With preliminary approval from the Texas State University System Board of Regents, Sam Houston State University is growing our health sciences presence through the establishment of a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Program (DO Program). This exciting initiative will be the fulcrum for health care education at SHSU and a game changer for the university, the community and the state.

Osteopathic Doctors Practice in Underserved Areas

Texas has about 43,000 physicians engaged in patient care for a population of approximately 23 million. This acute shortage of doctors is expected to worsen. Meanwhile, enrollment of approximately 5,400 undergraduate students and 6,000 resident physicians among the eight Texas medical schools has stayed relatively unchanged for over 25 years.

• Texas ranks 41st in active patient care physicians and 47th for primary care physicians (per 100,000 population). The state needs 12,819 additional doctors to meet the national average.

• Thirty counties have no doctor at all and 80 counties have five or fewer.

• Access to physician care is expected to erode with 45% of Texas doctors accelerating retirement plans, 19% cutting back hours, 9% switching to a concierge practice and over 6% planning to work part-time.

• About 20% of medical students are training to be osteopathic physicians, of those, 60% choose to specialize in primary health care.

• Osteopathic doctors are 2.5 times more likely to practice in rural areas.

Key Facts

• No taxpayer support will be used to build the program—it will be 100% self-funded and generate revenues to cover operations.

• Most DO graduates practice in underserved areas: primary care, inner city and rural areas.

• Our approach to healthcare education incorporates fresh and original ideas.

• Support for a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Program is strong with endorsements from notable business, civic and community leadership.

100% Self-Funded, No Taxpayer Support

Funding for the program relies on private support and revenues generated by tuition and fees. While Texans benefit from the program, taxpayer dollars will not be used.

• Revenues (tuition and fees) cover operational and overhead expenses.

• Start-up investment covered by private funds or internal financing repaid through cash flow.

• Land and building secured through donated assets or self-funded debt.

• Johnson Development Corporation has offered land for a building site in its master-planned community located in Montgomery County.
Strong Support from Business, Civic and Community Leaders
The university’s long-standing track record of success has earned the confidence and endorsement of business, civic and community leadership.

A Fresh & Original Approach to Healthcare Education

A significant impediment to meeting the demand for physicians is a shortage of residency training slots or Graduate Medical Education (GME). SHSU is working on solutions that address GME as well as creating an educational model that focuses on maximizing resources and results.

• 21.5% of all first-year and 26.8% of all primary care residencies in the state are occupied by foreign medical school graduates.
• CMS funds are available to support new teaching hospitals.
• With over 20 hospitals located within a 20-mile radius, SHSU plans to partner with new teaching hospitals to support the clinical training of 150 students.
• Infrastructure and support services will remain centralized, minimizing administrative costs.
• Maintain and nurture university’s teacher-scholar philosophy.
• Explore integrated academic models.