



2014 University Partners Convocation

President Diana Natalicio

September 30, 2014

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
2014 UNIVERSITY PARTNERS CONVOCATION
MAGOFFIN AUDITORIUM
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2014
5:00 P.M.

Good afternoon everyone ... *Buenas Tardes*. On behalf of the faculty and staff of The University of Texas at El Paso, I am delighted to welcome you to UTEP's University Partners Convocation. *¡Bienvenidos a todos!*

First, let me thank our representatives of the University staff and our UTEP Student Ambassadors for serving as ushers.

It's my pleasure to recognize now the members of the platform party; please hold your applause until I have introduced all of them.

- Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Junius Gonzales
- Senior Executive Vice President, Howard Daudistel
- Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs, Roberto Osegueda
- Vice President for Student Affairs, Gary Edens
- Vice President for Information Resources and Planning, Steve Riter
- Vice President for Business Affairs, Cynthia Vizcaíno Villa
- Dean of Business Administration, Robert Nachtmann
- Dean of Education, Cyndi Giorgis
- Dean of Engineering, Richard Schoephoerster
- Dean of Health Sciences, Kathleen Curtis
- Dean of Liberal Arts, Patricia Witherspoon
- Assistant Dean for Graduate Nursing Education, Leslie Robbins
- Dean of Science, Robert Kirken
- Dean of the Graduate School, Charles Ambler
- President of the Faculty Senate, Marc Cox
- Chair of the Graduate Council, Jack Chessa
- Secretary of the Staff Council, Eileen Aguilar
- President-Elect of the UTEP Alumni Association, John Aranda
- and President of the Student Government Association, Roberto Dominguez

My special thanks to the members of the stage party. You all play key roles in the UTEP success story, and we're very happy to have you with us on this special occasion.

At this time, I'd like to recognize the two remaining members of our platform party, who deserve special recognition today: Ed Escudero and Laura Tate Goldman, the Co-Chairs of UTEP's 2014 Commission.

This year – UTEP’s 100th Anniversary – offered the 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 envision, plan and organize the celebration of this major milestone, we invited 100 alumni, friends, community supporters and members of our campus team to serve on the UTEP 2014 Commission. We are deeply grateful to Ed Escudero and Laura Tate Goldman, both proud UTEP alumni, for their generous and enthusiastic commitment of time and talent over the past four years to lead this massive undertaking, working diligently with all the Commission members to design a celebration worthy of UTEP’s distinguished history and exciting future. Our thanks to you both for your energy, leadership, creativity and hard work that have succeeded in making this year’s 100th Anniversary commemoration truly the celebration of a century.

UTEP’s Fall Convocation is traditionally a time to present an overview of the past year in an annual State of the University address, but this, our Centennial year, affords us a unique opportunity to explore a different and quite exciting theme. Instead of focusing on what we have accomplished during a single year, we have chosen to pay tribute to a group of individuals and organizations whose collective contributions to UTEP’s development over the past 100 years have played a major role in bringing us to this milestone in our history. We dedicate this special Centennial Convocation to our University Partners because we recognize that UTEP’s success over these 100 years has been everything except a solo performance. Dedicated partners have joined with us, generously contributing their time, talent, wisdom, networks, advocacy and financial resources that have helped UTEP become one of the most relevant and exciting universities in the United States today.

All of you have helped us create and augment opportunities for thousands of talented students, dedicated teachers, innovative researchers, and committed support staff. You have worked with us to break down barriers and through ceilings that limited access and opportunities. You have been our partners in cultural enrichment, economic development and enhanced quality of life for the people of this historically underserved U.S.-Mexico border region. Your informed perspectives, unique assets and commitments, and your individual and combined actions have aided us in developing and expanding the capacity of this University to fulfill our mission with intentionality, energy and vision.

From our humble beginnings in 1914 as a small mining school serving 27 students, UTEP has become a vibrant, nationally recognized and internationally relevant public research university. As the only doctoral research university in the United States that serves a predominantly Mexican-American student population, UTEP has become a model for universities across this country, as they seek to meet the needs of a rapidly changing 21st century student demographic.

We believe that UTEP has a responsibility to provide all talented and motivated students who entrust us with their dreams and aspirations — regardless of their background or socioeconomic status — the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

We also strongly believe that our students have every right to expect excellence in their educational experiences, and we are determined to do all we can to ensure that when they complete their degrees, UTEP graduates are fully prepared to compete with their peers in more affluent settings. And UTEP's graduates are indeed eagerly recruited by graduate and professional schools and employers who value their talent, their strong academic preparation, their work ethic and their bilingual and bicultural skills – assets that are in increasing demand, both within the United States and internationally.

UTEP's impact on the two and a half million residents of this binational metropolitan area is quite powerful too. It's measured in transformed lives, and enhanced prosperity and quality of life in this region, and it's attracting attention and validation from well beyond. For the second consecutive year, UTEP was very proud to be ranked among the Top 10 research universities in the U.S. by *Washington Monthly* magazine for our strong impact on the students we serve, our research competitiveness and doctoral degrees awarded, and our success in encouraging students to serve their communities and our nation. And for the third straight year, *Washington Monthly* ranked UTEP #1 among all U.S. colleges and universities in promoting student social mobility – enabling students from the most modest backgrounds to set and attain the highest educational and life aspirations.

As you might expect, we are very proud of this national recognition of the success of our access and excellence mission, but we are also deeply humbled in acknowledging that we could not have fulfilled it without the support of countless partners — including all of you here today. The goal of this Convocation is to ensure that you know how grateful we are for the many ways in which you have enabled us to become the UTEP that we are today and the disruptive force we increasingly represent in U.S. higher education.

We want you to know that your collective efforts have transformed the lives of tens of thousands of UTEP Miners – a third of whom report a family income of \$20,000 or less per year and, a majority of whom are first in their families to attend and graduate from college. Your contributions of time, talent and financial resources have resulted in broadened horizons, the formation and attainment of higher aspirations, cultivated minds, and improved life-chances for future generations. They have helped support UTEP's success in creating a more just higher education climate, where women and people of color are offered opportunities to compete on a level playing field. They have resulted in a better world in which our researchers and their students generate new solutions to a wide array of challenging issues, because you have helped to equip and empower them.

Our Centennial Celebration would not have been complete without this opportunity to express to each of you our deepest gratitude for your significant investments in us. Your commitments to UTEP's success have not only spanned our 100 years; they have been instrumental in shaping the path we've traveled, from regional mining school to nationally recognized research university, and they have touched all facets of our mission.

So, where and when did all the excitement we celebrate today actually begin?

