

## **HMH – WORKING FOR THE COMMUNITY’S FUTURE**

When it comes to defining the necessary partnerships that will create the best future for Huntsville and the surrounding communities, Sally I. Nelson, CEO at Huntsville Memorial Hospital is quick to say that “it will take all of us, working together, collaborating on projects so that Huntsville can corner the market on home-grown leaders in every arena.”

And, search for those partnerships, she does!

Just prior to Christmas, Sally joined the Huntsville Independent School District (HISD) representatives on a trip to Austin to speak to the issue of awarding HISD additional T-STEP grant monies. Through a partnership with Weatherford, HISD already has a very successful T-STEP program in engineering. Thanks to the support of the hospital, hospital leadership and other community visionaries, HISD recently received a T-STEP grant in the amount of nearly \$500,000 to create a program in bio-medical sciences beginning in 2011.

“The purpose of this program would be to identify students when they are in seventh and eighth grades and move them into the Academy for their high school years. Concentrating on either an engineering or biomedical field, students would graduate from a high school equipped with a certificate in their chosen field, assuring a much more broad range of possibilities in the work world,” said Richard Montgomery, HISD Superintendent.

“We will work with HISD as much as possible to assure that we have the necessary tools in place here at the hospital to assist students in their learning about the biomedical field,” said Nelson.

## **TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL**

With a Licensed Vocational Nurse program in its 43<sup>rd</sup> year at Huntsville Memorial, the pressure has always been on to establish a full blown RN program for LVNs to move to the next level. Thanks to the vision of to administrators and board of Sam Houston State University, and the collaboration with Huntsville Memorial, that will become a reality in the spring of 2011.

“The university is looking into the feasibility of building a Health Science Center. But, until that actually occurs, students in the RN program will take their clinical classes in the classrooms at Huntsville Memorial Hospital. We are delighted that, with few modifications, we can provide them with a space that will enable them to get this program off the ground - especially at a time when the demand for quality nursing personnel is getting more and more intense,” said Nelson.

“We are delighted to be a partner with the community, helping to move careers and residents to the next level in their careers, life, or health,” Nelson added.