

The University of Texas at El Paso
Fall 2010 Convocation Remarks
September 14, 2010

First, let me thank our Student Ambassadors, student volunteers and representatives of the university staff for serving as ushers, and the UTEP Music Department's Drum Line, for their welcome as we entered the building. I'd also like to thank Martha Faeldog and Carmen Esparza for providing our interpretation today.

Welcome to all of you who have joined us for this very special Fall Convocation! UTEP has just completed another truly stellar year, and there is exciting progress across the campus to report on and celebrate today. We'll certainly be doing some of that, but we're going to depart from my usual "State of the University" presentation on the past year's accomplishments to focus instead on the next several years, as we begin the count-down to the commemoration of UTEP's Centennial in 2014 and the launch of the public phase of UTEP's fundraising campaign, which we've named *At the Forefront: The Centennial Campaign for UTEP*. We are fast approaching a major milestone in UTEP's distinguished history, and we are delighted that all of you have joined us in launching our centennial commemoration today.

We're deeply honored to have with us some very special guests, including representatives of The University of Texas System and friends and supporters from the El Paso community, all of them our deeply committed and active partners in achieving UTEP's vision to become the first national research university with a 21st century student demographic. Many of them are members of the stage party, whom I'm pleased to present at this time. I'll ask them to stand as they're introduced and I'll ask you to hold your applause until all of them have been introduced.

- The University of Texas System Board of Regents Chairman, Colleen Mchugh
- The University of Texas System Board of Regents Vice Chairman, Paul Foster
- El Paso Business Leader and former University of Texas System Regent, Woody Hunt
- The University of Texas System Chancellor, Dr. Francisco Cigarroa
- UTEP Centennial Campaign Leadership Council Chair, Russ Vandenburg
- UTEP Development Board Chair, Tripper Goodman
- Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Howard Daudistel
- Vice President for Business Affairs, Cynthia Vizcaino Villa
- Vice President for Information Resources and Planning, Steve Riter
- Vice President for Research, Roberto Osegueda
- Athletic Director, Bob Stull
- President of the Faculty Senate, Carl Lieb
- Chair of the Graduate Council, Lawrence Ellzey
- Dean of the College of Business Administration, Robert Nachtmann
- Dean of the College of Education, Josefina Tinajero
- Dean of the College of Engineering, Richard Schoephoerster
- Acting Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Pat Witherspoon

- Dean of the College of Health Sciences, Kathleen Curtis
- Dean of the School of Nursing, Elias Provencio-Vasquez
- Dean of the College of Science, Anny Morrobel-Sosa
- Dean of the University College, Dennis Soden
- Acting Dean of the Graduate School, Benjamin Flores
- Associate Vice President and Dean of Students, Gary Edens
- Director of Human Resource Services, Andrew Peña
- UTEP Student Government Association President, Diana Gloria
- Chair of the Staff Council, Jorge Cardenas

Thanks to all of you for all that you do for UTEP.

At this time, I'd like to introduce other special guests whom we're delighted welcome to today's events . . .

From The University of Texas System, we welcome several individuals who have been key advocates for UTEP's success as the first national research university with a 21st century student demographic –

- Dr. David Prior, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
- Dr. Randa Safady, Vice Chancellor for External Relations,
- Ms. Francie Frederick, General Counsel to the Board of Regents, and
- Mr. Anthony de Bruyn, Director and Chief Public Affairs officer.

- We are also *very* pleased to welcome from the community:
 - The Honorable Marisa Marquez, Representative of District 77,
 - The Honorable Joe Moody, Representative of District 78,
 - Newly appointed U.S. Consul General in Ciudad Juárez, Dean J. Haas,
 - President of El Paso Community College, Dr. Richard Rhodes

As I believe most of you know, UTEP will celebrate its 100th birthday in 2014, an occasion to commemorate our distinguished history of service to this region, energize our current positive trajectory, and create a platform for our very bright future. To plan for and organize the commemoration of this major milestone, we invited 100 talented and dedicated individuals—UTEP alumni, friends and stakeholders in our community and on this campus—to serve as members of the UTEP 2014 Commission. We are deeply grateful that El Paso business leader and Vice Chairman of the UT System Board of Regents Paul Foster has agreed to serve as Honorary Chair of the UTEP 2014 Commission, and that UTEP alumni Ed Escudero and Laura Tate Goldman will serve as Commission Co-Chairs. Please stand and accept our thanks for this major commitment to UTEP.

Other members of the Commission are listed on page 11 of the Convocation program. Many of them honor us with their presence today, and I'd like to ask them all to stand at this time.

Thanks to all of you—in advance!—for the wonderful work that we know you will do to engage UTEP’s extended family and this entire Paso del Norte region in increasing awareness of the rich realities of UTEP’s past, present and future, and making UTEP’s 100th anniversary a memorable, meaningful and enjoyable celebration for us all.

