



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **APPLICANTS SOUGHT FOR NEW DOCTORAL PROGRAM OFFERED AT UTPB**

*Contact: Iris Foster, Interim Public Information Officer, 432-552-2806*

In a move long awaited by educators throughout the Permian Basin, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board at its regular monthly meeting (Thursday, July 30) in Austin gave official approval to offer the doctoral degree on the UTPB campus. It was a move applauded by university officials at both UT San Antonio and UT Permian Basin, who will collaborate in offering the Ed.D.

“We’ve waited a long time and have undertaken a lot of effort, but the wait was worth it,” commented UTPB President David Watts. “West Texas has for too long been without the opportunity for professional growth enjoyed by the more populous areas of the state.”

Bob Azam, superintendent of Andrews Independent School District, agreed. He completed his superintendent course work at UTPB and is now working on his doctorate. When he learned of this opportunity at UTPB, he said, “I would encourage my peers to go ahead and apply. UTPB is right here, and it’s an excellent school. The Ed.D. is challenging, but the benefits far outweigh the costs and time commitment.”

Applications are now open and will continue to be accepted through October 1. A web page has been launched to allow applicants to apply online. It can now be accessed through a link on the UTPB home page at [www.utpb.edu](http://www.utpb.edu). In addition, a packet of background information can be mailed to those interested in applying. A cohort of 12 doctoral students will be selected this fall to begin in January (2010). The program consists of two courses per semester leading to completion of the 60-hour degree program within approximately three years.

All courses will be taught on the UTPB campus.

“We are gearing up for a high level of interest from school administrators all over the Permian Basin,” said Dr. Tom Parks, who is heading up the new degree program. “Already we have a long list of educators waiting for the application materials that we’ve been developing in coordination with officials at UT San Antonio. Our two campuses are working closely to make sure their current program is intact as we begin to offer it here at UTPB. It’s going to be a busy but most gratifying effort.”

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He added that UTPB administration has provided substantial support for the program, including additional staffing and equipping a technology-based Doctoral Studies Center with cutting-edge electronic equipment and an extensive professional library.

The new program leads to the Ed.D. Degree in Educational Leadership and is designed for school administrators. Twelve new students will be enrolled each year using admission standards employed by the UT San Antonio program. Plans call for phasing out the UTSA role in the future as UTPB assumes more and more of the administrative and academic functions, according to Dr. Parks.

Persons interested in receiving an application packet may call 432-552-2149 at UTPB and leave a message or send an e-mail to [parks\\_t@utpb.edu](mailto:parks_t@utpb.edu).

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