

innovative Family Medicine Accelerated Track has helped guarantee an increasing number of much needed family medicine physicians for the area. Additional patient care involves collaborative programs with all schools. All are examples of why TTUHSC has become well-known for the value of its educational program."

Mitchell said while it is difficult to assign a dollar amount to the value of health care, TTUHSC has increased the economic output by over \$1.89 billion across Texas in 2017 alone.

"Access to health care is key for any community to grow," Mitchell said. "Here in West Texas, keeping people healthy means so much more. These are the folks that produce the food, fiber and fuel for our entire nation. We are extremely proud to be providing health care, and improving that care through research, for those who are working hard to keep these powerful economic drivers in motion."

Mitchell said TTUHSC continues to build excitement with new facilities that will bring additional opportunities for education and research initiatives plus create a more seamless campus experience for students and visitors. The \$99.375 million project consisted of three parts: a north expansion that will create two new buildings north of TTUHSC, a west expansion that will add additional facilities to the existing TTUHSC building and the creation of a boulevard entrance to campus for accessibility.

"For 50 years, TTUHSC has been quietly transforming into a leader in health-related higher education," Mitchell said. "But, we're just getting started."

[Editor's Note: A Media Tool Kit is available at http://fifty.ttuhsc.edu/ with historic photos, video and timeline.]