In the Spring of 1913, in response to proposals from El Paso civic leaders to fortify the regional mining industry with professional education and training, the Texas Legislature authorized the establishment of a mining school in El Paso, with the proviso that El Pasoans raise sufficient funds to acquire appropriate facilities. Nothing changes! That same year, 80 civic leaders, in partnership with the El Paso Chamber of Commerce, acted with resolve to raise the daunting sum of \$50,000 (\$1.2 million today) to purchase the buildings for what would become Texas' State School of Mines and Metallurgy. Their staunch commitment to a vision for the mining industry-driven future of this region was all the more remarkable when recalling that at that same time, those civic leaders were witnessing Mexican revolutionary battles underway just across the river in Ciudad Juárez. Now, that's focus!

When The University of Texas Board of Regents accepted the community's \$50,000 commitment and formally established the State School of Mines in April 1914, it was the expectation of the enduring engagement of the El Paso community that assured the Regents that higher education would continue to be deeply valued as an engine of regional growth and prosperity. And happily for UTEP, El Pasoans' interest and support has been steadfast.

We will always honor the trailblazing efforts of the Chamber of Commerce and the original investors in our mining school origins, and the support of the individuals and organizations in our region that have joined our journey along the way, enabling UTEP to make more and faster progress than would ever have been possible working alone.

But we are also deeply indebted to our many partners from well beyond the surrounding region, for they have offered us extraordinary opportunities to accelerate our academic and research program development and greatly enhance the success of the access and excellence dimensions of our mission.

As we invite you, our distinguished partners, to come forward to be recognized, it is with appreciation for your traveling with us as fellow custodians of our core values, as believers in the talent in this region and in UTEP's capacity to foster its development over the past 100 years.

For the purpose of our program today, we have clustered the contributions of UTEP's partners whom we'll honor by placing them into nine categories of significant and lasting impact, recognizing all the while that many of you — perhaps most of you — have made contributions in several or even all of these areas. If you'd like to follow along, the sequence of these categories is presented on page 4 of the printed program.

And, before proceeding, I'd like to offer just a couple of other wayfinding aids for those of you in the audience who may not be veteran members of the UTEP family. First, UTEP has undergone several name changes over the past 100 years, which are described in the brief history presented on page 2 of your program. We began in 1914

as the State School of Mines and Metallurgy; in 1919, we were re-named the College of Mines and Metallurgy of The University of Texas; in 1949, we became Texas Western College; and in 1967, one year after winning the NCAA men's basketball championship—the only Texas university ever to do that, by the way!!—we changed our name in a baffling marketing move to The University of Texas at El Paso.

Second, I'd like to say just a few words about the actual limited edition gift that will be presented to each honoree today, a photograph of which is presented on the back inside cover of your program. It features an image of the beautiful "Mining Minds" sculpture created by artist Michael Clapper, which stands proudly at the western entrance to the UTEP campus. If you look very closely, you might notice that there are tiny lights at the top and bottom tips of the pickaxe. Those lights are actually shining through perforations of 1's and 0's of a binary-coded message on the steel sculpture. Those 1's and 0's removed from the sculpture to create the perforations now appear below the pickaxe image to commemorate UTEP's Centennial. Special thanks to Liz Thurmond for creating this beautiful keepsake. Let's begin now by recognizing our Pioneering Partners.

Pioneering Partners

The establishment of the School of Mines and Metallurgy in El Paso was a direct result of the vision and energetic support of several key partners. First and foremost were the civic leaders who had high aspirations for this little community on the U.S. border with Mexico, and understood the important role that education had to play in achieving their goals. These early investors committed not only their financial resources but their hopes and dreams and their boundless energy to promote a thriving El Paso economy based in large measure on the mining industry of the surrounding region. And that industry, especially the American Smelting and Refining Company (ASARCO) offered support as well. Other early players in the UTEP story were Ft. Bliss, which became the school's first neighbor when the three buildings purchased for the school's original site were located adjacent to the military base, and the El Paso Junior College with which the School of Mines merged in 1927, thereby greatly broadening the curricular options available to young people in this region, who may not have aspired to be mining engineers.

We launch our recognitions today with presentations to these pioneering partners.

The **American Smelting and Refining Company (ASARCO)**, for creating, through a growing presence in El Paso, a demand for mining industry professionals, which led to the establishment of the State School of Mines and Metallurgy in 1914 and to jobs that supported the education of generations of UTEP students.

Representing **ASARCO** is Former El Paso Plant Manager John Shaw. [Not Present]

Fort Bliss, for its close relationship with UTEP over the past 100 years, starting with our Fort Bliss area campus in 1914 and extending to a broad range of more recent collaborations such as the research conducted at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Inland Desalination Plant, the UTEP Army ROTC program, and the recently established Military Student Success Center that serves the growing number of military-affiliated students currently enrolled at UTEP.

Representing **Fort Bliss** is Garrison Commander Colonel Tom Munsey.

The **Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce** and the original 80 investors, for their trailblazing leadership in UTEP's founding in 1914 as the State School of Mines and Metallurgy, and the Chamber's continued collaborations with UTEP to support our shared vision for and vigorous commitment to the community we both serve.

Representing the **Chamber** and the 80 original investors are Chamber President Richard Dayoub and the Chairman of the Chamber's Board of Directors and proud UTEP alumnus Jody Mullings.

Cultural Enrichment

Moving now to Cultural Enrichment. UTEP's partners in cultural enrichment have helped make El Paso a center for some of the world's finest music, literature, art, architecture, dance, film and theater. Our world-class partners have brought the international arts community to our door, and skillfully woven colors and sounds, harmonies and rhythms, grand facades and gleaming mosaics into the mindscapes and landscapes of our lives. Our desert community is in constant bloom with the appreciation and respect accorded the place of the arts. We are very proud of UTEP's Bhutan-on-the-Border architecture and the long-term cultural exchanges with the Kingdom of Bhutan that not only enhance our quality of life but draw people from distant places to experience our beautiful and unique campus. We are equally inspired by the opportunities to participate with the renowned artists and performers who generously share their gifts and talents with our campus community and residents of our Paso del Norte region.

We are pleased and proud to honor today UTEP's partners in cultural enrichment.

The **Kingdom of Bhutan**, for the long and fruitful friendship with UTEP, begun in 1917 with the striking Bhutanese architectural design of our campus buildings, and enhanced for the past 20 years through growing cultural exchanges, including the donation to UTEP of the treasured Bhutanese *Lhakhang* at the center of our campus, the production of Opera Bhutan, and growing Bhutanese student enrollment in a variety of UTEP undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

Representing the **Kingdom of Bhutan** today is proud UTEP alumnus and lecturer in Geological Sciences, Tobgay Tobgay.

El Paso Opera, in recognition of its many contributions to the development of vocal music talent in the Paso del Norte region and, especially, the establishment of the Young Artists Program and the creation of opportunities for UTEP students to perform in opera productions.

