



Media Contacts:

Eddie Owens, Director of Communications/PR
O: 806.788.4863 C: 806.928.0462
eowens@unitedtexas.com

Kerri Fulks, Public Relations Support
O: 972.499.6617 C: 214.549.9837
kerri.fulks@hck2.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 8, 2013

United Supermarkets Formalizes Support for Nursing Programs in Abilene

(Abilene, TEXAS) – United Supermarkets, LLC, formally presented a \$300,000 gift to the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) School of Nursing at Abilene today in support of the School of Nursing expansion in Abilene.

The gift is part of a \$3 million commitment made by United in December 2011 to support the School of Nursing and establish endowed scholarship programs on the graduate and undergraduate levels.

“With strong supporters like United Supermarkets, together we can continue to grow and work to improve the future of the citizens of Texas,” said TTUHSC President Tedd L. Mitchell, M.D.

Matt Bumstead, co-president of United Supermarkets LLC, and fourth-generation member of the ownership family, said United Supermarkets is extremely proud of the company’s longstanding partnership with the Texas Tech University System.

“United has always stood for enhancing the lives of the communities we serve,” Bumstead said. “We have a passion for young people and a nearly century-old commitment to supporting their education. We are thrilled to join with Tech in helping make a top-notch college education possible for young people across our area for many years to come.”

TTUHSC earlier this year opened a new School of Nursing building. Hendrick Health System helped construct the facility at 1674 Pine St.

The school expanded its traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing program to Abilene in May 2009. In March 2008, the TTUHSC School of Nursing partnered with Hendrick Health System to establish a web-based second-degree nursing program in Abilene. Students gain clinical experience at Hendrick Medical Center and in local community-based agencies and clinics.

“Abilene is a unique city and I feel fortunate to be a part of it,” said Pearl Merritt, Ed.D., R.N., regional dean of the TTUHSC School of Nursing in Abilene. “We have outstanding leaders in our community that strive to make it a better place to live and thrive. United Supermarket’s gift will allow increased growth in our student population which further contributes to Abilene’s economic growth.”

Texas and the nation are facing a critical shortage of registered nurses. Texas schools turned

away 41 percent or 8,734 qualified applicants to nursing schools in 2009, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. To meet projected demands for RNs, Texas licensure educational programs must generate 15,199 new graduates by 2013 and 25,870 by 2020.

There are currently 100 students enrolled in the TTUHSC School of Nursing in Abilene. It is anticipated that the school will have an enrollment of an additional 104 students by 2015. Other programs available to Abilene and area residents are the online RN to BSN program and various graduate programs.

About United Supermarkets

Now in its 97th year of operation, [United Supermarkets, LLC](#), is a Texas-based, family-owned grocery chain with stores in 30 markets across north and west Texas. A self-distributing company with its headquarters in Lubbock and distribution centers in Lubbock and Roanoke, United currently operates 52 stores under four distinct formats: [United Supermarkets](#), [Market Street](#), [Amigos United](#) and United Express.

#