



# UTEP GERIATRIC WORKFORCE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM IN THE BORDERLAND

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S.  
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number U1Q53051.

August 2026

## ***YEAR IN REVIEW*** **2026**



**EXPANDING OUR REACH, STRENGTHENING OUR  
PARTNERSHIPS, AND ADVANCING DEMENTIA CARE ACROSS  
THE BORDERLAND.**



# GWEP IN THE BORDERLAND

## PURPOSE & OVERVIEW

### OUR MISSION



#### EDUCATE

The Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) in the Borderland focuses on improving the health and well-being of older adults with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias through education, workforce development, and caregiver support.



#### REACH

The primary goal is to enhance the capacity of tribal communities, rural health organizations, and community agencies in providing effective geriatric services.

### YEAR 2 AT A GLANCE

- 1** Improve healthcare for older adults living with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD)
- 2** Train healthcare professionals and caregivers.
- 3** Strengthen partnerships across regional and rural communities.
- 4** Expand access to age-friendly, person-centered care.



This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number U1Q53051.

# GWEP IN THE BORDERLAND

## Partnerships

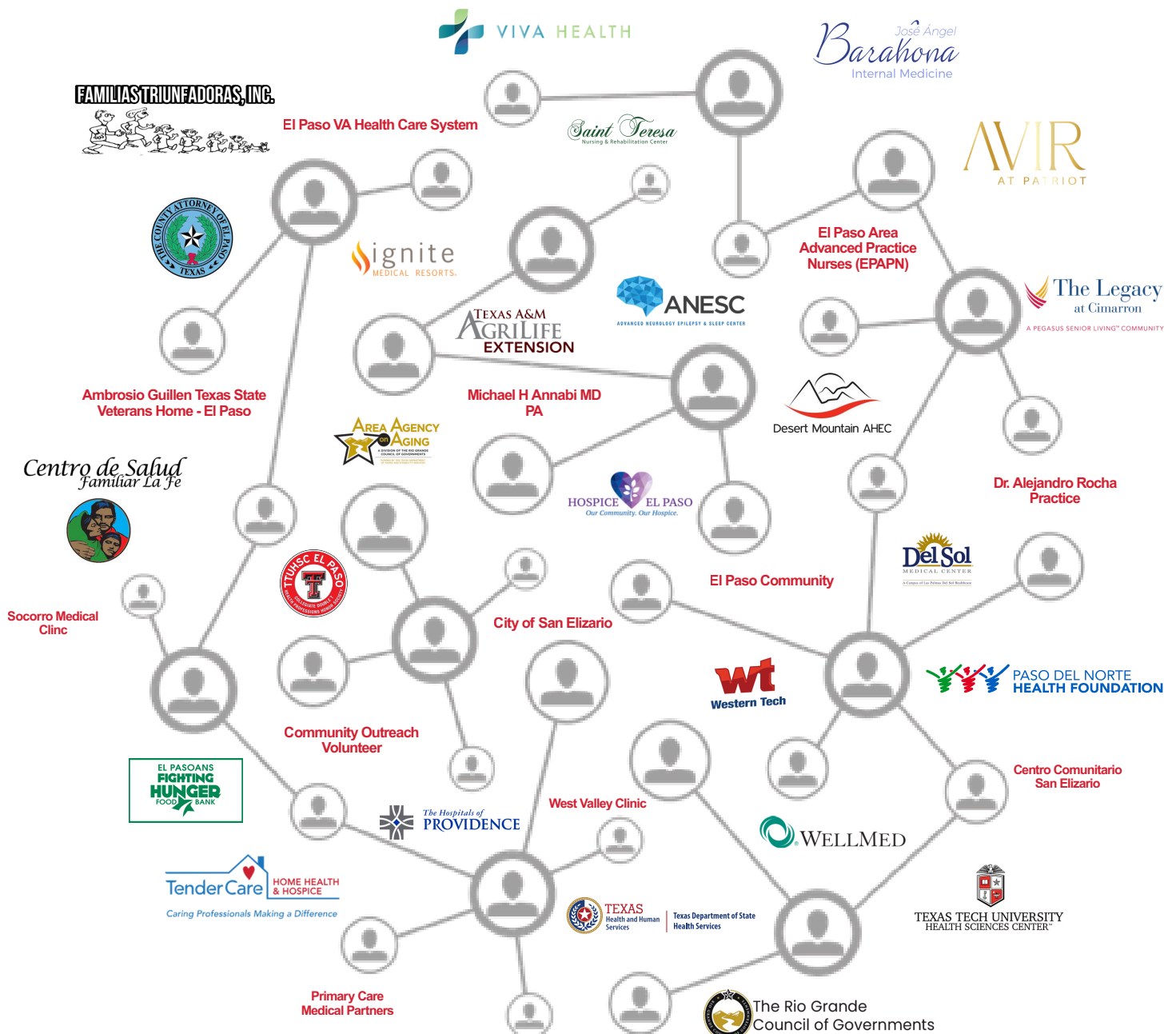
Our partnerships with academia, clinics, and community-based organizations ensure caregivers have access to comprehensive care and dementia training for older adults.