Now, although I haven’t done extensive research on the topic, I suspect that there’s not a university anywhere that has celebrated its 100th birthday without conducting a fundraising campaign in conjunction with it. UTEP is pleased to be a part of that proud tradition...and today, we confidently inaugurate the public phase of UTEP’s fundraising campaign, which we call *At the Forefront: The Centennial Campaign for UTEP*.

The announcement of the public phase of a major university fundraising campaign typically occurs at a gala event of some kind, and such a gala dinner was initially proposed for our Centennial Campaign launch. Given the current economic climate, however, we decided that good stewardship of UTEP’s resources called for a more modest approach to launching our Campaign, and this Fall Convocation seemed to offer us the ideal—and far more inclusive!—occasion. We hope that all of you will agree that this is an energizing way to begin the new academic year on the UTEP campus.

Nearly 100 years ago, in 1914, a community of 49,000 El Pasoans who —despite a World War in Europe and a revolution next door in Mexico—were determined to create a bright future for their hometown. So, they asked The University of Texas System Board of Regents to establish a mining school here in El Paso. The Regents responded by challenging them to raise \$50,000 —a very large sum at that time—to purchase or construct a building to house the school. Undaunted, these determined El Pasoans raised \$50,000 within a few months, and on April 28, 1914 the Regents established the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy, now The University of Texas at El Paso.

Today, nearly 100 years later and in the midst of a global economic downturn, this same and now much larger community, together with UTEP alumni and friends across the world, and students, faculty and staff on the campus, has during the past three years of quiet comprehensive fundraising, already successfully raised a total of \$100 million to build academic, research and student support endowments, to expand campus infrastructure, and to enhance academic and athletic program excellence across the campus. Today, given our fundraising progress to date and our momentum toward becoming the first national research university with a 21st century student demographic, we confidently and proudly announce that by the end of UTEP’s 100th anniversary celebration in 2014, we will reach a Centennial Campaign goal of \$200 million.
Go Miners!

On occasions like today, when we envision UTEP’s exciting future, we always take time to remind ourselves of the foundation of strong traditions and dedicated individuals upon which our current progress rests. Today, we continue a Fall Convocation tradition by recognizing the service of UTEP faculty and staff who are celebrating their special anniversaries this year. All of us at UTEP know that working on a university campus is a very special privilege, and we know too that all of us, whatever our jobs may be,

participate in creating a campus climate that fosters the success of the students who come to us with their dreams and aspirations. When our students succeed, we all share in the joy of their success, knowing that their success means that UTEP is succeeding too. We thank all our faculty and staff for everything you do for UTEP and our students. Human Resources Director Andrew Peña will now present the service awards.

REMARKS/SERVICE AWARDS - ANDREW PEÑA

Thank you, Dr. Natalicio. Good afternoon and welcome to this grand celebration as we honor our faculty and staff for their years of service to the UTEP community. This afternoon we will be presenting service awards to faculty and staff who have served the university from 5 to 45 years.

The total number of years of service represented by the 283 employees listed in the program is 3,795.

At this time I would like to ask all of the 5-year service award recipients to please stand and be recognized.

Thank you for the contribution you have made to UTEP, and to our students.

And now, I'll ask all the ten-year service award recipients to please stand for recognition of their service.

Thank you for your steady and loyal service, and for the contribution you have made to UTEP, and to our students.

We will now continue our program by presenting the recipients of the 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45-year service awards. Please hold your applause until all the recipients have been called. Thank you.

This concludes the recognition portion of our program. Please join me in thanking Yvonne Carranza and Irma Lopez for serving as our readers today.

REMARKS, PART I - DR. NATALICIO

Thank you all again for your many contributions to UTEP, and most of all, to the students we serve.

Outstanding faculty are at the heart of all great universities, and one of UTEP's highest priorities has been the recruitment, development and retention of top-quality faculty whose excellence in both research and teaching serves as a powerful inspiration to our students. There are many such outstanding teachers at UTEP, who set high standards and expectations, and stand ready to support their students' efforts to achieve them. They are role models, mentors and motivators; they validate and enhance talent and

build confidence. They are faculty who fully understand the importance of UTEP's commitment to both access and excellence.

One such faculty member is DR. LAWRENCE MURR, who holds the Mr. and Mrs. MacIntosh Murchison Chair in Engineering, and chairs the Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering. Dr. Murr was recognized by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation this past year as one of only 15 faculty members across Texas nominated by their universities for their superior teaching. We congratulate Dr. Murr on this well deserved recognition of his excellence as a teacher and mentor to generations of UTEP students. Dr. Murr, please stand. Thank you for all you do.