Representing **El Paso Opera** are Director David Grabarkewitz and Board President Robert A. González [Not Present].

El Paso Pro-Musica, recognizing more than three decades of offering artistic excellence to our region and providing exciting opportunities for UTEP students, faculty and alumni to interact with, learn from, and be inspired by world-class musical artists from across the globe.

Representing **El Paso Pro-Musica** are Executive Director and UTEP alumna Felipa Solis and Board President Teresita Corral.

The **El Paso Symphony Orchestra**, recognizing its longstanding partnership that enhances the professional orchestral performance skills and career development of UTEP students, faculty and alumni, and provides them opportunities to learn, perform and foster relationships with premier visiting and resident musicians.

Representing the **El Paso Symphony Orchestra** are Executive Director and proud UTEP alumna Ruth Ellen Jacobson, Board Chair Kacy Spivak and Music Director Bohuslav Rattay.

KTSM, for establishing in 1942 the campus radio station that subsequently became KTEP-FM, the first public radio station in Texas, and for helping to launch on this campus in 1944 one of the first academic programs in radio at a U.S. university.

Representing **KTSM** is Eric Pearson, President and CEO of the El Paso Community Foundation.

Las Artistas, for decades of building a culture of excellence in UTEP's Art Department via sponsorship of an annual juried art exhibition, scholarships and opportunities for UTEP art students to work with professional artists and mentors.

Representing **Las Artistas** is Board President and UTEP alumna Criselda Lopez.

Stanlee and Gerald Rubin, founders of the billion-dollar personal care products company, Helen of Troy, for representing the best of UTEP alumni through exceptional vision, commitment and generosity to UTEP, enabling the remarkable transformation of a 1927 chemistry assay building, Seamon Hall, into the Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts, as well as the creation of Helen of Troy Field, beautiful home of the UTEP women's softball team.

Stanlee and Gerry Rubin, we take great pleasure in honoring you today.

Posthumous Partner in Cultural Enrichment

We also celebrate today the late El Paso philanthropist **Josephine Clardy Fox** for her devoted support of the fine arts and her impact on UTEP through the generous scholarship support, civic leadership, and treasured art and artifacts that continue to enrich the lives of our students, faculty and staff, and residents of this region.

Partners in Diversity

Moving now to our Partners in Diversity. It's no accident that UTEP's unique binational setting and regional population demographic have often been at the center of high-profile, groundbreaking legislation and social reforms with major national impact. For many citizens of the United States, the realities of the 20th century included racial, ethnic, gender and economic discrimination and educational disparities, but there were courageous individuals and organizations that rose to the task of challenging them. Not only were doors opened on our campus and in this region, but the opportunity narrative for many people in our nation has been changed because of the courage and determination of UTEP's partners in diversity who stood up for social and economic justice. Despite often tough resistance, they prevailed in shaping a more inclusive society and in creating a context that has helped UTEP align its public university mission authentically with the population we are here to serve. We are proud that today UTEP's demographic profile mirrors that of the region from which we draw more than 80% of our students, which it obviously should if you believe, as we do, that talent crosses all boundaries—gender, ethnic, racial, geographic and socioeconomic. This student population, together with aggressive development of research and graduate programs has enabled UTEP to become the first national research university with a 21st century student demographic.

It is with great pride that we recognize today the many individuals and organizations that have been UTEP's partners in diversity.

Community en Acción, for its efforts to develop a new vision for the role that Hispanic business leaders must play in promoting higher educational aspirations and attainment for all young people in El Paso through civic engagement, advocacy and sponsorship of such initiatives as the Young Achievers Forum.

Representing **Community en Acción** are Chair Terri Garcia and Immediate Past Chair and proud UTEP Alumnus Gilbert Moreno.

The **Housing Authority of the City of El Paso**, for providing affordable housing for generations of financially challenged Texas Western College and UTEP students who have gone on to highly successful careers, and for strongly supporting campus programs that encourage children who reside in public housing to learn about, and raise their aspirations for, the pursuit of higher education.

Representing the **Housing Authority** are Board Chair Joe Fernandez and Director of Public Housing Roman Velasquez.

The **League of United Latin American Citizens** in recognition of many decades of local scholarship support for talented young people in the El Paso community and, nationally, LULAC and MALDEF's legal challenge in the late 1980s to Texas' inequitable investment in graduate education programs — especially at the doctoral level — at universities along the Texas-Mexico border, thereby opening the door to state authorization for expansion of UTEP's doctoral degree programs from only one in 1988 to 20 programs today.

Representing **LULAC** are Ray Mancera- Deputy Director for Young Adults and El Paso Educational Service Center Director Cesar Garcia.

MAES: Latinos in Science and Engineering, for supporting UTEP's efforts to foster degree completion among Latino science and engineering students, and create a national network for UTEP graduates' continuing professional development and success.

Representing **MAES** today are three proud UTEP alumni, National Vice President of Finance Nancy Lowery and Past National Presidents Mike Acosta and Richard Martinez.

MALDEF, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, recognizing its pioneering efforts beginning in the late 1980s to advocate for equitable funding at Texas higher education institutions with large Latino student enrollments, thereby creating an opportunity for UTEP to aggressively grow its doctoral programs and the research competitiveness associated with them.

Representing **MALDEF** is Texas State Senator Jose Rodriguez, MALDEF's 2nd Vice Chair.

Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán, recognizing **MEChA's** sustained advocacy for enhanced educational opportunities for Latino students in the El Paso community, helping foster an inclusive and supportive learning environment at UTEP, and for promoting enhanced awareness and validation of Hispanic culture, including the establishment of UTEP's Chicano Studies Program.

Representing **MEChA** is El Paso Chapter President Rosemary Martinez.

NAACP, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, for its tireless work on behalf of people of color throughout the world and, especially, for its successful legal challenge in 1955 to the Texas law that prevented African American students from enrolling at UTEP (then Texas Western College), the outcome of which

was the extension to African Americans across the state full access to all Texas public universities.

Representing the **NAACP** are El Paso Branch President Harold Howell and 1st Vice President Steven Purchase.

The **Society for Advancement of Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science**, recognizing its shared commitment and collaborative efforts to increase the participation of Hispanics and Native Americans in STEM educational programs, in research, and in the workforce.

Representing **SACNAS** is Board Member and UTEP Professor of Chemistry Luis Echegoyen.

The **Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers**, recognizing the society's sustained and dedicated efforts to promote and provide resources to UTEP's College of Engineering with a goal of increasing the representation of Latinos in STEM education and careers.

Representing the **Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers** is National President and Interim CEO Barry Cordero. [Not Present]

The late **Thelma White**, in recognition of her courageous pursuit of legal action to gain admission to Texas Western College in 1955, which opened the doors of all Texas public universities for the first time to African American students, and led to increased access and equality for all students regardless of race or ethnicity.

