UTEP's Milestones During Diana Natalicio's Presidency: Look back at key milestones in campus history from the past 30 years.

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| **Year** | **End Year** | **Headline** | **Text** | **Media Caption** |
| 1988 | 1994 | The Early Years | President Natalicio spent her early years in the University’s top leadership role laying the groundwork for a campus that would be committed to consistency of purpose in creating opportunities for the region’s talented young people. |  |
| 1988 |  |  | Diamond Jubilee celebration of the University’s 75th anniversary begins. | The logo for the Diamond Jubilee as it appeared in a 1988 issue of Nova Quarterly. |
| 1988 |  |  | The National Science Foundation recognizes UTEP with a Minority Research Center of Excellence grant. |  |
| 1988 |  |  | Miner football team plays in Independence Bowl vs. Southern Mississippi. |  |
| 1989 |  |  | UTEP forms the 2001 Commission, charged with assessing the campus’ capacity to contribute to the human and economic development of this region, and to set benchmarks for what UTEP should accomplish by the year 2001. | The 2001 Commission executive committee, pictured in 1990. (Front row) From left, R. Milton Leech, Jennifer Evans, Mimi Gladstein, Olga M. Mapula, Cheryl McCown; (second row) from left, Julian Bernat, Joseph F. Friedkin, Robert C. Heasley, Robert Webking; (third row) from left, Santiago Ibarreche, Don Michie, Jim Phillips. Not pictured: Jon Amastae, Chalres Fensch, Steve Stafford, Nestor A. Valencia |
| 1989 |  |  | UTEP becomes the largest Hispanic-majority university in the continental U.S. |  |
| 1989 |  |  | UTEP receives $19.7 million in extramural funding, nearly tripling the previous year’s total. |  |
| 1989 |  |  | UTEP’s enrollment surpasses 15,000. |  |
| 1989 |  |  | UTEP introduces a touch-tone telephone registration system. |  |
| 1990 |  |  | UTEP begins offering a doctoral degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering. It represents the first doctoral degree established at the University since 1974 when a doctorate in Geological Sciences was introduced in the College of Science. |  |
| 1990 |  |  | Minerpalooza festival is launched. | A Minerpalooza celebration in the 1990s. |
| 1990 |  |  | UTEP Dinner Theatre production of “Chess” selected as one of six among 466 universities to perform at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. |  |
| 1991 |  |  | Regional educators and business/civic leaders begin plans to raise educational aspirations and attainment at all levels through systemic reform. |  |
| 1991 |  |  | Soma Dutta, a UTEP women’s rifle smallbore shooter, wins an individual NCAA championship title. |  |
| 1992 |  |  | El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence established. It is a broad-based, citywide collaboration of education, business and civic leaders that has worked for 25 years to transform the PreK-16 educational pipeline and ensure academic success for all young El Pasoans. |  |
| 1992 |  |  | UTEP is listed among the top 10 Texas universities in research spending by Nature, an international science weekly published in Great Britain. |  |
| 1992 |  |  | Miners reach the Sweet 16 round of the NCAA men’s basketball tournament after toppling No. 2-ranked Kansas. |  |
| 1992 |  |  | UTEP approves the creation of a first in-the-nation bilingual MFA program in creative writing. |  |
| 1993 |  |  | The South Texas/Border Initiative, an outcome of the LULAC v. Richards lawsuit, enables UTEP to launch growth in doctoral degree programs. The same year, UTEP begins offering doctoral degrees in Psychology and Materials Science and Engineering. Psychology was the first doctoral program available in the College of Liberal Arts. |  |
| 1993 |  |  | Heritage House, the campus historical repository for many items and exhibits that create a snapshot of our University’s past, opens. |  |
| 1994 |  |  | UTEP awarded a five-year, $15 million grant as part of the National Science Foundation’s Urban Systemic Initiative, a program aimed at bringing about systemwide improvements in science, mathematics and technology education for urban students. |  |
| 1994 |  |  | Nolan Richardson is named UTEP Distinguished Alumnus after coaching the Arkansas Razorbacks to the men’s basketball national championship. |  |
| 1995 | 2002 | Focus on Access and Excellence | President Natalicio's vision stands on two pillars - access and excellence. She imbued every aspect of the campus with these tenets. |  |
| 1995 |  |  | UTEP designated a Model Institution for Excellence by the National Science Foundation. |  |
| 1995 |  |  | Growth in number of graduates leads UTEP to divide Commencement into two ceremonies. |  |
| 1995 |  |  | UTEP fares well in first-ever alumni survey, which targeted 2,000 alumni who completed undergraduate degress between 1989 and 1993. |  |
