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# UPDATES FROM THE HILL **TIGER PRIDE** EAST TEXAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY





## **Marshall Grand Opens as New Home of ETBU School of Nursing**

East Texas Baptist University hosted alumni, donors, and friends of the University at the Grand Opening of the ETBU School of Nursing and the new Marshall Grand in downtown Marshall on May 4. The event consisted of facility tours, recognition of donors, and a dedication ceremony.

“It has been a remarkable journey to transform a building that initially opened in 1929 into the modern training facility that it is today,” ETBU President J. Blair Blackburn said. “As Isaiah 25:1 says, the Lord planned this long ago. None of it would be possible without the provision of God’s hand stirring the spirits of His generous people. In 1912, the College of Marshall was founded. Still today, ETBU is Marshall’s University. The people of Marshall helped make this downtown revitalization possible with their partnership in ETBU’s vision to restore the Marshall Grand. Thank you for your prayers and support. We appreciate your sharing what God is doing at ETBU. Pray that He will continue to use this institution to be a light on the Hill at our main campus and on this hilltop in downtown Marshall.”

Marshall native and businessman Jerry Cargill and his wife, Judy Cargill, along with former Texas State Senator and former Harrison County Judge Richard Anderson and his wife, Christina Anderson, donated the building to ETBU in 2013 for the advancement of Christ-centered education and the benefit of the local community and East Texas region. ETBU continued their renovation of the five out of eight floors of the historic Marshall Grand, formerly known as the Hotel Marshall, three of which will be utilized by the School of Nursing.

ETBU raised over \$3 million to renovate the Marshall Grand, with significant contributions from the Andersen Foundation, Moody Foundation, Meadows Foundation, and J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation. The School of Nursing Campaign also garnered support from foundations across the state including the Rosa May Griffin Foundation, the T. J. and

LaVerne Plunkett Foundation, and the Wece and Martha Johnson Foundation. As others partner with ETBU in future Marshall Grand renovation, the University will be able to develop additional floors within the historic building for institutional program expansion.

"We are thrilled with the response that we received from the extended ETBU family, foundations, and community members to our School of Nursing campaign," ETBU Vice President for Advancement Scott Bryant shared. "Relocating the School of Nursing to the Marshall Grand provides us the additional space needed to train more nurses and help meet the growing need for medical personnel in our state and region."

From seizures to a breech birth, the seven wireless mannequins in the simulation lab demonstrate a broad range of realistic conditions. Students can complete a full-body assessment, perform chest compressions, check for a pulse, and insert intravenous (IV) and intraosseous medications into the mannequins. Every physical contact a student has with a mannequin is recorded, allowing faculty and staff to review each case with the class.

"It is critical for nurses to be trained beyond providing medicine to patients. In the simulation laboratory, we are committed to teaching our students the value of assessment," ETBU Vice President for Academic Affairs Thomas Sanders commented. "As a University, we are thankful for all of the individuals, who came together over 100 years ago to invest in Christian higher education in Marshall. We are grateful that this vision has not died in our town and for the opportunity to see something old become new. I thank God for every individual, who had a hand in this construction and is a part of extending the healing hand of Christ throughout this nation."

On the same floor as the simulation lab is a skills laboratory, where students primarily work alongside each other. There are also two classrooms on the fifth floor, one holding 48 and another seating 18, and a lounge area that can easily be renovated for more classroom space as the program grows.

"We see the move to the Marshall Grand as an opportunity to grow our program, while providing needed resources for our students. Ultimately, this impacts healthcare practice in our community, the East Texas region, and wherever our students go as they serve Christ as nurse professionals," ETBU Dean of the School of Nursing Rebekah Grigsby said. "This new space provides an innovative environment to accomplish our mission to educate nurses, who will leave the University prepared to deliver holistic, Christ-centered nursing care."

Since 2015, ETBU nurses have achieved 100 percent pass rates on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) and received job offers within three months of degree completion. The nursing program was also recently ranked sixth among 119 programs in Texas by RegisteredNursing.org. With the expansion to the Marshall Grand, ETBU intends to develop Master of Science programs in nursing education and speech pathology.

“ETBU has always taken our training seriously, but this facility shows us even more so. I am excited to receive hands-on experience and be prepared for so many different situations,” ETBU sophomore nursing major Reagan Dean shared. “Especially with the lounge and other study areas, I think we will grow closer together as a program. The facility will allow us to build stronger relationships with one another while helping us feel more connected to the community of Marshall.”

Alumni and friends of the University will have an additional chance to tour the Marshall Grand during Homecoming on Saturday, October 26, at 10:00 a.m. If you would like to learn more about the ETBU School of Nursing, visit [etbu.edu/nursing](http://etbu.edu/nursing).

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