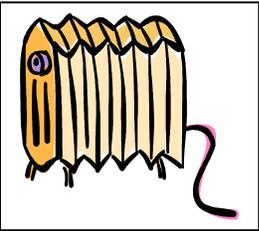




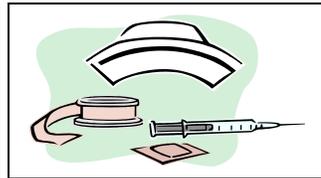
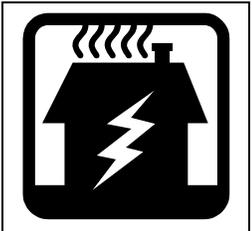
REPRESENTATIVE ROBERTO R. ALONZO'S capitol report



For more information concerning these topics or to schedule an appointment please call (512) 463-0408 or visit www.house.state.tx.us



"Energy-Efficient" School Grants Available to Cut Down on Energy Costs



Mountain View College Approved to Offer Assoc. of Applied Science Degree in Nursing

Rep. Alonzo has just received word from Mountain View College President Felix A. Zamora that the Texas Board of Nursing unanimously approved MVC to establish an *Associate of Applied Science Degree in Nursing*.

The free standing program at Mountain View College is an actual transition from the extension program of Brookhaven College's Associate Degree Nursing Education Program based upon a 72 credit, two -year curriculum format besides required prerequisite courses. The program will begin in the Fall 2011 with 40 students who have completed most support courses.

"The nursing faculty and staff have worked diligently during the last 18 months to prepare a quality nursing program to meet the needs of the students from the local area to reach the mission of Mountain View College, to empower people and transform communities," stated Nancy Breed, Coordinator for Nursing at Mountain View College.

"We appreciate the leadership of President Felix A. Zamora to establish an Associate Degree Nursing Program at Mountain View College. There has not been a nursing program in the southern half of Dallas since the closing of Dallas Baptist University in the 1990s," continued Breed.

"I am always thrilled to hear when college training and other educational opportunities like nursing and others like them are made available to students , especially during these hard economic times," stated Rep. Alonzo.

The mission of the program will include preparing and educating, competent, ethical, and professional nurses who provide scientifically-based, compassionate nursing care for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of diverse individuals within the community. The nursing program will support the general vision, values and mission of Mountain View College by preparing National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) ready graduates who will positively impact the community.

Prospective students are invited to attend upcoming *Nursing Information Sessions* on August 2, September 13 and October 11 from 5-6 p.m. inside the Science and Allied Health Building for more information on *Nursing Information Sessions* contact Rochelle Self-Drake at 214-860-3694.

Texas Cool Schools Grants Will Help Schools Save Energy and Cut Costs

As Texas schools prepare to open later this month amid scorching August heat, Texas Comptroller Susan Combs announced today the *Texas Cool Schools grant program* to help public schools replace old, inefficient heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems.

"Across the state, many public school districts are facing smaller budgets and increased operating costs," Combs said. "Energy cost is the third-largest budget category for schools, and aging heating and cooling systems are the biggest contributor to this problem."

"As the new school year approaches, and our scorching summer temperatures continue, I am glad to see that state agencies like the Comptroller's Office are doing their part to help our schools cut down on the costs of energy consumption and at the same time save money in our pocketbooks," said Rep. Alonzo.

Competitive grants ranging from \$100,000 to \$2 million are available. The application deadline for school districts is **Sept. 1, 2011**. The grants are funded with up to \$25 million in federal stimulus money for energy efficiency programs offered by the Comptroller's State Energy Conservation Office (SECO).

"Using this money to help school districts replace old heating and cooling systems will help districts stretch their maintenance budgets during tough times, and installing energy efficient new units will reduce utility bills and ease the burden on local taxpayers for years to come," Combs said.

Complete information and rules for the Texas Cool Schools grant program are available at <http://www.secostimulus.org/cool-schools/>.

Program highlights: Only specific types of HVAC projects and equipment are eligible for Texas Cool Schools grants. HVAC equipment replaced must be at least 10 years old as of August 2011. Projects must impact classrooms — administration buildings, field houses and auxiliary buildings are not eligible. Each school district is eligible for only one Texas Cool Schools grant, but the grant can cover the cost of replacing HVAC systems on multiple campuses within the district. All HVAC projects must be installed by a licensed Texas air conditioning contractor, who must certify proper installation of eligible equipment. HVAC projects must be completed by **April 30, 2012**.

Dallas ISD gets Ready for the Start of the 2011-2012 School Year

1st Day of School is Monday, Aug. 22, 2011 !

