, the Department of Social Work, and the Center for Interprofessional and Experiential Learning, including the Midland Health Simulation and Learning Resource Center. Nursing and Social Work degree programs are fully accredited, and accreditation is being sought for the Master of Science in Athletic Training and the new Masters of Social Work. In addition, UTPB plans to add Psychology and Biology to strengthen the pre-health programs including behavioral and mental health sciences.

Through a growing partnership with Midland Health, the simulation lab is now known as the Midland Health Simulation and Learning Resource Center. Midland Health’s generous support has ensured that technology and training will be available for students learning new skills, as well as practicing nurses and professionals who continue their lifelong learning as new technology develops. The Midland Health Simulation Center has a 7-bay design, including a fully equipped Emergency Department room, multiple control rooms, standardized patient lounge, reception, and coordinator office. There is a large debriefing room, an electronic medical record room, and a fully equipped Family and Community Health simulation suite. The Center holds state-of-the-art equipment including low- to high-fidelity mannequins, an Anatomage table for 3D, layered visualization of human anatomy, and advanced simulation mannequins, all situated in a learning center that mimics clinical and acute care venues. Simulation provides a safe environment, critical for education health professionals to apply classroom knowledge. Students also are able to extend their knowledge to simulated application, developing confidence and competence that are implemented at hospitals and other external venues.

The D. Kirk Edwards Family Human Performance Center is a state-of-the-art facility with classrooms, lab space, and technology necessary to give UT Permian Basin students and athletes the best tools to excel. "The Kirk" officially opened its doors in fall 2021. At a total project cost of $37 million, the building covers 63,717 square feet. The Kirk is home to the College of Health Sciences and Human Performance and features several labs including athletic training education, exercise physiology, biomechanics, clinical skills, rehab, body composition, and bone densitometry. It also features faculty offices, the Jimmie B. Todd Academic Wing, a high-tech auditorium, enviable athletic locker rooms, full-scale gym, state of the art equipment, and much more. The facility provides a top-notch practice facility to students preparing for health discipline practice, and an excellent overall research and teaching environment. In addition, UTPB has more than 5,000 square feet of mental health facilities including in Social, Cognitive, Health, Developmental, Sports, Counseling, and Clinical Psychology.
The School of Nursing at the University of Texas Permian Basin is science-based, patient-centered, and care-driven. Coursework helps students understand human behavior and gain insight into the human spirit. The School offers the Bachelor of Science in Nursing, an online Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, and a Health Informatics and Leadership Certificate program.

At UTPB’s School of Nursing, students are prepared to problem-solve, based on evidence and research, while including the patient as the main source of information. Strong clinical experiences are provided in UTPB’s state-of-the-art Midland Health Simulation and Learning Resource Center (SIM Lab) and community healthcare facilities. The School is characterized by individual attention, increased participation, and better communication, and UTPB’s nursing graduates surpass the national and Texas NCLEX pass rate averages with a 94% first-attempt success rate.

UTPB’s nursing students learn clinical, technical, and critical thinking skills in labs first, enabling them to provide competent and safe patient care in a risk-free environment. The SIM Lab simulates real-life scenarios in realistic settings simulating a hospital, clinic, labor and delivery room, emergency area, and medication delivery room. The lab’s manikins contain state-of-the-art simulation technology that create realistic environments where the patient can talk, breathe, bleed, cough, and perform many other real-life medical scenarios.

Industry skills that students learn and practice include:

- Assessing patients’ conditions
- Starting IVs and foley catheters
- Administering medications and treatments
- Wound care
- Operating medical equipment
- Working with interprofessional teams during drills that simulate what happens in real medical situations

In partnership with the Permian Strategic Partnership (PSP), UTPB is able to cover tuition and mandatory fees for undergraduates majoring in Nursing, Pre-Med, Pre-Dental, and Pre-Pharmacy through a competitive, renewable four-year scholarship. Funding is awarded through a combination of federal, state, and institutional funds to qualifying students.
The Director of the School of Nursing directs the achievement of the mission and goals of the School of Nursing and represents the School of Nursing to the community. The Director is responsible for leadership, planning, coordination, and oversight of six Board of Nursing areas: students, faculty, curriculum, organizational structure, governance, research, and evaluation. The Director is assisted by the Administrative Assistant, the Director of the Nursing Simulation Center, and the faculty. The Director reports to the Dean of the College of Health Sciences.

