



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Photo Included

NEW CLASSROOMS FOR VOCATIONAL NURSING PROGRAM
IN ACUÑA, MEXICO, OPEN WITH GRANT SUPPORT FROM
KNORR-BREMSE GLOBAL CARE NORTH AMERICA

*\$167,270 in Funding Is Foundation's Second Round of Support for
Technical Nursing Program Educating High School Students*

AVON, Ohio – Dec. 6, 2023 – On October 30, a celebration took place at CBTIS 54 in Acuña, Mexico, as the local vocational high school opened two new classrooms in support of its technical nursing education program. The school, Centro de Bachillerato Tecnológico Industrial y de Servicios No. 54, launched the federally funded Nursing Vocational Technical Education Program in 2021 in response to a local shortage of medical professionals and a need for affordable educational options for high school students in Acuña.

Joining in the ribbon-cutting was leadership from Knorr-Bremse Global Care North America (KBGCNA) – an independent organization operating as the North American arm of a global nonprofit organization, Knorr-Bremse Global Care – and the Bendix Foundation, directed by Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC (Bendix). KBGCNA contributed \$167,270 in grant funding for the construction of two additional classrooms and nearby bathrooms. The school and local government contributed additional funds to furnish the classrooms and a computer lab.

KBGCNA's funding represents its second round of support for the nursing program: In 2021, it teamed up with the Bendix Foundation in an award of \$80,000 for equipment and

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supplies, such as patient simulators and other resources to enable hands-on, practical instruction.

Knorr-Bremse is the global market leader for braking systems and a leading supplier of other safety-critical rail and commercial vehicle systems. It's also the parent company of Avon, Ohio-based Bendix, which manages its own foundation in Mexico and is a significant employer in Acuña, where it has operated a major manufacturing complex for 35 years.

"It's impossible not to be excited about the impact that the technical nursing education program is already having for local students and the greater community, and we're pleased to continue in our support of it," said Maria Gutierrez, president of KBGCNA and senior director of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) at Bendix. "Helping to fund the program fits into KBGCNA's larger mission to contribute to the education and well-being of underserved populations in the surrounding communities of Knorr-Bremse's North American companies. This much-needed education program at the public CBTIS is more affordable for – and more accessible to – local students, and it has the ability to be life-changing for generations to come."

Program Designed for Opportunity

Renovating CBTIS 54 to accommodate the nursing program is a four-year, \$544,000 project requiring infrastructure modifications to the school's existing facilities and acquisitions of furniture, equipment, and supplies. It began in 2021 with the construction of two classrooms and the renovation of two laboratories to house the program. The two new classroom additions that opened in October are part of a later phase of the project, along with the addition of a computer room and one more laboratory.

The new technical nursing education program at CBTIS 54 marks the first time that the vocational high school has offered coursework or a degreed technical program in a medical field. Enrollment began in August 2021 with the first class of 160 students. Two new classes numbering 160 students each have begun since then. The CBTIS 54 director is Martha Julieta Rodriguez Garcia.

"The program is three years, and the curriculum includes both standard coursework and vocational training in five specific modules, plus clinical practices for each module," Rodriguez explained. "The five modules cover the care of both adult and pediatric patients, with training in preventive medical care as well as low- to medium-complexity medical care administered in hospitals, emergency rooms, and clinics. Students also receive specific training on caring for women of reproductive age, children, and the elderly."

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Patricia Flores, Plant 3 manager at Bendix in Acuña, is the KBGCNA project champion for the effort. She notes that a majority of the program’s students reside in Acuña. Some also live across the border in nearby Del Rio, Texas, and some students have dual citizenship.

“The program has been very successful and popular among local students,” Flores said. “It provides academic options on par with those offered by private high schools, which charge much higher tuition than CBTIS 54, a public school. Graduates of the program can expect to have multiple opportunities – these nursing professionals will be welcomed in Acuña or wherever else they choose to practice.”

PHOTO AND CAPTION



File name: *KBGCNA_AcunaNursing*

Caption: Students helped celebrate the opening of two new classrooms in support of the technical nursing education program at Centro de Bachillerato Tecnológico Industrial y de Servicios No. 54 (CBTIS 54), a public vocational high school in Acuña, Mexico. Knorr-Bremse Global Care North America (KBGCNA), a philanthropic entity operated by Munich, Germany-based Knorr-Bremse, contributed \$167,270 in grant funding for the construction of the classrooms and nearby bathrooms. Knorr-Bremse is the parent company of Avon, Ohio-based Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC, which has operated a major manufacturing complex in Acuña for 35 years.

Credit: Knorr-Bremse Global Care North America

About Knorr-Bremse Global Care North America

Knorr-Bremse Global Care North America Inc. (KBGCNA) is an independent organization operating as the North American arm of a global nonprofit organization – Knorr-Bremse Global Care. With an aim to address local social challenges more effectively, KBGCNA investments are centered in the surrounding communities of Knorr-Bremse’s three largest North American companies: Avon, Ohio-based Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC; Westminster, Maryland-based Knorr Brake Company; and Watertown, New York-based New York Air Brake LLC. Funding activities

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are championed and supported by the employees of each of the three local companies. Follow us on LinkedIn at [linkedin.com/company/knorr-bremse-global-care-north-america-inc](https://www.linkedin.com/company/knorr-bremse-global-care-north-america-inc).

About Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC

Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems, a member of Knorr-Bremse, develops and supplies leading-edge active safety technologies, energy management solutions, and air brake charging and control systems and components under the Bendix® brand name for medium- and heavy-duty trucks, tractors, trailers, buses, and other commercial vehicles throughout North America. An industry pioneer, employing more than 4,400 people, Bendix – and its wholly owned subsidiary, R.H. Sheppard Co., Inc. – is driven to deliver the best solutions for improved vehicle safety, performance, and overall operating cost. Contact us at 1-800-AIR-BRAKE (1-800-247-2725) or visit [bendix.com](https://www.bendix.com). Stay connected and informed through Bendix expert podcasts, blog posts, videos, and other resources at [knowledge-dock.com](https://www.knowledge-dock.com). Follow Bendix on X, formerly known as Twitter, at twitter.com/Bendix_CVS. Log on and learn from the Bendix experts at [brake-school.com](https://www.brake-school.com). And to learn more about career opportunities at Bendix, visit [bendix.com/careers](https://www.bendix.com/careers).

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