Representing **Thelma White** is her son Alex Camack. [Not Present]

The **Thelma White Network**, for honoring the legacy of Thelma White by highlighting and celebrating the contributions of black students, faculty and staff to UTEP's vibrant campus learning environment, and by advocating for issues of importance to UTEP's African-American community and supporting UTEP's African-American Studies Program.

Representing the **Thelma White Network** are Mrs. Rebecca Rhodes and proud UTEP alumnus Donald Williams.

Partners in Student Success/Access

Close allies of UTEP's diversity partners are our Partners in Student Success/Access. 84% of UTEP's 23,000 students come from El Paso County, nearly all of whom were enrolled in and graduated from area public school districts. An estimated two-thirds of the teachers, counselors, principals and other personnel at those schools are themselves graduates of UTEP. This closed educational loop creates many opportunities for collaboration among educators, and the productive investment and

engagement of civic, business and military leaders and the organizations they represent. And engaged they certainly are! El Pasoans' longstanding recognition of the importance of education to this region's future dates from the establishment of the first kindergarten in Texas in 1889 at Alamo School in the El Paso ISD, and has continued through the formation 100 years later of the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence and its national model for vertically integrated PreK-16 educational pathways. Key to this progress have been our many partners in promoting Student Access and Success. From setting high academic expectations and standards, to providing scholarships and other forms of financial support, to offering practical experience through clinical placements and internships, the high-impact leadership of these UTEP partners has brought major changes to the opportunity landscape for residents of this historically undereducated region. Because of the nurturing care, effective mentoring, educational innovations and community engagement that surrounds them, young El Pasoans are increasingly encouraged to believe in their capacity to achieve their biggest dreams and to succeed in their pursuit of excellence. We are delighted today to honor UTEP's partners in student access and success.

ADP, Automatic Data Processing, for considering UTEP's commitment to PreK-16 education a major asset in its decision to locate major operations in El Paso, and for its sustained commitment to enhancing educational quality at all levels across this region by generously supporting advanced STEM teacher preparation.

Representing **ADP** is Client Relations Executive for Small Business Services Mike Espinoza.

Del Sol and **Las Palmas Medical Centers** and the **Hospital Corporation of America**, for providing outstanding clinical training sites for hundreds of UTEP students enrolled in the School of Nursing and College of Health Sciences, including one of the finest clinical simulation teaching laboratories anywhere in the U.S.

Representing **Del Sol**, **Las Palmas** and **HCA** is Del Sol Medical Center CEO and proud UTEP alumnus Jacob Cintrón. [Not Present]

Education Service Center - Region 19, for its steadfast commitment, through the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence, to raising educational aspirations and attainment in El Paso County, across all ethnic, gender and socioeconomic boundaries, and preparing PreK-12 students enrolled in all area school districts for success at UTEP.

Representing **Education Service Center - Region 19** is Executive Director and proud UTEP alumnus Armando Aguirre.

El Paso Community College, for joining UTEP in forming and sustaining for more than two decades what has been consistently recognized as one of the most effective university-community college partnerships in the United States, with a shared goal of increasing higher education access and degree completion across the El Paso region.

Representing the **El Paso Community College** are Board Secretary Selena Solis and Vice President for Information Technology Jenny Girón.

The **El Paso Downtown Lion's Club**, in recognition of its early and sustained commitment to UTEP's access and excellence mission and tireless, enthusiastic support of UTEP's intercollegiate athletics program.

Representing the **El Paso Downtown Lion's Club** is President and UTEP alumnus David Zarazua.

The **El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**, for its commitment to promoting enhanced educational opportunities and increased civic engagement of Hispanic business leadership, in recognition of the importance of diversity in fostering the prosperity and quality of life of the Paso del Norte region.

Representing the **Hispanic Chamber** are Board Chair Liz Carl and Chief Executive Officer Cindy Ramos-Davidson.

The **El Paso Independent School District**, recognizing the district's efforts to enhance the educational preparation of generations of UTEP entering students through a shared commitment to increased educational aspirations and attainment among all talented young people across the Paso del Norte region, spanning ethnic, gender and socioeconomic boundaries.

Representing the **El Paso Independent School District** are Superintendent Juan E. Cabrera and Board of Managers Chair Dee Margo.

Mr. Mike Loya, President of energy giant Vitol Inc., for representing the very best of UTEP's highly successful and supportive alumni, through your continued interest in academic programs in Engineering and Business supported by your very generous gifts to UTEP's Centennial fundraising campaign.

Mike, we thank you so, so much for your commitment to The University of Texas at El Paso and are very proud to honor you today. [Not Present]

The **Rotary Clubs of El Paso**, recognizing their sustained commitment to UTEP students and support of initiatives that increase educational achievement through scholarships, leadership and mentoring programs.

Representing the **Rotary Clubs of El Paso** is Lieutenant Governor for District 5520 and proud UTEP alumnus Jesse Allen.

Sierra Providence Health Network and **Tenet Healthcare Corporation**, in recognition of their commitment to providing scholarship support and clinical training sites for hundreds of students in UTEP's School of Nursing and College of Health Sciences, as

well as their support of productive research collaborations with faculty in the College of Science which positively impact healthcare in this region and well beyond.

Representing **Sierra Providence Health Network** and **Tenet Healthcare** are Sierra Providence Health Network CEO J. Eric Evans and proud UTEP alumna Sally Hurt Deitch, the CEO of Sierra Providence East Medical Center and Market COO of Sierra Providence Health Network.

The **Socorro Independent School District**, in recognition of its partnership with UTEP to streamline the PreK-16 educational pathway through innovative strategies and, especially, its leadership of the development of Early College High Schools in El Paso County, with establishment of Mission Early College High School in 2005.

Representing the **Socorro Independent School District** are Superintendent José Espinoza and Board President and UTEP alumnus Paul Guerra.

Victoria University in Melbourne, Australia, for serving as an exemplary global partner in UTEP's quest to internationalize academic and research programs and broaden students' educational experiences, including the development of an innovative UTEP-VU student work-study exchange program.

Representing **Victoria University** is Mary Carolan-Olah, Professor of Midwifery in the College of Health and Biomedicine.

The **Woman's Auxiliary of The University of Texas at El Paso**, in recognition of its 90 years of serving as a steadfast partner in UTEP's transformation from the College of Mines and Metallurgy to today's 21st century research university, sponsoring scholarships, supporting campus programs from KTEP to athletics, and even helping keep the Texas College of Mines' doors open during the Great Depression.

Representing the **UTEP Woman's Auxiliary** are President Mayre Sue Overstreet and Past President and proud UTEP alumna Susan Elias.