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES
The Director of the School of Nursing will:

• Be a communicative leader who can build relationships within the School, College, and the University, engage and serve the healthcare community, and establish and maintain excellent relationships with the local and regional healthcare systems, and its administrators and staff.

• Serve as a strategic leader willing to promote innovative ideas and diverse modes of course delivery as the School grows in numbers of students and programs.

• Teach courses based on the School's needs and expertise and supervise clinical practicums when essential.

• Carry out a research program, publish in peer-reviewed journals, and contribute to collaborative and interdisciplinary efforts across campus, and is encouraged to apply for external funding.

• Participate in curricular development.

• Provide academic advising to students.

• Mentor students to prepare them for professional practice, graduate studies, and research.

• Provide support to students in need of academic improvement.

• Serve the University, College, and School.

• Actively participate in the School's expansion.

QUALIFICATIONS
Individuals who are eligible for appointment must meet the Texas Board of Nursing requirements as provided below:

• Hold an unencumbered current registered nurse license in the state of Texas or have eligibility for licensure in Texas.

• Hold a master's degree or a doctoral degree in nursing; if the master's degree is in nursing, the doctoral degree is required but is not limited to nursing.

• Have a minimum of two (2) years teaching experience in a professional nursing education program.

• Have demonstrated knowledge, skills, and abilities in administration within a professional nursing education program.

In addition, the successful candidate will possess:

• Eligibility for a tenure track faculty position at the Associate or Professor rank.

• A proven track record of building relationships with all constituents (hospitals, healthcare providers, community colleges, higher education institutions, etc.).

• Demonstrated leadership skills related to coordination of teaching activities.

• Effective verbal/written communication skills and proficiency in the English language.

• An awareness of current issues/trends in nursing and higher education.

• Effective interpersonal and organizational skills.
UNIVERSITY BENEFITS

UT Permian Basin offers an excellent compensation package including Heath, Retirement, and Fringe Benefits for employees:

• Coverage includes Medical, Prescriptions, Life Insurance, AD&D, and matching retirement provided by UTPB for the employee.
• Employees may also add Dental, Vision, Family, Spending Accounts, Additional Retirement, and a few other coverages as options too.
• Fringe benefits include Tuition Reimbursement (after one year of service), Wellness Breaks, Employee Assistant Program (EAP), and “meal deals,” among other perks and discounts.
• UTPB’s benefits package, along with an ample leave policy, makes for a great total compensation package.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications should consist of a substantial letter of interest, a CV, and a list of five professional references with full contact information and a note indicating the nature of your working relationship with each. No references will be contacted without the explicit permission of the candidate. Applications, nominations, and expressions of interest can be submitted electronically, and in confidence, to: UTPBNursingDirector@academicsearch.org

The position is open until filled but only applications received by Friday, June 7, 2024, can be assured full consideration. The University is being assisted by Academic Search. Confidential discussions about this opportunity may be arranged by contacting consultants Ann Hasselmo at Ann.Hasselmo@academicsearch.org and Chris Butler at Chris.Butler@academicsearch.org. Further information about the University of Texas Permian Basin is available at https://www.utpb.edu/

UTPB is committed to providing an educational, living, and working environment that is welcoming and respectful. The University fosters an environment that allows members of the University community to excel in their academic and professional careers. UTPB follows all applicable state and federal laws.
ABOUT ACADEMIC SEARCH

Academic Search is assisting The University of Texas Permian Basin in this work. For more than four decades, Academic Search has offered executive search services to higher education institutions, associations, and related organizations. Academic Search was founded by higher education leaders on the principle that we provide the most value to partner institutions by combining best practices with our deep knowledge and experience. Our mission today is to enhance institutional capacity by providing outstanding executive recruitment services, executive coaching, and transition support, in partnership with our parent organization, the American Academic Leadership Institute.