# GWEP IN THE BORDERLAND

## Partnerships

Our partnerships with academia, clinics, and community-based organizations ensure caregivers have access to comprehensive care and dementia training for older adults.





# GWEP IN THE BORDERLAND

---

## OUR IMPACT

**(JULY 2024 – MARCH 2026)**

Engaging with the El Paso community and the Tribal, Tribal Organizations, Underserved, and/or Rural (TTOUR) populations of West Texas remains a central priority for our program. Throughout Year 2, GWEP strengthened partnerships with healthcare providers, community organizations, and educational institutions while expanding access to dementia education, caregiver resources, and workforce development opportunities across the Borderland.

### **Increased Partnerships**

**102 partners, from 61 unique organizations**

### **Reached 1,825 individuals**

**Through educational sessions and online learning modules**

**Distributed 2,798 Alzheimer's education booklets  
To increase awareness and access to resources**

### **Connected with 594 community members**

**At outreach events, including health fairs**

# GWEP IN THE BORDERLAND

## Year at a Glance

### Events



**JULY: LCR AT TIGUAS**



**AUGUST: AGING TO PERFECTION EXPO**



**SEPTEMBER: Dementia Live**



**OCTOBER: VA CAREGIVER APPRECIATION**



**NOVEMBER: GSA PRE-CONFERENCE**



**DECEMBER: PRESENTATION AT EP FOOD BANK**



**FEBRUARY: STATE OF SCIENCE AND ADRD CONFERENCE**



**MARCH: INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDENT SESSION**



**APRIL: EARTH DAY EVENT**



**MAY: NAVIGATING ALZ DISEASE TOGETHER CONFERENCE**



**JUNE: RECOGNIZING THE 10 SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF ALZ SERIES WITH PARKS & REC**



**JUNE: ANNUAL PARTNERS MEETING**



# GWEP IN THE BORDERLAND

---

## OUR IMPACT

(JULY 2024 – MARCH 2026)

Advanced workforce development through the Longitudinal Clinical Rotation (LCR) Program

### Completed

- 9 FNPs
- 3 OTs
- 1 SLP

**13 TOTAL**

### In Progress

- 4 MDs
- 3 SWs
- 3 FNPs

**10 TOTAL**

# GWEP IN THE BORDERLAND

## FEATURED PROGRAM

**DEMENTIA**Live®  
Proven. Powerful. Essential

**Dementia Live® is an immersive training that simulates the cognitive and sensory challenges of living with dementia, helping participants build empathy, strengthen communication, and promote person-centered care. Throughout Year 2, GWEP expanded the program through partnerships with healthcare organizations, community agencies, and educational institutions across the Borderland.**

**To increase accessibility, several sessions were offered in Spanish. As of March 2026, 429 healthcare professionals, caregivers, students, and community members have completed Dementia Live® training, making it GWEP's highest-reaching educational program and reinforcing our commitment to improving dementia care throughout the region.**



# GWEP IN THE BORDERLAND

---

## AGE- FRIENDLY HEALTH SYSTEMS

Supporting partner clinics on their journey toward becoming recognized Age-Friendly Health Systems.