During the past couple of years, The University of Texas System Board of Regents has underscored its commitment to teaching excellence at its nine academic institutions by establishing the Regents' Outstanding Teaching awards, which honor extraordinary performance and innovation in the undergraduate classroom, and carry with them very *substantial* cash prizes. This year—and last—NINE of the 72 recipients of this prestigious faculty award were UTEP Miners! We are very proud of these representatives of UTEP's many highly innovative and dedicated teachers, and I'm delighted to introduce them to you now. I'll ask them to stand as I call their names and ask that all of you hold your applause until I've introduced all of them.

- Dr. Diane Doser, Professor of Geological Sciences
- Dr. Kristine Garza, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences
- Dr. Kristin Gosselink, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences
- Ms. Robin Grambling, Senior Lecturer In Marketing and Management
- Dr. Stella Quiñones, Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Dr. Reynaldo Reyes, Associate Professor of Teacher Education
- Dr. Mourat Tchoshanov, Professor of Teacher Education
- Ms. Nancy Torres, Lecturer in Kinesiology
- Dr. Robert Webking, Professor of Political Science

Outstanding faculty members like these ensure the quality of UTEP's academic and research programs and the enhancement of our students' educational experiences. Thanks to the generosity of our many friends and supporters, 35 UTEP faculty members currently have the honor of appointments to endowed chairs and professorships that honor their teaching and research excellence. Their names are listed on pages 14-16 of your Convocation program. Many of these outstanding endowed faculty are with us today, and I'd like them to stand so we can recognize them at this time.

It should come as no surprise that increasing the number of endowed faculty positions in colleges across the campus is a priority for UTEP's Centennial Campaign. UTEP's future development and national reputation will require that we secure additional support to recruit highly competitive new faculty members, and foster the success of those who are already part of the UTEP family. These faculty scholars have already led growth in UTEP's annual research expenditures from \$5 million in 1990 to \$60 million

last year....that's real progress! They also serve as outstanding mentors to both graduate and undergraduate students at UTEP. A number of our faculty scholars and researchers are with us this afternoon, and I'd like them to stand so we can express our thanks to them.

Thank you for all you do to help UTEP achieve our national research university goal.

Faculty members who have been at UTEP for more than 20 years know that this institution has undergone a complete transformation during that time. Two decades ago, we found ourselves at a major decision point in our institutional development. We could have either continued to try to pursue the profile of universities in more affluent settings, or we could follow a far less traveled route, creating our own model of a 21st century research university built on a fundamental commitment to creating access for the majority first-generation, Hispanic students who come to us with their talents, dreams and aspirations. We opted to commit to achieving both access and excellence.

Although this was clearly not the easier pathway, our decision to develop UTEP's own research university model has brought us to the eve of our 100th birthday as the only doctoral-research university in the U.S. with a majority Mexican-American student population, and one of the nation's top producers of Hispanic engineers, scientists, educators, artists, and health, business and communications professionals. Exciting validation of our success is UTEP's recent ranking by Hispanic Business magazine as the #1 graduate program for Hispanics in the entire United States.

The choice that we made twenty years ago was based on our firm conviction that the students UTEP serves have every right to expect the same quality educational experiences as those offered to their peers in more affluent settings. And so, the research university model we've developed is designed for and with them, not in spite of them.

By taking calculated risks and daring to be different, and successfully challenging the traditional assumption that there must be a trade-off between access and excellence in higher education, UTEP is now serving as a model for many other universities in the U.S. and across the globe.

And as we have successfully built excellence in research and graduate education at UTEP, we have also been able to leverage those assets to achieve our goal of providing enhanced educational experiences to our undergraduate student population, most of whom come from this region, grew up speaking Spanish at home, and are the first in their families to enroll in higher education. We have not only found a way to achieve both access and excellence goals at UTEP; we've figured out how to leverage the synergies between them.

Today, we are standing at another critical crossroads in our history. UTEP is boldly seeking to take its place in the national research university arena so that our students, our alumni, and the Paso del Norte region can take their place in the 21st century global

context. With highly successful execution of our innovative strategic plan over the past 20 years, and the significant capacity-building investments in UTEP by The University of Texas System, the Texas Legislature and our generous donors, we are well positioned to join the top tier of higher education institutions.

Like all grand visions, UTEP's ambitious national research university goal, and the future social and economic development of this Paso del Norte region that will accompany it, cannot be accomplished as a solo performance by UTEP working alone. It will require the collaboration and full support of all UTEP alumni and friends and everyone else for whom the economic development and quality of life of this Paso del Norte region is a priority. Many of those friends and supporters are in attendance at this Convocation today, and we thank all of you for the confidence and trust that you have placed in us.

Today, we'd like to recognize one of those very special friends and supporters. But first, let me say a few words about the award itself. During the past year, as part of our preparation for the Centennial celebration in 2014, we worked to create a new award – a UTEP President's Medal – to represent the highest honor to be bestowed on those UTEP friends and supporters whose achievements, contributions, and services have had a powerful impact on this university and its mission. Today, we are pleased and proud to make the first presentation of this new UTEP President's Medal to our wise advisor and generous supporter, Mr. WOODY HUNT.