The **Wolslager Foundation**, for generous scholarship contributions over more than a decade that validate and support the aspirations of El Paso Community College transfer students who enroll at UTEP, complete their baccalaureate degrees and impact the human and economic development of the Paso del Norte region.

Representing the **Wolslager Foundation** is Vice President Stephen J. Wolslager.

The **Ysleta Independent School District**, for stepping up early and energetically to join UTEP as a leading school district partner in setting higher expectations for all its students in conjunction with the PreK-16 work of the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence.

Representing the **Ysleta Independent School District** are Superintendent Xavier De La Torre, Former Superintendent Anthony “Tony” Trujillo and Board President and UTEP alumna Patricia Torres Mclean.

The **YWCA El Paso Del Norte Region**, for serving as UTEP’s trusted partner in a number of important initiatives ranging from the highly successful Mother-Daughter program, to financial literacy training, to housing support and, most recently, serving the children of UTEP students, faculty and staff through management of UTEP’s Child Care Center.

Representing the **YWCA Paso del Norte Region** are Chief Executive Officer and proud UTEP alumna Sandra Braham and Board President Rebecca Krasne.

Partners in Research and Capacity Building

Moving to our Partners in Research and Capacity Building, we are immensely proud of the quality of education offered on our campus and of the caliber of work that is performed in UTEP’s teaching, learning and research facilities across all disciplines. From the 27 students who began their studies here in 1914 to the 23,000 enrolled today, UTEP’s story has been one of dramatic progress in broadening educational opportunities for residents of this border region. From a single degree program in mining engineering 100 years ago, UTEP today offers 70 baccalaureate, 75 master’s and 20 doctoral degree programs, across seven colleges and schools. Several of the new graduate programs were developed in partnership with University of Texas System sister institutions whom we are pleased to honor today.

The addition of graduate programs, especially at the doctoral level, significantly raised the ante on faculty recruitment and accelerated the development of UTEP’s capacity to conduct nationally competitive research and, with that, came the need to expand and upgrade our research infrastructure. With the support of The University of Texas System and many of the partners whom we are honoring today, UTEP students, faculty and staff now have access to state-of-the-art equipment and facilities where they are achieving scientific, scholarly and creative breakthroughs, and discoveries of practical and commercial value. What makes UTEP’s research enterprise quite special, however, is our steadfast commitment to creating opportunities for the active participation of undergraduate students in our research enterprise. Many of our partners have embraced the access and excellence goals that are deeply embedded in UTEP’s research agenda, and our success as a public research university owes much to the engagement of corporations, foundations, agencies and institutions that have helped us achieve them. We are proud to recognize on this special occasion UTEP’s partners in capacity-building and research.

The Boeing Company, in recognition of its sustained investment in UTEP’s access and excellence mission, supporting students while they are enrolled, enhancing academic and research programs in Engineering and Business, and enthusiastically employing UTEP graduates.

Representing **The Boeing Company** is El Paso Site Director and proud UTEP alumna Rosaura Corral-Perez.

The **Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas**, El Paso Branch, for collaborating with UTEP in research and community education to foster a greater understanding of the Paso del Norte region's untapped potential to play a leadership role in North American integration and enhanced global competitiveness.

Representing the **Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas**, El Paso Branch are Board Chair Robert E. McKnight, Jr., and Manager of Public Affairs Lupe Edens.

The **Hunt Family Foundation**, for an extraordinary record as an early and strong champion of UTEP's capacity to serve as a valuable resource for research to support economic development, greater prosperity and enhanced quality of life in the Paso del Norte region.

Representing the **Hunt Family Foundation** is Accountant David Otero.

IBM, in recognition of its sustained local, regional and national collaborations with UTEP in research capacity-building and educational outreach efforts to broaden diversity in STEM careers and enhance U.S. global competitiveness, and its longstanding commitment to recruit UTEP graduates.

Representing **IBM** are University Relations Manager Dennis Bly and Director of IBM Innovation Centers and UTEP alumnus Luis Rodriguez.

The **W.K. Kellogg Foundation**, for generous financial support to UTEP to establish the El Paso Institute for Community Health, which sponsored health clinics in partnership with Texas Tech-El Paso and the Lower Valley Task Force to serve poor and vulnerable populations in the Paso del Norte region, and to expand community partnership programs managed by the UTEP Institute for Community-Based Teaching and Learning that led to the establishment of UTEP's Center for Civic Engagement, which has greatly enhanced UTEP students' voluntary service to the El Paso community.

Representing the **W.K. Kellogg Foundation** is President and CEO La June Montgomery Tabron. [Not Present]

Lockheed Martin, for its strategic investments in UTEP's capacity-building and, in recognition of the importance of greater workplace diversity, for providing talented UTEP students with increased opportunities for both internships and full-time employment after completing their degrees.

Representing **Lockheed Martin** are Director of Overhead Control and Financial Management and proud UTEP alumnus David Rapisand and Director of Systems Engineering Andre Trotter.

NASA, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, in recognition of its collaboration with UTEP students and faculty as they explore new frontiers of innovation in aerospace technology, and its generous support of UTEP's goal to increase the number of Hispanics in all disciplines who are prepared to excel in aerospace fields, perhaps best exemplified by proud UTEP graduate and space-walking astronaut, Dr. John D. "Danny" Olivas.

Representing **NASA** are the Director of The University Research Collaboration and Partnership Office at NASA Johnson Space Center, Kamlesh Lulla, and astronaut Danny Olivas.

The **National Institutes of Health**, for the commitment to promote the participation of Hispanics in biomedical sciences nationally and invest in research capacity-building at UTEP, enabling the development of the Border Biomedical Research Center and leveraging its assets into greatly increased national research competitiveness.

Representing the **National Institutes of Health** are NIH Director Francis Collins and Acting Director of the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities Sheila McClure. [Not Present]

The **National Science Foundation**, in recognition of its exceptional and sustained support of UTEP's mission to create additional high-quality opportunities for historically underrepresented residents of the El Paso region to pursue STEM degrees and careers, through investments in both PreK-16 educational collaborations and highly competitive scientific research initiatives.

Representing the **National Science Foundation** is Assistant Director for Education and Human Resources Joan Ferrini-Mundy.

The **Paso Del Norte Health Foundation**, recognizing its many creative collaborative efforts with UTEP to improve the health and quality of life of residents across all sectors of the binational Paso del Norte region, and its strategic investments to support UTEP's leadership of a range of behavioral and mental health research and outreach initiatives.

Representing the **Paso del Norte Health Foundation** are two proud UTEP alumni, Board Chair Robert Ash and President Jon Law.

Phelps Dodge and Freeport-McMoran, in recognition of their commitment, dating back to UTEP's earliest mining school days to provide scholarship support for undergraduate and graduate students as well as, most recently, to support faculty excellence through funding of an endowed chair in Metallurgical Engineering.