### 1 LEVEL 1

JOSE A BARAHONA MD PLLC

EL PASO, TX



### 2 LEVEL 1

MICHAEL H ANNABI MD PA

EL PASO, TX

### 3 LEVEL 1

JOSE VALDIVIA, FNP-C

SUNLAND PARK, NM



### 4 IN PROGRESS

HAZBOUN RAMSEY MD

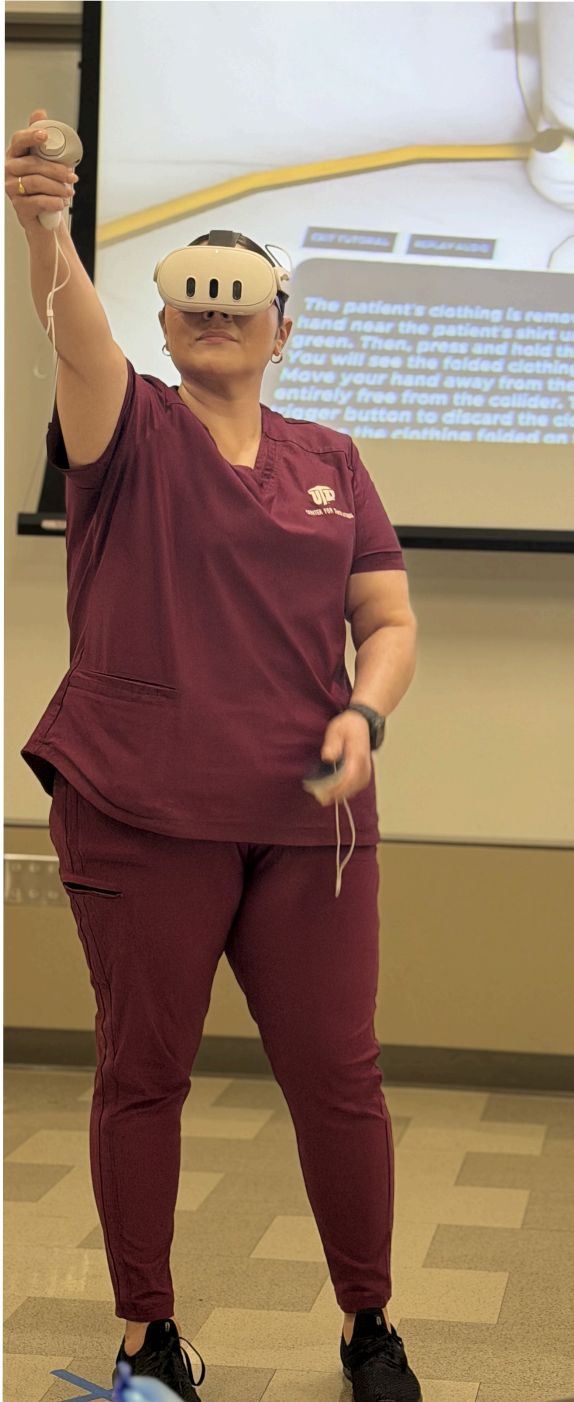
EL PASO, TX



## GWEP IN THE BORDERLAND

# WHAT'S NEXT

## UPCOMING GWEP INITIATIVES



### New Educational Booklets

New educational booklets provide practical, evidence-based resources to support healthy aging, dementia care, and caregiver education.



### Geriatric Simulator

This wearable simulator helps participants experience the challenges of aging firsthand, fostering empathy and understanding for older adults.



### Virtual Simulation (SIMX)

In partnership with the UTEP Simulation Lab, GWEP is integrating SIMX virtual reality technology to strengthen clinical assessment, decision-making, and dementia care skills through immersive case-based learning experiences.



# UTEP GERIATRIC WORKFORCE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM IN THE BORDERLAND

Connect  
*with*  
us!

## Additional Resources:



## Social Media:



Instagram



Facebook



LinkedIn

[gwep@utep.edu/\(915\)747-7213](mailto:gwep@utep.edu/(915)747-7213)

We sincerely thank Brenda Moreno for her outstanding contributions as a research assistant. Her unwavering dedication, insightful input, and meticulous work were essential to the development and success of this newsletter.