Woody Hunt is a visionary, a voracious consumer of research data, and an extraordinarily generous contributor of his time, expertise and financial resources to UTEP and to many other institutions in this region, across Texas and beyond. To all you students in the audience today who may believe that your homework will end once you complete your degrees, let me say that I know no one who does more homework than Woody Hunt!

Woody Hunt is also a true thought leader who works hard to understand the challenges and opportunities of this Paso del Norte region and the global context in which we will have to compete in the 21st century, and he translates that understanding into an action agenda in which large numbers of us across the community are pleased to participate.

Higher education has been of particular interest to Woody Hunt because he understands the key role that it must play in this region's and Texas' future competitiveness. He has served as a member and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors of The University of Texas Investment Management Company (UTIMC), Chairman of the Texas Select Commission on Higher Education and Global Competitiveness, among many others, and nationally, member of the board of the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE).

At UTEP, Woody's deep understanding of and commitment to higher education are also at work in his service on our Development Board and Centennial Campaign Leadership Council. And his highly strategic philanthropy is evident in the Hunt Family

Foundation's sustained support of the economic modeling work in UTEP's College of Business and economic impact and development research in our Institute for Policy and Economic Development.

The Hunt Family Foundation's recent and extraordinarily generous pledge of \$5 million to UTEP's Centennial Campaign provides for the continuing development of graduate programs and research in the College of Business Administration and establishes at UTEP the new interdisciplinary Hunt Institute for Global Competiveness, to continue building our capacity to serve as a catalyst for the human and economic development and quality of life of this region.

Finally, on a more personal level, I want to acknowledge Woody Hunt for serving as a trusted sounding board for both my brightest ideas and my deepest worries. Always thoughtful, Woody has been a valuable resource to me and to UTEP because of the breadth and depth of his perspectives—extending from this Paso del Norte region across the globe, and drawn from his broad range of interests, insatiable thirst for knowledge, remarkable memory and extraordinary capacity to integrate information. A university president simply cannot have a higher-fidelity sounding board than that!

For Woody Hunt's dedication to purpose in service to his state and its higher education institutions, to his community and to this university, and in gratitude for his immense and lasting contributions to UTEP's development over the past 20 years, I am deeply honored to present the first University of Texas at El Paso President's Medal to WOODY HUNT.

It is now my great honor and privilege to welcome to the podium another very special UTEP friend and supporter, an individual who understands and has embraced UTEP's vision, Dr. Francisco Cigarroa, Chancellor of the University of Texas System... and my boss!

Chancellor Cigarroa oversees one of the largest public systems of higher education in the U.S., with an operating budget of \$11.9 billion, more than 202,000 students and 84,000 employees at nine universities and six health institutions. A native of Laredo, Dr. Cigarroa is a renowned pediatric and transplant surgeon who previously served as president of the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio. Dr. Cigarroa has been a frequent visitor to UTEP since becoming our Chancellor, and we are truly grateful to him for his extraordinary commitment to this University and the future human and economic development of this U.S.-Mexico border region.

Chancellor Cigarroa, thank you again for being with us today.

REMARKS - CHANCELLOR CIGARROA

Thank you, Dr. Natalicio, and thank you, UTEP Miners, for the warm welcome. Congratulations on this very special UTEP Convocation Day!

Being here today with the UTEP community is a *distinct* privilege. I hope you all know just how unique and exciting the UTEP model for 21st century higher education has become. UTEP is clearly an institution that understands and lives its mission. And all of you here today can be proud and energized to be a part of this wonderful story.

UTEP recently submitted to the UT System a Strategic Plan for Research which was highly innovative and exciting. Daring to be different, UTEP envisions a new model for a research university, one that includes a strong commitment to undergraduate student access. I congratulate all of you on this campus for the leadership that you are providing at this unique and challenging moment in our history to chart a new course for Texas and U.S. higher education. UTEP and El Paso are clearly “at the forefront”! With the active participation and philanthropic generosity of its alumni and friends in the El Paso community and beyond, UTEP has positioned itself extremely well to serve as a model 21st century research university.

Teaching and learning certainly is at the core of this and all great universities, and we’ve already heard today about the large number of highly dedicated teachers on this UTEP campus. Most outstanding teachers are also accomplished researchers, and it’s that combination that will ensure that UTEP achieves its goal of becoming a national research university with a 21st century student demographic.

The Centennial Campaign creates a wonderful opportunity for UTEP to increase the number of endowed faculty chairs and professorships. Such endowments will enable UTEP to recruit and retain the most highly qualified faculty members, who will not only conduct competitive and externally funded research but will teach and mentor undergraduate students and engage them in the innovative learning opportunities provided by their leading-edge research.

