

**SUPPORT FOR THE
UT HEALTH SAN ANTONIO
REGIONAL CAMPUS LAREDO**

Goal: To recover and sustain state funding for Regional Campus Laredo to support Dental and Medical academic programs, clinical training opportunities and research provided by UT Health San Antonio

Talking Points

DEMOGRAPHICS

- Founded in 1735, Laredo/Webb County Region is a border city with strong bicultural identity.
- Population is fast growing 274,974(2017) 95.5% Hispanic and 91.1% of households bilingual
- 31.8 % live below the poverty line compared to state level of 15.6%
- 37-40% of Laredo population is uninsured
- Laredo and Border Region represent a young population over 43% under age 18
- Lagging level of education—only 67% of young adults over age 25 hold high school diploma (state 83%)
- Laredo/Webb County region students live at least 160-200 miles from the closest educational institution offering advanced health professional training programs.

ROBUST POPULATION GROWTH WITH LAGGING HEALTHCARE Work Force

- Largest inland port of entry of the US. More than 40% of all US inland trade passes through Laredo/Nuevo Laredo.
- Enormous population growth over the last 25 years since Nafta (100% growth recorded 2015)
- Robust economy and growth has imposed greater demand on the slow growing health work force
- Laredo/Webb County Region repeatedly designated a medically underserved population with a shortage of well-trained health professionals and limited health care access.
- City of Laredo has less than one (0,88) physician per 1000 residents and (0,47) mid level (NP and PA)/1000 residents as compared to the state of Texas with 2.64 physicians and 0.74 mid levels/1000 residents.
- Apparent solution is to increase the number of health providers but this requires development of local health professional educational programs.

CHALLENGING HEALTH NEEDS

- There is an abundance of health challenges facing Laredo/South Texas population
- High prevalence of diabetes in adult population (18.6%) compared to state level (11%)
- This is accompanied with an alarming prevalence of obesity in our children (30%) as compared to state level (12-15%)
- This epidemic of obesity and diabetes leads to increase of chronic health conditions including liver and kidney disease

WORKING ON SOLUTIONS

- UT Health San Antonio has a long history of working with the Laredo/Webb County Region to develop a well-trained health care workforce and improve access to care
- Providing advanced health training opportunities in the Laredo/Webb County region will allow students to pursue advanced health careers without having to leave home.
- Local training programs tend to be less costly and tend to show better retention rates for minorities
- Texas is becoming a Hispanic majority state
- It is well known that Hispanic families prefer their children to remain close to home; many students are not willing or perhaps able to leave home to seek advanced degrees.
- Local health profession training programs for Laredo/Webb County are planned and ready pending funding
- Once funding is restored and sustained, qualified bilingual health care practitioners can be trained to serve not only the healthcare needs of our community but the rest of the state of Texas and beyond.