



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
Senate Resolution 25.03

(Stating the sentiments of the TTUHSC Student Senate regarding the establishment of a comprehensive Multi-language Healthcare Resources Initiative to enhance healthcare education and patient care)

WHEREAS, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center has multiple campuses throughout Texas especially in Lubbock where the main campus is located, nicknamed “The hub” due to the diverse, essential roles it plays in economics, education, and healthcare within the South Plains,

WHEREAS, The TTUHSC also serves diverse communities across the state of Texas, in large metroplexes with significant populations who have limited English proficiency; and,

WHEREAS, Language barriers can significantly impact patient care, contributing to health disparities and reduced access to healthcare services¹; and,

WHEREAS, The TTUHSC has the opportunity to model the development of multilingual healthcare resources, expanding accessibility to other commonly spoken languages beyond Spanish to address the diverse linguistic needs of patients; and,

WHEREAS, The establishment of a Multi-language Healthcare Resources Initiative at TTUHSC could serve as a model for other institutions aiming to improve language accessibility in healthcare education and patient care; and,

WHEREAS, Effective communication between healthcare providers and patients is essential for providing quality care and achieving optimal health outcomes; and,

WHEREAS, TTUHSC has the value of being “Kindhearted”, encouraging students to go above and beyond in their interactions with sincere intentions by listening to understand; and,

WHEREAS, TTUHSC has the value of “One Team”, encouraging students to create alliances with populations from diverse backgrounds and use language as a bridge to connect and collaborate; and,

¹ Al Shamsi, Hilal, et al (2020). “Implications of Language Barriers for Healthcare: A Systematic Review.” *Oman Medical Journal*, vol. 35, no. 2, 2020, p. 122. *PubMed Central*

WHEREAS, TTUHSC has a value of “Beyond Service”², encouraging students to create positive experiences in everything they do by approaching all situations with compassion and the intent to be inclusive of all backgrounds and cultures; and,

WHEREAS, Hispanic individuals are projected to make up 39.8% of the United States population by the year 2050 as a result of immigration, and, currently, 78% of immigrants who have lived in the United States for at least five years list Spanish as their preferred language³; and,

WHEREAS, In Texas, 5% of the population speaks a language other than English or Spanish at home, and up to 35% of Texans speak a language other than English at home⁴; and,

WHEREAS, The languages most spoken at home besides English and Spanish, are Vietnamese (129,857), Chinese (82,311), Arabic (33,105), Korean (32,431), and Tagalog (20,764)⁴; and,

WHEREAS, Healthcare professionals with multilingual capabilities are increasingly valued in the healthcare workforce⁵ and are capable of creating meaningful patient interactions by transcending language barriers; and,

WHEREAS, As a Hispanic-Serving Institution⁶, TTUHSC has a unique opportunity to lead in preparing healthcare professionals who can effectively serve Spanish-speaking communities; and,

WHEREAS, Integrating multilingual healthcare resources into the curriculum will not only enhance cultural competency among future healthcare professionals but also foster an inclusive learning environment that reflects the diverse patient populations they will serve; and,

WHEREAS, Research into multi-language healthcare practice will enhance Evidence-Based Practices understanding of how language accessibility can improve healthcare outcomes and serve as a model for other institutions that are also attempting to reduce healthcare disparities; and,

WHEREAS, TTUHSC SOM has access to Canopy for their understanding of Medical Spanish, but we believe more extensive and varied resources to other languages that are accessible to every student would be beneficial to the population of the TTUHSC system; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Student Senate of TTUHSC calls for establishing and/or developing a comprehensive Multi-language Healthcare Resources Initiative as a strategic priority. This

² Weber, Jason R. (2021). Beyond Service: How Defining Moments Impact Culture. *Daily Dose TTUHSC* ³ Schub, T.

(2024). Hispanic American Patients: Providing Culturally Competent Care. *CINAHL Nursing Guide*. ⁴ Ura, Alexa, and Jolie McCullough. (2015). “As Texas Population Grows, More Languages are Spoken at Home.” *The Texas Tribune*

⁵ New American Economy. (2017). “Not Lost in Translation: The Growing Importance of Foreign Language Skills in the U.S. Job Market.” *New American Economy*

⁶ Cisneros, Suzanna. (2022). "TTUHSC Recognized as a Hispanic-Serving Institution." *Daily Dose TTUHSC*

initiative is essential for enhancing healthcare education and improving patient care outcomes through language accessibility. By implementing specialized language training, clinical experiences, community engagement, digital resources, and professional development opportunities, TTUHSC will strengthen its position as a leader in culturally competent healthcare education, particularly addressing the diverse linguistic needs of populations across Texas and surrounding states. This initiative directly supports our mission as a Hispanic-serving institution, upholds our institutional values of being "Kindhearted", "Beyond Service", and "One Team" and advances our commitment to reducing healthcare disparities through improved provider-patient communication; and therefore,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these resources be made available to all students and faculty interested in furthering their understanding of other languages and closing the barriers of communication with their patients and community; and therefore,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be spread upon the Journal and that copies be sent to **Lori-Rice Spearman Ph.D.**, *President of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center*; **Darrin D'Agostino, D.O., MPH, MBA.**, *Provost and Chief Academic Officer*; **Jody C. Randall Ed.D.**, *Vice President & Chief Experience Officer*; **Brandt Schneider Ph.D.**, *Dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Science*; **Gerard E. Carrino, Ph.D., MPH**, *Dean of the Julia Jones Matthews School of Population and Public Health*; **Dawndra Sechrist, OTR, Ph.D.**, *Dean of the School of Health Professions*; **John C. DeToledo M.D.**, *Dean of the School of Medicine*; **Holly Wei, PhD, RN, CPN, NEA-BC, FAAN**, *Dean of the School of Nursing*; **Grace Kuo, Ph.D., Pharm.D.**, *Dean of the Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy*; **Keri Shiplet M.S.**, *Director of Student Life*, **Marianna Souriall**, *Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Toreador*, and to the students of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
Passed the Senate, 18 February 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jesse Burnett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

Jesse Burnett

President, Student Government Association

CC: Journal