UTEP alumni and friends in this community have already demonstrated their commitment to help build UTEP’s capacity to attract outstanding faculty members through the creation of 56 endowed chairs and professorships, and we look forward to creating more during UTEP’s Centennial Campaign. As a publicly funded university, UTEP is truly fortunate to be part of such a hopeful, determined, and engaged community – and that community is fortunate to claim UTEP as its own.

Congratulations, UTEP! You are *AT THE FOREFRONT!*

Finally, let me take a moment to congratulate and express special appreciation to President Diana Natalicio! Her extraordinary, unmatched tenure of service to UTEP has been one of vision and strong leadership, and all of us are grateful to her for her sustained dedication to the mission of The University of Texas at El Paso.

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD OF REGENTS VICE-CHAIR AND UTEP 2014 COMMISSION HONORARY CHAIR PAUL FOSTER - DR. NATALICIO

Thank you, Chancellor Cigarroa, for your inspiration and abiding support.

It's now my great pleasure to welcome to the podium, Vice Chairman of The University of Texas System Board of Regents, exemplary El Pasoan and UTEP friend and supporter, Paul Foster.

Most El Pasoans are well aware of Paul Foster's many significant contributions to this community and its quality of life. His strategic investments in downtown El Paso and in other major projects in this region have invigorated and motivated us all. What many El Pasoans may not know, however, is the extent to which he also shapes El Paso's future through the important work that he does in Austin.

Paul Foster was appointed to the Board of Regents in 2007, after serving three years as a member of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. We are grateful to Regent Foster for accepting appointments to these statewide higher education boards because their deliberations and actions have such a direct impact on this university and the students we serve. These are known to be demanding and time-consuming assignments for those who reside in or near Austin, and they are obviously even more so for El Pasoans who must travel to Austin to participate.

We are also very grateful to Paul Foster and his wife Alejandra for their generous support of UTEP, from launching the sparkling new Foster-Stevens Basketball Center to their generous \$1 million contribution last year to our Centennial Campaign, which enabled us to secure \$750,000 in additional state matching funds to support an endowed chair and graduate fellowships in UTEP's College of Business Administration.

El Paso and UTEP are indeed fortunate that Paul Foster has become a part of this community and a member of the UTEP family. On behalf of all of the young people in El Paso whose futures will be brighter because of Paul's commitment, I express our thanks!

Paul –

REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF BOARD OF REGENTS CHAIRMAN COLLEEN McHUGH - PAUL FOSTER

Thank you, Dr. Natalicio.

And thank you, Chancellor Cigarroa, Chairman McHugh, and all of you who have come today to celebrate this landmark day!

And to Woody Hunt – Congratulations! We came here to celebrate, and I'm delighted to be able to share this special day with you. No one could be more deserving of the very first UTEP President's Medal than Woody. His dedication to improving our quality of life in the Paso del Norte region by raising educational attainment at all levels is a source of inspiration to all of us.

I am truly pleased to serve as the Honorary Chairman of the UTEP 2014 Commission. UTEP has successfully built capacity to help lead this bi-national and bi-cultural region to the forefront of globally competitive excellence in the 21st century, and in the process, it can draw on a nearly 100-year partnership with this region's stakeholders. This sustained set of university-community relationships will make the celebration of UTEP's Centennial especially interesting and meaningful to all of us.

As others have noted, UTEP's current trajectory leads directly toward becoming the first national research university with a 21st century student demographic. One of the keys to achieving that goal is an expanding research agenda. And UTEP's externally funded research has certainly expanded over the past 20 years, from about \$5 million in annual research expenditures in 1990, to more than \$60 million this year. That's very significant progress!

It's important for all of us in this community to recognize that research by highly qualified faculty at a well funded and strategically positioned national research university offers huge potential for economic impact on the surrounding region, and the Paso del Norte region has much to gain from UTEP's development. The commercialization of researchers' inventions spurs new business development and jobs, and research in economics and public policy benefits smart, competitive development and quality of life that keeps many highly skilled graduates in the community. Your support of UTEP's continued efforts to build capacity will be absolutely critical to its – and this region's – future development.

Today's celebration is honored by the participation of the Chairman of the University of Texas System Board of Regents, COLLEEN McHUGH.

Ms. McHugh is a graduate of Southern Methodist University and St. Mary's University School of Law. As Chairman of our Board of Regents, she presides over a governing body responsible for guiding a System of nine academic universities, including UTEP, and six health institutions. The Board of Regents also oversees the System's management of the Permanent University Fund, other endowments, lands, and assets, and collaborates with the System staff and the 15 institutions on planning, policies and programs.

It is my honor to invite to the podium The University of Texas System Board of Regents' Chairman, Colleen McHugh.

REMARKS - REGENTS CHAIRMAN McHUGH

Thank you, Vice Chairman Foster.

