

MESSAGE FROM THE PROVOST

I write to inform you that Dr. Billy Philips, Professor and Chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health, has accepted a position at the Texas Tech University Health Science Center in Lubbock as Vice President for Rural and Community Health and Director of the F. Marie Hall Institute for Rural and Community Health. He will also hold the Marie Hall Chair in Rural Health. Dr. Philips will leave UTMB, effective April 1, 2009.



Dr. Philips has served UTMB in many capacities over the past 35 years. He previously served as Director of the Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics and Director of the PMCH Graduate Program, and was a longtime Associate Dean of the School of Allied Health Sciences. During his eighteen month tenure as Chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health, approval was obtained from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for program designation status for a new program in Clinical Science, the Public Health Program received the maximum accreditation by the Council on Education for Public Health (seven year term), and a training grant supporting the General Preventive Medicine Residency was obtained from the American Cancer Society. Also, the Occupational Medicine Residency received maximum accreditation.

Notably, Dr. Philips led the development of the Master of Public Health Program, guiding it to full accreditation by the Council on Education for Public Health. He is a member of the UTMB Cancer Center and is the PI on the National Cancer Institute's funded CATCHUM Project, a consortium of the Texas Medical Schools devoted to advancing cancer prevention and control education.

Dr. Philips founded and is the Director for a statewide program for cancer patients and their caregivers called the Cancer Nutrition Network for Texans that is funded in partnership with the Texas Cancer Council. His career research and scholarly interests have been in cancer prevention and control, and his work has been recognized by the Texas Legislature with the Gibson Lewis Award for Public Education and by the Texas Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition with their Leadership Award, as the founding Chairman.

Dr. Philips is an accomplished and widely published author in the peer-reviewed literature of books, educational modules, and online web education resources. He is recognized nationally for his expertise in cancer control education and is admired by those with whom he has worked at UTMB and beyond for his work ethic and dedication.

Dr. Philips, a native of San Antonio, Texas, earned Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Public Health Degrees from the University of Oklahoma.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Philips on his new post and in thanking him for his extraordinary contributions to UTMB.

Sincerely,

Garland D. Anderson, M.D.
Executive Vice President and Provost
Dean, School of Medicine
Thomas N. and Gleaves T. James Distinguished Chair