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Sen. Rodríguez honors TTUHSC El Paso medical students and faculty for the Sparks clinic

EL PASO – State Sen. José Rodríguez will present a Senate proclamation honoring the TTUHSC El Paso Paul L. Foster School of Medicine Medical Student Run Clinic at 4 p.m. on Wednesday (Oct. 28, 2015) at TTUHSC's Medical Education Building Courtyard (5001 El Paso Dr.).

The El Paso region has a higher number of uninsured, with approximately one in three El Pasoans lacking health insurance. In addition, due to significant health professional shortages, the unincorporated areas of El Paso County are considered medically underserved. Two years ago, students at the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine (PLFSOM) endeavored to serve the community of Sparks by starting a medical student run clinic (MSRC), offering free basic health care to uninsured residents.

"I applaud the efforts and initiative of these students, who dedicated themselves to establishing this free medical clinic for the community of Sparks," Sen. Rodríguez said. "I commend the Paul Foster School of Medicine faculty and all the other contributors who have helped in founding this important source of health care."

Since opening its doors in 2013, the clinic has served more than 675 patients during its bimonthly evening clinics. The clinic serves as a primary care clinic and a medical home for many members of the community who otherwise would not have access to care. The clinic provides services such as annual physical examinations, chronic disease management, care for the acutely ill, women's health examinations, and basic laboratory testing. The clinic also works with local partners, including University Medical Center of El Paso, to enroll patients in indigent patient discount programs to provide additional services such as imaging.

The MSRC was founded by medical students Andrew Billnitzer, Chetna Pande, Victoria Nuñez, and Jessica Phillips with the help of medical directors Dr. Maureen Francis, Dr. Gordon Woods, Dr. Maria-Theresa Villanos, Dr. Blanca García, and Dr. David Palafox. Other important contributors include Dr. José Manuel De la Rosa, Dr. Theresa Byrd, Dr. Kathryn Horn, Ms. Loretta Flores, Ms. Leticia Rodríguez, and Ms. Raquel Pérez.

What: Senate proclamation to honor TTUHSC El Paso medical students and faculty

When: 4 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2015

Where: Courtyard of Medical Education Building, TTUHSC, 5001 El Paso Dr., El Paso, TX 79905

For more information: Sito Negrón, (915) 351-0360

José Rodríguez represents Texas Senate District 29, which includes the counties of El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, and Presidio. He represents both urban and rural constituencies, and more than 350 miles of the Texas-Mexico border. Senator Rodríguez currently serves as the Chairman of the Texas Senate Democratic Caucus, and is a member of the Senate Committees on Education; Health and Human Services; Veteran Affairs and Military Installations; Nominations; and Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs.