

FISCAL YEAR 2010 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS
GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE -- REP. Michael Burgess (TX-26)

Must be completed and submitted NO LATER than COB February 27, 2009

Please submit completed questionnaire to matt.johnson@mail.house.gov

PLEASE NOTE: ALL REQUESTS MUST INCLUDE A FORMAL LETTER OF REQUEST ON OFFICIAL LETTERHEAD EXPLAINING THE PROJECT. THIS QUESTIONNAIRE SHOULD ACCOMPANY, NOT REPLACE, A FORMAL LETTER OF REQUEST AND ANY OTHER QUESTIONNAIRE

I. PROJECT BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

1. Please provide a formal name for this project:

DOCTORATE IN NURSE ANESTHESIA PRACTICE INITIATIVE

2. Please describe the project and its purpose:

This project will support TWU's new Doctorate Program of Nurse Anesthesia Practice, the second doctoral program of its kind in the United States. This program will provide advanced studies offered as a total on-line distance learning degree program originating from the main campus of Texas Wesleyan University. The three year part-time program anticipated enrolling 16 students for the Fall 2008 semester – **however, we enrolled 18 students** -- and conservatively anticipate enrolling 16 each fall thereafter until the program has been fully implemented (48 students will be enrolled at full implementation). The objective is to develop a distance learning program (utilizing recent advances in distance learning methodologies) that will provide extended education to full-time employed Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA) who are located in **rural or metropolitan and underserved areas of the United States**. This project provides education via new technologies, including distance learning methodologies, and addresses the **Healthy People 2010 goal set by HHS** to eliminate health disparities.

3. Please outline the project plan, including the finance plan:

DOCTORATE OF NURSE ANESTHESIA PRACTICE INITIATIVE
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY 2010

IP Network Enhancements and Upgrades **\$575,000**

Improve and upgrade the network and server/system resources at the University, including the core switches, intra-building wiring, and edge devices to permit the deployment of Gigabit Ethernet service in the design and digital design facilities in support of the distance learning initiative. To include items such as the following:

Two Core Switches (2 @ \$180K)	\$360,000
Cabling for core switches in data center to building	\$50,000
Network cabling	\$40,000
Network Switches	\$40,000
Edge devices to permit deployment of Gigabit Ethernet	\$25,000

Intra-building Wiring	\$20,000
Media for POD Casts	\$16,000
Vertical Power Strips for network racks	\$14,000
Streaming Video Apple Server	\$10,000

Telecommunications Upgrade and Enhancements **\$350,000**

Extend the internal campus telephone system to the model currently utilized in Texas Wesleyan’s School of Law -- IP telephony. This system upgrade includes integrated voice, data, email and multimedia files allowing increased communications in a virtual office environment with students participating in distance learning programs.

System Enhancements and Upgrades **\$200,000**

Improve and upgrade the network and server/system resources at the core of the University – the West Library—including modern back-up, disaster recovery, and IP/SAN technology, thereby enhancing the network for all University locations.

Audio/Visual Instructional Technology Enhancements **\$70,000**

Enhance current audio/visual technologies for curriculum development and deployment to support instructional needs for the new distance learning program to include streaming media (audio, video, image, etc.) via the web, including equipment, software, subscriptions and licenses.

TOTAL **\$1,195,000**

II. BENEFIT TO THE 26th DISTRICT AND/OR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1. Please explain how this project will improve life, the economy or the general welfare of the 26th District and/or the country at-large. Please be specific (i.e. outline number of jobs created, savings to economy or taxpayers, improve national security):

Texas Wesleyan University is well positioned as a demonstration site for showcasing best practices in preparing students for a doctorate in nurse anesthesia. With a significant achievement in the CRNA exam passage rate and employment placement rate in the master’s program for nurse anesthesia, Texas Wesleyan University has a track record of success in education and workplace preparedness. Since its origin 118 years ago as a training ground for business and education, the University has nurtured close ties to industry as well as area school districts by recognizing the importance of higher education responding to the needs of employees both locally and across the nation. **Over 50 percent of CRNA’s in Fort Worth are TWU graduates. TWU’s CRNA students use Harris Methodist Hospital as their primary clinical training site. Also, of the first cohort of doctoral students that started in Fall 2008, more than 50% of the students are located in rural communities across 12 states that have little or no access to higher education and advanced training in their field.**

2. Please explain why this project should be considered a priority:

The number of doctoral prepared educators and administrators is low and it is estimated that 35% of the current CRNAs will retire by 2015. Because a shortage of nurse anesthetists already exists in this country, the need to produce qualified anesthesia providers will continue for years to come. Many nurse anesthesia programs currently do not have a doctoral prepared educator on staff. This program will train the future faculty that will help prepare and increase the number of highly qualified CRNAs needed in the United States, especially in our rural and medically underserved communities.

III. REQUEST

1. Amount of money you are requesting:

\$1,195,000

2. Agency from which you are requesting funds:

HHS

3. Account from which you are requesting funds:

HRSA

IV. FUNDING HISTORY

1. What is the total project cost and can you provide a federal-state/local-other funding breakdown?

\$1.701M = \$1.195 million federal + \$506K private

2. Has the project ever received federal funds before? If so, please elaborate.

No

3. Has the project received state, local or private funds before? If so, please elaborate.

Yes, Texas Wesleyan has dedicated more than \$506,000 in private matching funds for this project to date, which includes technology and personnel expenses.

4. Can you demonstrate a commitment for future funds from state, local, or private sectors? If so, please elaborate to the extent possible.

Texas Wesleyan University has provided more than \$506,000 in private matching funds for this project. After initial start-up, the project will be self-sustaining with the revenues earned through tuition payments by the students seeking their doctoral degrees.

5. How do you intend to spend federal funds for this project (operating, construction, studies, equipment purchase, salaries, other)?

Funds will be used for equipment costs to support the new on-line Doctorate program in Nurse Anesthesia Practice. Funding will be used to upgrade the network and enhance current audio/visual technologies for curriculum development and deployment to support instructional needs for the new distance learning doctoral program.

6. Does the project request stem from a currently-funded federal program (i.e., an already existing congressional authorization)? If so, please explain and be as specific as possible.

Yes, HRSA Title VIII, Nurse Education, Practice and Retention (NEPR) Program, CFDA No 93.359
HRSA Title VIII, Advanced Education Nursing Program, CFDA No. 93.247

V. PROJECT HISTORY

1. Please briefly explain the level of support for the project in the local and any other community (if letters of support exist, please attach to this form).

The program has broad community support whereas 50 percent of CRNA's in Fort Worth are TWU graduates. Harris Methodist Hospital is the clinical site for many Wesleyan's CRNA students.

2. Has the project encountered any objections within the local or other interested communities? If so, please describe (if letters or official records exist noting objections to the project, please attach to this form).

No

3. Please briefly explain the current stage and expected timeline of the project in a great a detail as possible.

Funding will be used to upgrade the network and enhance current audio/visual technologies for curriculum development and deployment to support instructional needs for the new distance learning doctoral program. Texas Wesleyan currently provides instruction to 33 Congressional Districts through our master's level nurse anesthesia program. This technology will allow the University to provide doctorate level on-line training in nurse anesthesia to the nursing professionals in rural and underserved communities who are not able to travel to university settings in order to obtain the training they need to advance in their fields while remaining employed in their current hospitals. **In the first year of the doctorate program, we are currently serving nursing students in 12 states. This project can be implemented within approximately seven months from start date. After initial start-up, the project will be self-sustaining with the revenues earned through tuition payments by the students seeking their doctoral degrees.**

VI. CONTACTS

1. Who is the primary point of contact for the request?

Deborah J. Roark, Director of Grants & Research

2. Contact information (telephone and e-mail):

droark@txwes.edu

Office: 817-531-6521

Cell: 682-429-7561

FAX: 817-531-7507

3. Mailing address of entity that would receive the funding?

Texas Wesleyan University
1201 Wesleyan St.
Fort Worth, TX 76105

VII. TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

1. How much of this request can be spent in fiscal year 2009?

2. If this is a highway, transit, rail, or aviation request, did you check eligibility with the state DOT, FTA, FRA, or FAA?

2a. If yes, did the agency indicate the project is eligible under the account requested?

3. If this is an FHWA request, is the project considered by the state and/or regional transportation officials as critical to their needs?

4. If a highway request, is the project on the state's transportation improvement plan?

PRIORITY PROJECT REQUEST CRITERIA

CERTIFICATION:

I, HAROLD G. JEFFCOAT, ATTEST THAT THIS PROJECT REQUEST MADE ON BEHALF OF

TEXAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

1. All appropriations requests must be a priority for the 26th District and/or the country-at large as defined as enhancing life, liberty, or the general welfare.
2. All requests must be a proper and wise use of federal taxpayer dollars and must be justified as such. Projects that include a commitment to match federal funds will receive priority consideration.
3. All requests will be immediately posted on the website and supporting documentation made available to press outlets and interested individuals.
4. None of the funding requested will be used for a building, program, or project that has been named for Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D. No request will be made that Congressman Burgess or his spouse has any financial interest.
5. All requests shall be made in accordance with House of Representatives rules, and within Appropriations Committee deadlines. No funding request will be submitted after the deadline established by the Committee

Name of person certifying Dr. Harold G. Jeffcoat

Title of person certifying President

Project name as it will appear in the bill Doctorate in Nurse Anesthesia Practice

Legal name of entity making request Texas Wesleyan University

Address 1201 Wesleyan St., Fort Worth, TX 76105

Signature

Date