Representing **Phelps Dodge and Freeport-McMoRan** are Human Resources Manager and UTEP alumna Rebecca Whitaker, Refinery Manager and UTEP

alumnus Dennis Berger and Quality Assurance Manager and UTEP alumnus Juan Sanchez.

The **Emma H. Schellenger Foundation Trust**, for establishing a major endowment in 1953, leading to the establishment of the Schellenger Foundation in Electricity, later the Schellenger Research Laboratory of Texas Western College, which conducted research across the globe for military and private industry, and helped lay an early foundation for sponsored research on the UTEP campus.

Representing the **Emma H. Schellenger Foundation Trust** is President of JPMorgan Chase-El Paso Bob Snow. [Not Present]

Texas Instruments, for sustained and generous support of research capacity-building at UTEP, including the development of a Nanotechnology Fabrication Center, enabling UTEP's electrical engineering faculty and students to conduct cutting-edge research, and UTEP graduates to prepare for highly successful careers.

Representing **Texas Instruments** is TI Fellow and UTEP alumnus Al Griffin.

The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy, in recognition of its commitment to establish a Cooperative Doctor of Pharmacy degree program at UTEP to increase the number of highly skilled and culturally competent pharmacy doctoral graduates in the Paso del Norte region, thereby alleviating a critical regional shortage of pharmacists and significantly expanding opportunities for careers in the health professions for young people in this region.

Representing the **UT Austin College of Pharmacy** is Associate Dean for Clinical Programs William "Bill" McIntyre.

The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work, for collaborating with UTEP in the 1990s to offer a Master of Science in Social Work program in El Paso, thereby enabling UTEP's baccalaureate graduates to complete their professional preparation without relocating, and laying the foundation for the establishment of UTEP's own Master of Social Work degree program in 2010.

Representing the **UT Austin School of Social Work** is Dean Luis Zayas.

The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, in recognition of our inter-institutional collaboration in 1993 that enabled UTEP to establish Physical and Occupational Therapy programs under UTMB's guidance and accreditation, increase our regional role in preparing healthcare professionals, and greatly expand opportunities in this historically underserved region for health professions careers.

Representing **UTMB** is the Chair of the Department of Physical Therapy Carolyn Utsey.

Partners in Binational Engagement

UTEP is located in the largest bi-national metropolitan area on the U.S.-Mexico border, with the combined population of the El Paso-Ciudad Juárez metroplex exceeding two and a half million residents. Aspirations to capitalize on, and achieve the huge potential of, this unique bicultural and binational setting have always been high, and since our establishment as a mining school 100 years ago, UTEP has been viewed as playing a major role as a unifying force. After all, the mines that fueled the growing industry for which the little mining school was expected to prepare its graduates were located on both sides of the border, and two Mexican nationals were enrolled in the first class of 27 mining engineering students. Since then, El Paso and Cd. Juárez have evolved together into an international center of trade, industry and leading-edge technology, and UTEP has worked to ensure the relevance of its academic programs and research to support these new opportunities. Although the history of working together binationally is often complex and occasionally even difficult, the constant in fostering sustained and successful relations with our neighbors, colleagues and friends across the border has been the shared goal of enhanced prosperity and quality of life through expanded educational opportunities. Today, UTEP's 1,200 Mexican students, a majority of whom commute daily from Cd. Juárez, represent the largest concentration of Mexican students on a U.S. university campus, and approximately 8% of all Mexican nationals enrolled in U.S. higher education. UTEP has been privileged to work with many outstanding academic and research partners in the Paso del Norte region and throughout Mexico, and we are very pleased to be able to recognize today these partners in binational engagement.

El Gobierno del Estado de Chihuahua, for our shared commitment to improve the lives of residents and enhance the economy on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border through a partnership that ensures UTEP's affordability via resident tuition waivers and Chihuahua scholarship support.

Representing el **Gobierno del Estado de Chihuahua** is Governor César Horacio Duarte Jáquez. [Not Present]

Ciudad Juárez, in recognition of its support of UTEP's commitment to strengthen ties between El Paso and Ciudad Juárez, especially through educational programs, cultural exchanges, scholarships and research collaborations.

Representing **Ciudad Juárez** is Mayor Enrique Serrano Escobar.

Mexican Consulate in El Paso, in recognition of its decades of collaboration to support Mexican student enrollment at UTEP, as well as numerous academic and cultural partnerships, including the sponsorship of lectures, musical performances and art exhibitions on the UTEP campus, and the extraordinary Centennial gift to UTEP of the magnificent *Esfera Cuántica Tlahualli* by renowned Mexican sculptor Sebastián.

Representing the **Mexican Consulate** is Deputy Chief of Mission Roberto Caldera.

The **United States Consulate in Ciudad Juárez**, for decades of support of UTEP's large Mexican student population and, most recently, for developing new and creative strategies to strengthen UTEP's outreach efforts to extend educational opportunities to residents of northern Mexico, especially in the state of Chihuahua, in an ever-changing policy and political context.

Representing the **U.S. Consulate in Ciudad Juárez** is Consul General of the United States in Ciudad Juárez Ian Brownlee.

Partners in Local and National Visibility

Moving to our Partners in Local and National Visibility. With our 21st century student demographic, binational location, competitive research, and success as a model of affordability coupled with robust and rigorous academic preparation, UTEP's message of access and excellence is one of the most compelling in today's national higher education narrative. We are grateful to those individuals and organizations that draw attention to and validate our priorities, strategies and their outcomes – our commitment to social mobility and the growing numbers of first-generation UTEP graduates who pursue highly successful professional careers; our commitment to excellence in our groundbreaking research discoveries and our doctoral programs' disproportionate contributions to developing a more diverse professoriate; and our efforts to achieve authenticity in our service to the surrounding region and our nation. Our partners who help amplify our message not only increase UTEP's visibility, but also validate these efforts and enable us to serve as a model for the synergistic power of achieving both access and excellence.

The **1966 NCAA Men's Basketball Championship Team**, for placing UTEP in the national spotlight and changing forever the face of U.S. intercollegiate athletics, by beating all odds to win the NCAA men's basketball championship in 1966 with the first-ever all-African-American starting line-up.

Representing the **'66 Championship Team** are Team Members Togo Railey and Willie Cager; Mrs. Mary Haskins, wife of late Coach Don Haskins; and Mrs. Waltina Hill, wife of late team member Bobby Joe Hill.

Legendary Hollywood producer **Jerry Bruckheimer**, for bringing UTEP to the national stage with the production of *Glory Road* and exposing a new generation of movie-goers to the social significance of the Texas Western Miners' historic win in the 1966 NCAA National Basketball Championship game.