It is an enormous honor to be in the presence of such positive energy, on such a momentous day of celebration. What a great welcome I've had here at UTEP, and what a wonderful future you have before you!

I would like to join in congratulating Woody Hunt on the singular honor that UTEP has bestowed on him today with your new Presidential Medal. All of us who have served with him on The University of Texas System Board of Regents know how deserving he is of this recognition. His commitment and hard work on behalf of UTEP and all of Texas higher education have set a high bar for all of us, and I am delighted to have this opportunity today to join in celebrating the many contributions he's made to UTEP, the UT System and the State of Texas. Thank you, Woody, for all you have done, and surely will continue to do, to ensure that higher education plays a key role in Texas 21st century competitiveness. Congratulations!

I am also delighted to echo the congratulations that Chancellor Cigarroa has extended to all of you on today's public launch of *At the Forefront*: The Centennial Campaign for UTEP. I and my fellow Regents congratulate UTEP on your forthcoming Centennial commemoration and applaud your bold fundraising goal of \$200 million, half of which you have already achieved. That's wonderful news, particularly when you think about the enormous benefits that its success will offer the young people who bring their hopes and dreams to this campus. The University of Texas at El Paso is setting an impressive pace in building capacity to achieve both access and excellence and serving as a model to other institutions on how it can be done! Congratulations to ALL of you!

And special thanks to UTEP's many alumni, friends and supporters who understand the importance of investing in this institution and the opportunities that it will create in serving as a catalyst for economic development. You understand that building UTEP's research capacity will not only result in increased competitive grant funding and scientific breakthroughs but also the potential to stimulate and diversify the economy of this region of our state.

Endowing research initiatives and centers, funding endowments to recruit and retain top-tier faculty talent, and supporting the growth in the number and size of graduate fellowships to compete for the most talented doctoral students will enable UTEP to continue its remarkable progress toward becoming a national research university. Competition for talent will be one of the great challenges of the global economy of the 21st century, and UTEP and other UT System universities will have to continue to identify strategies to attract the best and brightest of doctoral students and the faculty who will teach and mentor them.

At UTEP, success in securing additional doctoral student support is even more critical because you are working so hard to encourage first-generation Hispanic students who complete their degrees at UTEP or elsewhere across the country to consider pursuing advanced—especially doctoral—degrees. These talented young people will help us build a future society, including a university professoriate which fully reflects its demographic diversity.

As part of your Centennial Campaign, a number of new endowments were created by generous supporters during the past year to establish research institutes, faculty chairs, and graduate fellowships for doctoral students. Such major philanthropic gifts – those

that build UTEP's research and doctoral education capacity – have recently been matched up to 100% with state funds through legislation that designated UTEP as one of the seven “emerging Tier One universities” in Texas. And many of UTEP's supporters leveraged those state matching funds. Congratulations! Your gifts – purposed strategically for the programs, fellowships or other endowments you have elected to support – will have a far greater impact as a result. We hope too that the Texas Legislature will recognize the power of this kind of leverage in stimulating philanthropy to support research at the emerging Tier One universities and continue to provide these matching funds after the current biennium.

UTEP is definitely on the move! There are many indications of the extent of UTEP's extraordinary success in its quest for excellence. Some are obvious: looking around this beautiful campus, and the many major construction projects in progress, you can't help but recognize UTEP's dynamic trajectory. But I think you all know that continued progress will require sustained effort, not only on the campus, but across this region.

I know that all of you recognize UTEP as the exceptional regional resource that it is, and that you will fully support its Centennial Campaign. Investments in UTEP now will ensure a prosperous future for today's children and grandchildren of this Paso del Norte community—some of whom I see here today!—and for many generations to come!

This is such an exciting time in El Paso! I look forward to celebrating UTEP's Centennial events with you as 2014 approaches. And I look especially forward to seeing how far this community surpasses the \$200 million goal of *At the Forefront: The Centennial Campaign for UTEP!*

INTRODUCTION OF RUSS VANDENBURG - DR. NATALICIO

Thank you again Chairman McHugh for being with us today.

It will come as no surprise to anyone that the highly successful quiet phase of UTEP's Centennial Campaign was a team effort, and that's good news for me, especially after hearing both the Chancellor and Chairman encourage us to surpass our \$200 million Campaign goal!

The leader of our team has been Russ Vandenburg, proud UTEP alumnus, El Paso business leader and good friend. In addition to dedicating huge amounts of his time and good will to the Leadership Council, Russ set high expectations for participation when, together with his wife Marty, he made his own \$3 million commitment to our Centennial Campaign.

I am honored to present to you the Chair of the Leadership Council, Russ Vandenburg.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL, DEVELOPMENT BOARD, MORE DETAILS ON CAMPAIGN - RUSS VANDENBURG

Thank you, Dr. Natalicio.

If it hadn't been for the opportunity this university provided to me as a student athlete, my life would have surely been very different. I almost certainly would not be in this auditorium, about to tell each and every resident of the Paso del Norte region how they can become important partners in enhancing our shared future.

