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UT SOUTHWESTERN INCREASES BUSINESS ACTIVITY WITH MINORITY- AND WOMEN-OWNED FIRMS 618 PERCENT

DALLAS--In less than three years, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas has increased its use of minority and women-owned businesses 618 percent.

During the 1990 fiscal year, when the minority business development program was formally launched at UT Southwestern, the university spent approximately \$675,000 on goods and services from minority and women-owned business. In 1992 that amount soared to more than \$4.8 million.

"During the past three years, several steps have been taken at UT Southwestern to increase the participation of women and ethnic minorities in the purchasing process," said Abby Freeman, director.

The first major step was Expo '91, a joint effort sponsored by UT Southwestern's Office of Equal Opportunity and Minority Affairs and the Purchasing Office, which attracted more than 400 minority and women-owned businesses. The event provided business owners with information on how to do business with the UT System components located in the Metroplex.

Planning for Expo '91 led to the development of the Minority Business Development Committee, which is composed of representatives from major procurement areas on campus. The committee members, who received training on developing business with minority- and women-owned businesses, play a major role in helping the university to fulfill its equal business opportunity commitment, said Freeman.

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"Today the minority business development program is stronger than ever," she added.

"We are doing this because it is both good business and the right thing to do," said Dr. Peter Fitzgerald, UT Southwestern's executive vice president for business affairs. "But there is still more to be accomplished," he added. "We will continue our commitment to this program and expect to see continued strong growth in minority-business activity at UT Southwestern."

Within The University of Texas System, of which UT Southwestern is a component, business activity with companies owned by women and minorities reached \$32.1 million in the last fiscal year, more than double the \$15.1 million spent the previous year, system officials said.

The increase resulted from comprehensive efforts by the UT System and its 15 component institutions to identify businesses owned by women and minorities, gain certification for them as approved vendors and encourage them to submit bids, said R.D. Burck, UT System's executive vice chancellor for business affairs.

For more information on the minority vendor bidding process at UT Southwestern, call Linda Bell at (214) 648-6023. Vendors interested in submitting bids to other UT System institutions, call 1-800-882-4391.

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NOTE: The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas comprises Southwestern Medical School, Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School, affiliated teaching hospitals and outpatient clinics.