I ask everyone to join me in a warm El Paso welcome for **Jerry Bruckheimer**.
[Not Present]

Former President George W. Bush and Mrs. Laura Bush, for placing UTEP in a statewide and national spotlight as the first Texas Governor to speak at a UTEP Commencement ceremony, nominations of UTEP representatives to key national committees and boards, and the warm welcome extended to UTEP's 1966 Texas Western College NCAA Championship team at the White House; and for the visibility and validation generated by Mrs. Laura Bush's frequent visits to El Paso and deep interest in children's literacy, literature and the culture and arts of this region.

President and Mrs. Bush, we are delighted to express our thanks to you today for helping celebrate and elevate UTEP's legacy and impact on the national narrative. [Not Present]

Excelencia in Education, for a shared commitment to accelerate progress in increasing Latino student success in U.S. higher education and for shining a national spotlight on UTEP's efforts to contribute significantly to this critical national imperative.

Representing **Excelencia in Education** are President Sarita Brown; COO and Vice President for Policy Deborah Santiago; and Board Chair Vasti Torres. [Not Present]

H&H Car Wash and Coffee Shop, for its sustained devotion to UTEP in the décor of its premises, its promotion of UTEP in its television advertising, and its enthusiastic and high-decibel support for UTEP Athletics.

Representing **H&H Car Wash** is co-owner Maynard Haddad.

The **Heritage Commission**, in recognition of its longstanding commitment to diligently maintain and showcase the history of the University through the acquisition and archiving of a growing collection of UTEP memorabilia.

Representing the **Heritage Commission** are Chair Briane K. Carter and Past Chair and proud UTEP alumnus Willie Quinn.

Hispanicbusiness Inc., for reinforcing the importance of post-graduate educational attainment for the fastest growing segment of the 21st century U.S. demographic by recognizing those universities that are best serving Hispanic students with graduate programs in such areas as business and engineering.

Representing **HispanicBusiness** is Editor and Publisher Jesus Chavarria. [Not Present]

The **National Action Council For Minorities In Engineering**, for its more than three decades of scholarship and programmatic support to enable hundreds of underrepresented minority students to earn engineering degrees at UTEP, and for promoting the national visibility of UTEP's major contribution to diversifying the engineering profession nationally.

Representing **NACME** is President and CEO Irving Presley McPhail.

The **Smithsonian Institution**, for encouraging UTEP's participation in the 2008 Folklife Festival at which Bhutan was the featured country, and which led to UTEP's designation as the final destination of the *Lhakhang* that was erected on the National Mall during the Festival and donated by the people of Bhutan to the people of the United States.

Representing the **Smithsonian** are Secretary Wayne Clough and Director of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival Michael Mason. [Not Present]

The **UTEP Alumni Association**, in recognition of its abiding commitment since 1923 to building UTEP Miner pride and generously supporting UTEP's growing excellence by endowing scholarships, promoting alumni achievement awards and recognitions, supporting UTEP Athletics, and sponsoring and participating in Homecoming and many other UTEP events and activities.

Representing the **UTEP Alumni Association** are President-Elect John Aranda and Past President Russell Autry.

Washington Monthly Magazine, for understanding the misleading messages delivered by widely publicized traditional U.S. college rankings that are based on such prestige factors as endowment size, and boldly challenging the status quo by devising a new set of criteria for ranking universities based on measures of student and societal impact.

Representing **Washington Monthly** are Publisher Diane Straus Tucker and Editor-In-Chief Paul Glastris. [Not Present]

Partners in Infrastructure Development

Now to our Partners in Infrastructure Development. Over the past 100 years, this University has evolved from a small cluster of structures near Fort Bliss, to the first four Bhutanese style buildings constructed in 1917 on the current site, which has evolved into a magnificent and vibrant 21st century campus spanning more than 400 acres and filled with generations of new—but always strikingly Bhutanese!—buildings. Future generations of Miners will inherit a campus where much recent attention has been paid not only to the utility, efficiency and beauty of our Bhutanese buildings, but to surrounding outdoor spaces and the connections among them. We have achieved a major goal of eliminating vehicular traffic from the center of the campus, and are now attempting to restore its original terrain, including indigenous plants and natural drainages to foster water conservation. Even the critically important but unseen original utility infrastructure has undergone major upgrades to ensure a stronger foundation for UTEP's second 100 years. And at the center of this development, we are creating a Centennial Plaza which will serve as a permanent legacy of this 100th anniversary celebration. UTEP's campus development has been accomplished over the past 100

years not only with the support of The University of Texas System and the Texas Legislature, but many other partners whom we are pleased to honor today.

City of El Paso, in recognition of the countless cooperative ventures undertaken over the past 100 years to support UTEP's continued development as a major asset in enhancing this community's economic development, prosperity and quality of life.

Representing the **City of El Paso** is Mayor Oscar Leeser and City Manager Tommy Gonzalez.

Mr. Larry K. Durham, CEO of LKD Management and a proud UTEP alumnus, for not only understanding the critical importance of upgrading UTEP's athletic facilities, but following through by launching funding for the 65,000-square-foot Larry K. Durham Sports Center, which serves as a huge enhancement to the Sun Bowl Stadium and an outstanding training facility for UTEP's student athletes.

Larry, we thank you for all that you have done—and continue to do—for UTEP.
[Not Present]

El Paso County, in recognition of its participation in cooperative ventures to enhance UTEP's development over the past 100 years, the most noteworthy of which was supporting UTEP's acquisition of the Sun Bowl Stadium in 2001.

Representing **El Paso County** is County Judge and proud UTEP alumna Veronica Escobar.

The **Robert and Louisiana Hoover Family**, for their recognition of Texas Western College's high aspirations and the potential of an asset like their beautiful residence to help achieve them, leading to the gift of what has become "The Hoover House," the official residence of the University's president and the setting for an active annual calendar of UTEP events.

Representing the **Hoover Family** are Mrs. Louann Hoover Feuille, a proud UTEP alumna, and Mrs. Cita Sanders.

Mr. James Huffines, for his leadership as a member and Chair of The University of Texas System Board of Regents to enable UTEP to achieve its dream of a state-of-the-art facility for the preparation of health care professionals in the School of Nursing and College of Health Sciences.

We will be forever grateful to **James Huffines** for his strong and abiding support of UTEP. [Not Present]

The **Texas Department of Transportation**, for the strategic transportation safety and aesthetic enhancements that will carry UTEP well into its second century, including the extension of the I-10W off-ramp to the campus, the roundabout at the new west

entrance with its iconic *Mining Minds* sculpture, the widening of Sun Bowl and the pedestrian bridge across it, the Spur 1966 connection to Paisano/Loop 375, and the roundabout and related improvements on Schuster.

