

**Sul Ross State University & Big Bend Regional Medical Center  
Nursing Pipeline**

# Supporting future nurses in the Alpine, Texas region

A program funded by WIOA and Big Bend Regional  
Medical Center

A background graphic consisting of a network of interconnected circles and lines, resembling a molecular or digital structure, in a light blue color.

# Addressing Nursing Shortages in Rural Texas

Working to bridge a gap in the nursing pipeline in the Alpine, Texas, area, Workforce Solutions Borderplex partnered with the Sul Ross State University nursing program and the Big Bend Regional Medical Center to support future nurses in the region. Workforce Solutions Borderplex provided tuition support for seven students, including four freshmen and three juniors, breaking down financial barriers and supporting the nursing pipeline in the area.

## About Sul Ross State University

Sul Ross State University is a Hispanic Serving Institution providing higher education opportunities to the Big Bend region of Texas. The university offers both undergraduate and graduate opportunities and has numerous satellite campuses in the surrounding regions. The Sul Ross State University's nursing program is comprised of two programs: a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, a traditional undergraduate program in nursing, and an RN to BSN Nursing Completion Program, which supports individuals who are already registered nurses but would like to further their education by obtaining a bachelor's degree.

## About Big Bend Regional Medical Center

The Big Bend Regional Medical Center is a community hospital that serves the community of Alpine, Texas, and the surrounding areas. A 40-bed hospital, they offer services including surgery, primary care, diagnostic imaging, orthopedics, an emergency room, laboratory services, and gynecological/obstetrics care. The center is also dedicated to giving back to the community serves, such as supporting programs like this one.

# Funding

Funding for this program was provided through Big Bend Regional Medical Center and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

## About WIOA

The WIOA program offers job assistance and workforce development opportunities to jobseekers and to organizations supporting jobseekers in finding training, education, and support in their job search. Through WIOA, individuals and organizations can find financial aid, education and training, and employment resources to aid in job search efforts.

# Successes: Pilot Program and Looking to the Future



As a pilot program, Workforce Solutions Borderplex found success with this program. Since implementing the program, three students have graduated and four remain, taking up internships with Big Bend Regional Medical Center in administrative roles, learning the admin and in-take side of hospital settings. In addition to tuition support, Workforce Solutions Borderplex also supported financial obligations, such as the purchase of laptops and scrubs. Overall, each party was happy with the collaboration through this program that made it a success.

## Challenges Overcome & Explored

The program saw a few hiccups along the way, including with the language used in the original grant application, which guaranteed full scholarships for participants. While this was not the case, Workforce Solutions Borderplex worked to break down economic barriers and provide some financial support, through funding from WIOA and the Big Bend Regional Medical Center, for participants.