

## Students can tap into blood drive for credit

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Tejano Tribune

In partnership with El Paso Community College, the United Blood Services (UBS) will continue the 2012-2013 blood drive at the five EPCC campuses for this summer.

Starting at Rio Grande on June 3 and 4 and the Northwest campus on June 5, the United Blood Services hosted the first blood drives for the summer session that will continue on each campus throughout the month.

Students, faculty and staff are urged to donate in order to surpass record of 2,328 donations from the 2011-2012 academic year and continuing being the region's No. 1 blood donor.

Blood Donor from Northwest Campus Natasha Hicks said she feels rewarded by donating blood. "[Donating Blood] is good because it helps others when they need it."

Eligible blood donors must be from the ages of 16 and up.

According the Ameri-

can Red Cross website, to ensure the safety of blood donation for both donors and recipients, all volunteer blood donors must be evaluated to determine their eligibility to give blood.

Before performing the donation, a sample of the donor's blood will be tested for anemia, hepatitis, syphilis, HIV (AIDS), HTLV, and other blood borne infections.

The potential donors will also be asked about their health and behavior to determine eligibility.

The eligibility criteria includes, weight/height, tattoos and piercings, traveling history outside the U.S., recent surgeries, medications, drug use, immunization records, birth control and allergies.

Any information that may disqualify a patient from donating is evaluated individually by the UBS Staff and is strictly confidential.

Donors can learn their cholesterol level, and will also receive free food and a donor card with their blood type which can be

useful in case of an emergency.

An ID is required. 16 year old donors must bring parent permission.

For those receiving extra credit in some classes for their participation, the United Blood Services will provide forms to the students to indicate whether or not the student was able to donate blood.

Some professors provide extra credit even if the student was not able to donate but attempted to participate in the blood drive.

The Blood Drive will continue at Mission del Paso June 10 -11 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the UBS Blood Mobile, at Valle Verde June 11-12 from 9:00 am to 3:00 at the cafeteria annex and at the Transmountain campus June 19-20 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Foyer outside the Forum Theatre.

A UBS representative may be able to visit a class to answer questions about the blood donation. To book the visit please call ext. 2893.



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Blood Services assistant, Ray Ramon, completes a donation at the Rio Grande blood drive.