Each of us can join this partnership by supporting the institution that has been and will continue to be the region's single most powerful catalyst for economic development, social advancement and enhanced quality of life. That institution is UTEP, and UTEP is *At the Forefront*.

Dr. Natalicio mentioned that *At the Forefront*: The Centennial Campaign for UTEP is a comprehensive campaign. This means we are engaged in soliciting support for three broad areas identified as most critical to the university's goal to build Tier One level excellence, while also ensuring access to our traditionally under-served student population.

In broadest terms, UTEP's mission will be best served by

- Building our endowment
- Expanding programmatic support, and
- Enhancing campus facilities.

You've already seen some of the outcomes of our efforts – just look around you at UTEP, at such beautiful facilities as the Larry K. Durham and Foster-Stevens Centers, both funded entirely by generous donors.

But perhaps most important is recognizing that investments in all three of these areas – endowment, programs and facilities – can be leveraged to achieve excellence across the campus: to secure external research funding, to recruit outstanding faculty and graduate students, to attract El Paso's most talented high school graduates, to innovate and commercialize work done in our research laboratories, and to contribute to the region's economic development.

A broad range of opportunities for your participation will be brought to the community's attention as the public phase of the Campaign gathers momentum. For now, though, I want to communicate that the range of opportunities to support UTEP is huge. There's something that will appeal to every single partner in UTEP's future, however substantial or modest your capacity to give.

- A gift or bequest of general financial support helps build UTEP's capacity to make strategic investments when opportunities arise – offering flexibility to support all of the funding targets that will take us to the top.

- If you have a specific academic, scientific, or social interest, you can endow research or doctoral programs in that field.
- Sports fans can give on all levels, either to Athletics or to a specific sport. If you love softball, tell Bob Stull that your gift is for Softball. And don't forget to buy tickets!
- If your interest is in encouraging UTEP students to prepare for law school or for medical, dental or veterinary professions, you can support the special institutes at UTEP which do exactly that.
- Those with a passion for the arts and humanities can donate to the Music Department, the Oral History Institute, the Rubin Center for the Visual Arts, the Creative Writing Program, the Dinner Theatre, the Library, the Centennial Museum, or other programs in the College of Liberal Arts....And you can support them further by participating in their many events and activities.

The list is endless. But however you decide to participate, it's important to know that every gift is significant, and the way you target yours will enhance its significance to you, to the university, and to the community.

So as Chair of the Campaign Leadership Council, I ask UTEP alumni everywhere, and my neighbors and friends in the Paso del Norte region, to be both generous and strategic in your philanthropy: give generously to UTEP based upon your understanding of the university's potential to play a major role in U.S. higher education and research in the 21st century and in the future of this region. UTEP is El Paso's university—YOUR university – and its future success is in your hands too.

As Dr. Natalicio points out, this is absolutely a team effort. It has been my privilege to serve on both the Leadership Council and the Development Board. These UTEP alumni and community members give generously of their time and their expertise to help UTEP secure the funding required to achieve its—and this region's—ambitious vision.

The Centennial Campaign Leadership Council works to ensure effective communication and publicity for *At the Forefront: The Centennial Campaign for UTEP*, and assists the university in soliciting gifts. The members of the Council are listed in the printed program on page 13. I ask them to stand now, and be recognized – and please remain standing while I introduce your colleagues on the Development Board...

Members of the UTEP Development Board work closely with President Diana Natalicio to increase private support for UTEP, and to provide advice concerning overall development priorities and strategies. The Board's active participation in the Centennial Campaign has been and will continue to be highly important to its success. The chair of the Development Board is TRIPPER GOODMAN.

The Development Board members' names appear on page 13 of the program. Please stand to allow us to thank you for all you do.

Thank you, each and every one of you, for your work, ideas, participation, and for the resources you generously share with the university and this community.

Just for a moment, try to imagine this community without UTEP. And this might have been the case if those 49,000 El Pasoans had not pooled their \$50,000 to establish Texas State College of Mines and Metallurgy in 1914.

Now, just imagine the benefits to this region, to the community, to the economic future we'll all share, and to each individual student who will have access to a world-class education because today's El Pasoans got on board and secured the necessary funding. I don't have to imagine the last of those: remember, I *am* that student who can trace his success back this community's early generosity, and the support of succeeding generations.

At the Forefront: The Centennial Campaign for UTEP is not just a game-changer – it's a *world* changer! The tremendous success we've had in the first, quiet phase of the campaign is the foundation for a success that we'll all share, a success we'll celebrate with the community not only until 2014, but in this community for many generations to come! With your participation and support *all* of these dreams are possible!

