

Odessa College

news release

Media Relations and Publications • 201 W. University • Odessa, TX 79764 • www.odessa.edu • 432/335-6416 • Fax 432/335-6860

From: Cheri Dalton
Director of Media Relations & Publications
cdalton@odessa.edu

(For immediate release)

OC's nursing program receives more than \$170,000 award from state

ODESSA (Oct. 23, 2008) – Odessa College's associate degree nursing program recently was awarded \$179,871 for the Nursing Shortage Reduction Program from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

OC's nursing program was awarded the funds because of an increase in associate degree nursing graduates from 42 in 2006-2007 to 78 in 2007-2008.

The funds may only be allocated in three ways. According to the Appropriations Act, funds shall only be used to:

1. Create additional nurse faculty positions,
2. Provide temporary salary supplements for professional nursing faculty, and
3. Engage qualified preceptors to expand faculty capacity.

Carmen Edwards, Odessa College dean of nursing and allied health, is excited about the award. "I am grateful to the supportive OC administration and to the hard working nursing faculty for achieving the goal of increasing associate degree nursing graduates and impacting positively the nursing shortage in Texas," she said.

Odessa College's nursing program is expected to receive its award on or before Nov. 1.

For more information contact the Odessa College media relations office at 335-6416.