



# NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

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## TORCH Announces 2013 TLMI Healthcare Fellows

**AUSTIN, Texas, September 6, 2012** – During the 2012 TORCH Leadership & Management Institute Conference & Retreat, TORCH will recognize the Inaugural Class of 2012-2013 TLMI Healthcare Fellows. This Fellowship Award will give these leaders the tools, education, resources, mentoring and experience necessary to return to their hospitals and communities with new ideas for positive change and heightened success. Three individuals, **Tonya Price** of Gainesville, **Paul Aslin** of Decatur and **William Kiefer** of Bonham, will receive the TLMI Healthcare Fellowship.

- Tonya Price is Chief Nursing Officer at North Texas Medical Center in Gainesville,



Texas. “Tonya is a natural leader as well as a strong advocate for the nursing profession,” say Randy Bacus, FACHE, Chief Executive Officer at North Texas Medical Center. In her role as Chief Nursing Officer, she manages the hospital’s regulatory standards for the Texas Board of Nursing and the Texas Department of Health and Human Services. With the future of healthcare constantly changing, this fellowship will allow Ms. Price to be better prepared for the challenges related to staffing concerns as well as financial challenges that most rural hospitals face.

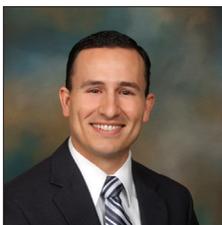
- Paul Aslin is the COO of Clinical Care Associates at Wise Regional Health Systems in



Decatur, Texas. “Aslin is recognized for his dedication and strong work ethic while interning at Wise Regional Health Systems, say Stephen Summers, FACHE, CPA, Chief Executive Officer.” He has recently taken a lead role for Wise Regional in planning of the 1115 Waiver Program.” The Fellowship presents a wonderful opportunity for Paul and Wise Regional will benefit from his participation as a Fellow by his enhanced knowledge and development of his

leadership skills.

- William Kiefer, Chief Nursing Officer of Red River Regional Hospital in Bonham, comes



from an environment where he had to work as a child in the family business. At an early age, he was placed in charge of adults because he was an “owner” and as such learned not only to communicate expectations, but also monitor results. David Conejo, Chief Executive Officer, says, “We came to an agreement about his employment because it is his [William’s] ambition to become the senior executive in a healthcare organization. He articulated his goal of directing

the resources toward the end of helping others, whether they are patients, family, associates or employees. Having developed five other individuals to be hospital CEOs, I welcomed the opportunity to work with this promising young man.”

# **TORCH, Add One**

Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals (TORCH) is the voice and principal advocate for rural and community hospitals in Texas. We provide leadership in addressing the special needs and issues of these hospitals. We take aim at the struggle rural hospitals have to survive with the rigors of increasing costs, decreasing reimbursements, the added challenges of bringing new information technology into the rural landscape, dealing with a growing number of retirees and uninsured residents and functioning under a national health care system that many agree is broken. TORCH also takes a place on the national stage, serving both as a model of rural hospital organization and an effective voice in our nation's capital for rural health care here and elsewhere. For more information, call 512.873.0045 or visit the web site at [www.torchnet.org](http://www.torchnet.org).

## **About the TLMI Healthcare Fellowship Program**

TORCH and the TORCH Foundation maintain a fundamental commitment to rural healthcare and recognize the need for strong leaders who can articulate a clear and compelling vision for rural hospitals. With this steadfast priority in mind, we have developed a special healthcare fellowship opportunity through the TLMI program for working Texas rural healthcare early careerists and professionals. This opportunity is a year-long commitment that enhances skill sets and assists participants with their journey towards professional achievement.

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