



Employee recognition: Celebrating the people who make UTSW exceptional

June 8, 2026

To the UT Southwestern Community:

As we begin this year's **Employee Recognition Program** (June 8-19), we celebrate colleagues whose commitment, professionalism, and service move our institution forward.

Whether caring for patients, advancing scientific discovery, educating future health professionals, or supporting the essential operations that advance our mission, your efforts shape the culture of excellence that defines UT Southwestern.

I would especially like to congratulate 185 staff and faculty who have reached a significant milestone in their years of service at UT Southwestern: 108 employees will be inducted into our **Quarter Century Club** for 25 years of service within the UT System, and 77 current members of the Club are being celebrated for 30-, 35-, 40-, 45-, and 50-year work anniversaries.

I am pleased to announce that **Shawna Nesbitt, M.D., M.S.**, Vice President and Chief Institutional Opportunity Officer and Professor of Internal Medicine, will serve as the keynote speaker for this year's milestone recognition event. Having recently marked 25 years at UT Southwestern herself, Dr. Nesbitt will share her personal perspective on our institution's growth and the people whose dedication has helped shape our culture and success over decades of service.

Among other highlights of this year's Employee Recognition Program, I would like to make special note of the [UTSW Pinnacle Awards](#) on Wednesday, June 17, at 4 p.m., which I will have the privilege of hosting. I encourage each of you to attend as we recognize staff members whose impact on learners and trainees, patients and families, and each other strengthens the sense of community that helps us do our best work.

I also want to thank the members of our **Employee Advisory Council** who will be making [stops across campus and our regional locations](#) over the coming weeks, handing out branded items, connecting with colleagues, and celebrating shared accomplishments. In doing so, they exemplify the spirit of gratitude and togetherness that this program represents.

On behalf of our entire leadership team, thank you for the energy, expertise, and compassion you bring to UT Southwestern every day. Together, you help make UTSW an exceptional place to work and learn.

Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.
President
UT Southwestern Medical Center