



The University of Texas of the Permian Basin
4901 E. University
Odessa, Texas 79762
www.utpb.edu

NEWS RELEASE

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UTPB LAUNCHES DOC DODSON ATHLETIC TRAINER SCHOLARSHIP

Contact: Melanie Nicholas, Public Information Officer, 552-2806

UT Permian Basin launched the campaign for a new scholarship honoring one of Midland's most beloved citizens – the Doc Dodson Athletic Trainer Scholarship.

The scholarship will be used to pay tuition for students enrolled in the UTPB Athletic Training Program. Currently, five students are enrolled in the intensive program headed up by Bob Conlin.

"I am very proud of this scholarship," Dodson told a small crowd gathered in the UTPB athletic trainer rooms. "This field has grown a great deal and there are many modern day treatments. You can see the kind of facilities we have here."

UTPB currently has about 250 athletes, many of whom benefit from the training program. The training program has two new whirlpool baths, an ice machine, several treatment tables and a taping station.

Dodson said having good facilities and learning the latest information is critical to the overall health of athletes.

"Trainers see an injury first, determine if an athlete needs to see a doctor, and then (trainers) follow up with what a doctor wants done," he said.

Dodson came to Midland in 1959. As the head athletic trainer at Midland High School for 30 years, Dodson helped shape the lives of hundreds of Midland's young people. He also was the first high school trainer to be invited to serve athletes in the 1972 Olympic games.

"But it's nice to be back at UTPB," Dodson added. "I taught a care and prevention course here in the early 1970s."

UTPB President David Watts said UTPB has the only West Texas training program. "We are very excited about this program and this scholarship," he said.

Conlin said the scholarship is vital to students in the program.

“Our program is very intensive, so it is extremely difficult to work and be in the program. This scholarship will provide our students with the kind of tuition assistance that they need so they can focus on learning instead of worrying about paying for college. We are very grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Dodson,” Conlin said.

To donate to the Doc Dodson Athletic Trainer Scholarship, please call the UTPB Office of Institutional Advancement at 552-2800.

UTPB ATHLETIC TRAINING ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Currently, UTPB offers a BS degree in Kinesiology with an Athletic Training Specialization. Along with their general education requirements, students will take a variety of athletic training courses. Athletic training students will also receive hands-on athletic training experience in a variety of settings in order to prepare them for entry level athletic training positions within the state of Texas. Successful completion of the current course of study will allow students to meet all requirements set forth by the Texas Department of Health Services to qualify for the Texas Licensing Exam.

Current partners include:

- **PhyTEX Rehabilitation & Sports Medicine Associates**
- Basin Orthopedic Surgical Specialists
- **Odessa Jackalopes**
- **ECISD -- outreach to local high school football teams**

UTPB is also in the process of approving a major in Athletic Training within the Department of Kinesiology. The addition of this major will allow UTPB the opportunity to pursue CAATE accreditation of its Athletic Training Education Program. This means that once obtained, athletic training students graduating from UTPB will be qualified to sit for the NATA-BOC national exam to receive their national certification.

http://www.utpb.edu/utpb_student/students/athletics/athletic_training/home.htm

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