

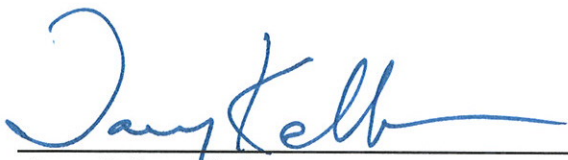
**Resolution of the Board of Directors in Support of the Establishment of a  
Nursing School at the University of St. Thomas in Houston**

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The Greater Houston Partnership supports the establishment of a nursing school at the University of St. Thomas to address the current regional nursing shortage of approximately 4,000 to 5,000 nurses; and the projected Texas shortage of 83,600 nurses in 2020 for a projected population of close to 7.2 million people in the Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown region.

The Greater Houston Partnership supports growth of programs, regionalization and partnerships to address this overwhelming challenge.

The Greater Houston Partnership strongly endorses the opening of the University of St. Thomas School of Nursing and encourages the greater Houston community and the state of Texas to provide all possible partnership and financial support to the new School of Nursing to help alleviate the nursing shortage.



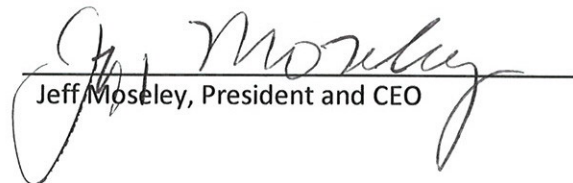
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Larry Kellner, Chairman



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Anthony R. Chase, Secretary



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Jeff Moseley, President and CEO

## **BACKGROUND MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 9, 2011

**TO:** Greater Houston Partnership Board of Directors

**FROM:** Anne Taylor, Chair, Education Committee  
Welcome Wilson, Sr., Chair, Higher Education Sub-Committee

**SUBJECT:** Resolution of the Board of Directors in Support of the Establishment of a Nursing School at the University of St. Thomas in Houston

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### **BACKGROUND**

Texas began addressing the re-emerging nursing shortage in 1999 under the leadership of the Texas Nurses Association – joined by the Texas Hospital Association, Nursing Education Policy Coalition (no longer in existence), and the Greater Houston Partnership. These stakeholders developed a legislative agenda, which resulted in the passage of the Nursing Shortage Reduction Act (NSRA) of 2001 (77<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature). During the 2003 78<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session, the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce studies was established. Each subsequent year, the legislature has continued to fund and expand the NSRA, resulting in significant investment by the state in addressing the nursing shortage. Multiple reports have been produced in response to legislative requests during the 79<sup>th</sup>, 80<sup>th</sup> and 81<sup>st</sup> Texas Legislatures.

### **KEY ISSUES:**

- Texas and the nation are facing a critical shortage of registered nurses (RN). According to a recent report by the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies, Texas will not

produce sufficient RNs to meet the healthcare demands of Texans through 2020 without major interventions to increase RN supply.

- Between 2005 and 2020, demand for RNs is expected to increase by 86 percent and supply by only 53 percent.
- Texas schools of nursing turned away 41 percent (8,734) of qualified applicants to nursing schools in 2009. Lack of qualified faculty and lack of budgeted faculty positions were the primary reasons cited for turning away qualified applicants.
- In 2009, 93 initial RN licensure-nursing programs reported a need for 100 full-time and 35 part-time faculty to fill vacant positions. On average, school report vacant positions remaining open for 26 weeks.
- Texas schools (93 initial RN licensure nursing programs) produced 8,211 graduates in 2009.
- For supply to meet demand, the number of new graduates must grow to 9,700 in 2010, 15,199 by 2013; 18,000 in 2015; and to 25,000 in 2020.
- Although Texas has already implemented multiple strategies via a variety of partnerships and legislative initiatives to meet demand by 2020, additional support is necessary to achieve these goals.
- Increasing capacity in nursing programs will involve:
  - Acquiring the financial resources to recruit and retain additional qualified faculty and students;
  - Acquiring additional clinical instruction sites;
  - Fostering innovative public-private partnerships; and
  - Developing other educational modalities (e.g., simulation centers).

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

To date, the University of St. Thomas has secured nearly \$11 million in private philanthropic support and federal grants toward faculty and facility.

## **KNOWN OPPOSITION**

There is no known opposition to this initiative.

## **RESOURCES REQUIRED**

This recommendation can be implemented with available Greater Houston Partnership staff and within current operating budget resources.