Representing **TxDOT** is the Chairman of the Texas Transportation Commission Ted Houghton. [Not Present]

Posthumous Partner in Infrastructure Development

We also celebrate a Boston industrialist, the late **Mr. Frank B. Cotton**, and the **Frank B. Cotton Trust**, for recognizing the investment potential of El Paso even before the railroads arrived, and having the vision to purchase land in West Texas, including properties across the El Paso community as well as the 38,000-acre Indio Ranch in Hudspeth County, which were placed in trust to benefit the Texas College of Mines, and which has since then created enormous opportunities for UTEP students, faculty and staff.

El Paso Voices in Austin

And now moving to our final set of partners. The achievement of UTEP's access and excellence mission takes place in a larger context of Texas state governance and policymaking. Efforts to create higher education opportunities for a regional population and meeting current and future local, state and national workforce needs must be directly reflective of the Paso del Norte region's unique characteristics. It is critical, then, that we have knowledgeable partners who believe in this region's tremendous potential and who effectively advocate for UTEP's role as a major player in Texas and U.S. higher education. We are fortunate to have had the support of some of the most committed voices in the State of Texas as our partners in fostering UTEP's success, and helping us achieve our boldly ambitious goals for the future of our region.

The late **Texas State Representative Richard Fenner Burges**, for his resolve and tenacious advocacy that successfully guided the bill establishing the State School of Mines and Metallurgy (now UTEP) through the Texas Legislature in 1913; and for his efforts to relocate the school after a fire destroyed the original campus in 1916, and secure the renowned Trost & Trost architectural firm for the design of the new campus's first four buildings, which established UTEP's signature Bhutanese architectural style.

Representing **The Honorable Richard Fenner Burges** are his great-granddaughter, Ms. Barbara H. Clawson, and great-grandson, Mr. Bill Hooten Jr.

The late El Paso banker **Mr. Harrison Montgomery "Hal" Daugherty, Jr.**, in recognition of his energetic efforts as a member and Chair of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in support of UTEP's aspirations to build excellence through the development of additional doctoral degree programs.

Representing **Hal Daugherty** is his son, Mr. Harrison Daugherty III.

Paul Foster, founder and Executive Chairman of Western Refining, in recognition of your generous commitment of time and talent to serving El Paso in a variety of statewide settings, including membership on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and, more recently, as a member and now Chair of The University of Texas System Board of Regents.

Paul, we are delighted to express our appreciation to you on this very special occasion.

Harold Hahn, Chairman and CEO of El Paso's Rocky Mountain Mortgage Company, for your willingness to devote an enormous amount of time and talent to serving as a member and Chair of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, contributing significantly to UTEP's efforts to articulate effectively the higher education policy issues that shape opportunities for talented young people and the collective prosperity and quality of life of the Paso del Norte region.

Thank you, **Harold**, for your contributions to UTEP's success in serving as a catalyst for economic and quality of life in this Paso del Norte region. [Not Present]

Woody Hunt, Chairman and CEO of Hunt Companies, for your vision for regional educational excellence, the data-driven decision-making required to achieve it and UTEP's role in generating relevant data. This includes your support of academic and research excellence at UTEP; your extraordinary commitment of time and talent to the development of educational policy at the statewide level; and your service on numerous state boards and committees, including The University of Texas System Board of Regents.

Woody, we are delighted to pay tribute to you today and to thank you for all that you have done and continue to do for UTEP, our region and the State of Texas. [Not Present]

Adair Margo, Founder and President of the Tom Lea Institute as well as a former member of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and former Chair of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, for her tireless efforts to create educational opportunities for talented young people in El Paso and Ciudad Juárez and enhance our collective quality of life through active arts and humanities engagement at state and national levels.

Representing **Adair Margo** is her Daughter-In-Law, Mrs. Elizabeth Margo.

The late **Mayor, Texas Representative, Congressman and Federal Judge Robert Ewing Thomason**, for two major actions: his fervent support in the Texas Legislature for funds to rebuild the State School of Mines and Metallurgy (now UTEP) when fire destroyed the school in 1916; and his 1955 ruling as a Federal Judge that struck down

the state's segregation laws, opening the school (then Texas Western College) and all Texas public higher education institutions to African American students.

Representing **The Honorable R.E. Thomason** is his Grandson, Mr. Robert Decherd. [Not Present]

Judge For El Paso County Court at Law No. 5 and proud UTEP alumnus **Carlos "Charlie" Villa**, in recognition of your service as a member of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, as well as your tireless efforts to advocate for equitable state investment in higher education in the historically undereducated El Paso region and ensuring opportunities for talented young people across our community.

Thank you, **Judge Villa**, for all that you have done to support our efforts to bring high quality educational opportunities to the residents of this region.

President and CEO of El Paso-Based Sanders\Wingo Advertising and 2013 UTEP Distinguished alumnus **Robert "Bob" Wingo**, for your steadfast support of UTEP students and programs through internships and other professional development opportunities, and your generous commitment of time and talent to represent El Paso in Austin as an appointee to several state boards, including the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

In recognition of all that you have contributed to UTEP, **Bob**, we are proud to honor you today.

Concluding Remarks

UTEP's many accomplishments over the past 100 years form a beautiful tapestry of interwoven relationships with the individuals and organizations whom we've just recognized, and many others who weren't able to be with us today, but whose contributions are described in your printed program. We thank all of you for enabling us to become the confident, proud and optimistic UTEP we are today and look forward to continuing to develop our partnerships with you in our second century of service to this region, nation and well beyond.

Will you please join me now in expressing appreciation to Adriana Dominguez and Richard Pineda for their fine work in announcing our honorees, and to Nohemi Gallarzo, Amanda Vasquez, Nicole Aguilar, Liliana Barrios Chavez, Olympia Caudillo, Fernanda Fiscal Centeno and Alexandra Garcia for their assistance on stage.

I would also like to acknowledge Aaron Rice and Christiane Williams who have served as sign language interpreters today.

Very special thanks too to Maribel Villalva and her Centennial Commemoration team, to Liz Thurmond and to Beto Lopez and his University Relations team for the many ways in which they contributed to the planning and execution of today's events.

Again, on behalf of The University of Texas at El Paso, I express our lasting gratitude to each of our honorees. As we move forward together, your confidence, determination, and synergy as a network of University partners will continue to invigorate our work, strengthen our resolve, and shape our future.

I hope too that, having heard each other's stories, you will take the opportunity to explore how working together even more closely can further enhance the climate of excellence at UTEP and accelerate our contributions as a disruptive force in the transformation of public higher education in the United States.

This concludes our formal program. We invite all of you to join us for a reception at the Centennial Museum and Welcome Center, which will include a special performance by *The Flautistas*, a student flute ensemble directed by UTEP Professor of Music Melissa Colgin Abeln. UTEP's Student Ambassadors are outside the auditorium and ready to guide you there.

Thank you again for joining us and have a wonderful evening.