

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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UT SOUTHWESTERN INCREASES BUSINESS WITH MINORITY-, WOMEN-OWNED FIRMS TO MORE THAN \$12.9 MILLION IN 1997

DALLAS – August 7, 1998 – Of the \$80 million UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas spent on purchases last year, 16.1 percent went to minority- and/or women-owned businesses.

The medical center had the highest percentage of expenditures to minority- and/or women-owned businesses of the medical schools in the University of Texas system.

UT Southwestern spent more than \$12.9 million with historically underutilized businesses, or HUBs, in the fiscal year ending August 31, 1997. Research- and computer-related purchases accounted for much of the growth – 27.2 percent and 26.6 percent, respectively. Other areas of growth were office and medical supplies.

Not only does the HUB program help small businesses thrive, it also benefits the community, said Joe Behrens, assistant vice president for materials management.

"This program helps the citizens of our community by creating additional jobs, keeping money in the local community and helping foster the development of small businesses," Behrens said.

UT Southwestern's HUB program includes 140 vendors.

The Dallas Together Forum, in cooperation with four area chambers of commerce, has honored UT Southwestern with an award for noteworthy accomplishments in purchasing from minority enterprises.

UT Southwestern has scheduled an award ceremony for Aug. 12 to commend individuals who have helped make the HUB program a success this year.

"We will honor the buyers who include minority vendors in the procurement process. The only way HUB can continue to prosper is through active participation," said Linda Bell, senior buyer in purchasing and HUB coordinator.

Guest speaker for the Aug. 12 event will be James Washington, chief executive of *The Weekly* and chairman of the Dallas Together Forum.

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