REMARKS, PART 2 - DR. NATALICIO

Thanks again to Regents McHugh and Foster, Chancellor Cigarroa and Russ Vandenburg for being with us today, and especially for your expressions of support for UTEP, our forthcoming Centennial commemoration, and the fundraising campaign that will accompany it. UTEP is fortunate indeed to have such strong and abiding support of The University of Texas System, the Board of Regents and our alumni, friends and stakeholders in the Paso del Norte region and beyond.

You may have noticed that when UTEP talks about aspirations of becoming a national research—or a Tier One—university, we consistently add the phrase: “with a 21st century student demographic.” We do that because our students are at the heart of our goal of achieving national research university competitiveness. As I said earlier, we are doing this for and with them, not in spite of them. This is an opportunity that they deserve, and they and we should expect nothing less.

Students are at the heart of UTEP's Centennial commemoration too, for they are the primary reason that all of us are here. UTEP's history is the story of generations of students, from this region and beyond, who have brought their talents, energies and motivations to this campus and entrusted us with the opportunity to participate in shaping their lives and helping them identify pathways to achieve their dreams. What a privilege that is!

Students are at the heart of UTEP's Centennial fundraising campaign as well. The students who are enrolled at UTEP today and those who will follow in your footsteps will be the primary beneficiaries of our success in attaining—or surpassing—our \$200 million Campaign goal. For all the students who joined us here today, and the record 22,106 students enrolled at UTEP this year whom you represent, this Campaign is all about you!

- This Campaign is about funding graduate fellowships to enable us to create opportunities for talented students to go beyond their bachelor's degrees to pursue master's and doctoral degrees. Opportunities for doctoral study have grown enormously at UTEP since 1990 when we offered only one doctoral degree program in Geology, with 27 students enrolled. Today, 600 UTEP students are enrolled in 18 doctoral programs in all colleges across the campus, with four other degree programs awaiting authorization by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in Austin. That's progress! Will the UTEP graduate students and graduate fellowship recipients who are with us this afternoon please stand?
- This Campaign is also about funding undergraduate scholarships to recruit this region's most talented high school graduates. Did you know that more than 60% of the high school seniors in this region who rank in the Top Ten Percent of their graduating classes, and who attend public universities in Texas, now choose to enroll at UTEP? I invite all of the undergraduate scholarship recipients who are here today to please stand.
- This Campaign is about funding scholarships for transfer students from the El Paso Community College and, especially those students who accelerate completion of their Associate's degrees while earning their high school diplomas, by enrolling in dual credit programs at Early College High Schools. 106 of the 114 members of the May 2010 graduating class of Mission Early College High School, the first in El Paso County, are already enrolled at UTEP, and I invite them to stand.

Now remain standing if you are one of the MECHS students who completed your junior year at UTEP last year, while completing your senior year of high school, and are now already UTEP seniors. These talented and highly motivated young people expect to earn their bachelor's degrees next year—only one year after receiving their high school diplomas! That's acceleration! Congratulations!

- This Campaign is also about funding undergraduate students' success in completing their degrees. The number of bachelor's degrees awarded by UTEP has grown by 71% between 2003 and 2009, while enrollment has increased by 13%. Students' access to improved academic advising, more transparent and more tightly structured degree plans, and strategic financial advice and support

at critical points along the way toward their degrees, has clearly had a huge and very positive impact on their success.

- This Campaign is about funding enriched educational experiences for UTEP students to participate in regional and national professional meetings and competitions, internships and study abroad opportunities, such as the creative partnership that UTEP has developed with Victoria University in Melbourne, Australia. Five UTEP students are spending this semester in Melbourne studying and working at VU, and five VU students are spending their semester studying and working with us at UTEP. I believe some of them are here today...If so, I invite you to stand at this time.
- This Campaign is also about funding opportunities to expand and strengthen UTEP's ties to the Kingdom of Bhutan, which date from the Bhutanese architecture of our very first building, Old Main, in 1917. A UTEP student, Xochitl Rodriguez, has spent the past year working in Bhutan on a children's art project, and a number of UTEP Geology faculty and students have been conducting their research there. This year, there are 15 Bhutanese students enrolled at UTEP, most of them in graduate programs, and I'd like those who are with us today to stand. Tashi Delek! Welcome to all of you!

Thank you to all of the UTEP students who have joined us at Convocation today. We are very proud of you.

Later this week, we will dedicate the outdoor sculpture that is at the center of UTEP's new roundabout. Titled "Mining Minds" by its creator Michael Clapper, this beautiful giant pickaxe reflects our distinguished history as the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy, and it evokes our bright future through the binary code that appears on it, translating the final lines from my 2008 Convocation remarks. Those lines seem a particularly fitting way to close this Convocation today and officially launch UTEP's Centennial celebration and fundraising campaign.

I invite RUSS VANDENBURG to join me as we share those words with you:

Believe in yourself and in your dreams.
Believe in UTEP and its aspirations.
Share the dream!
Go Miners!