| 1996 |  |  | Four new research centers begin operations — NASA-funded Pan American Center for Earth and Environmental Studies (PACES), the Air Force Office of Scientific Research-supported FAST Center for Structural Integrity of Aerospace Systems; the U.S. Army-supported Center for Electronics Manufacturing (CEM), and the UTEP Anthropology Research Center, initially supported by a major contract from Fort Bliss. | An undergraduate students works on an engineering research project in the FAST Center in 2008. |
| 1996 |  |  | UTEP creates closer ties with El Paso Community College to ensure that students who wish to pursue baccalaureate degrees have a smooth pathway to transfer. | EPCC Transfer Scholar event in 2014. |
| 1996 |  |  | UTEP begins offering a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership and Administration. It is the first doctoral degree in the College of Education. |  |
| 1996 |  |  | The African-American Studies program is established. | African-American Studies founder Maceo Dailey pictured in the 2010s. |
| 1997 |  |  | UTEP launches the $50 million Legacy Campaign, the University’s first major fundraising initiative. |  |
| 1997 |  |  | Don Haskins is inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame, and the Special Events Center is renamed Don Haskins Center |  |
| 1997 |  |  | UTEP begins offering a doctoral degree in Biological Sciences in the College of Science. |  |
| 1997 |  |  | The Undergraduate Learning Center opens as UTEP’s largest classroom/ laboratory facility. |  |
| 1998 |  |  | UTEP celebrates its 100th Commencement in the Sun Bowl. Texas Gov. George W. Bush is the speaker. |  |
| 1998 |  |  | The Sun Bowl serves as the site for two large community events — a Dallas Cowboys scrimmage ... |  |
| 1998 |  |  | ... and the first-ever major boxing card featuring Oscar De La Hoya. |  |
| 1998 |  |  | UTEP more than doubles its annual budget over the previous 10 years from $65 million in 1988 to $145 million. |  |
| 1999 |  |  | Enrollment begins two decades of steady growth. |  |
| 1999 |  |  | Legendary basketball coach Don Haskins retires. |  |
| 1999 |  |  | The Chihuahuan Desert Gardens at the Centennial Museum officially opened. |  |
| 2000 |  |  | The Legacy Campaign ends, raising $66 million, $16 million above its goal. |  |
| 2000 |  |  | UTEP is designated by The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education as a doctoral/research intensive university. |  |
| 2000 |  |  | The Miners play in the Crucial.com Humanitarian Bowl vs. Boise State University. |  |
| 2000 |  |  | UTEP launches the Millennium Lecture Series, which became the Centennial Lecture Series in 2011, to bring new national and international perspectives to the UTEP campus. | Arthur Bienenstock, a former president of the American Physical Society, speaks at the first installment of the Millenium Lecture Series in April 2000. |
| 2001 |  |  | UTEP announces achievement of nearly all the goals outlined in its 2001 Commission Report. | The UTEP campus in the early 2000s. |
| 2001 |  |  | The W.M. Keck Center for 3D Innovation is established. |  |
| 2001 |  |  | UTEP receives the single largest gift in school history: a $7 million endowment from the estate of Les and Harriet Dodson, early owners of the Mountain Pass Canning Company, which introduced the “Old El Paso” label. |  |
| 2001 |  |  | Miner Village student housing opens. |  |
| 2001 |  |  | The NASA MIRO Center for Space Exploration and Technology Research is established. |  |
| 2002 |  |  | Hispanic Outlook Magazine ranks UTEP the No. 2 university in the nation for Hispanic students. |  |
| 2002 |  |  | Larry K. Durham Sports Center opens. |  |
| 2002 |  |  | Maymester and Wintermester 10-day accelerated semesters inaugurated. |  |
| 2002 |  |  | Graduate enrollment hits record 2,848. |  |
| 2003 | 2007 | Continuing the Momentum | UTEP knows it serves a student population of modest means. As such, external support is a critical element of facilitating student success. Along with partnerships developed throughout the El Paso-Juárez community, President Natalicio focused on competing for externally funded research. |  |
| 2003 |  |  | UTEP is awarded $29.3 million from National Science Foundation’s Math/ Science Partnership (MSP) program to support the work of the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence for five years. |  |
| 2003 |  |  | UTEP begins offering a doctoral degree in International Business. It is the first doctoral degree in the College of Business Administration. |  |
| 2003 |  |  | The Center for Transportation Infrastructure Systems in the College of Engineering is established. |  |
| 2003 |  |  | $44 million in construction begins on construction of Academic Services and Biosciences buildings and an addition to the Engineering and Sciences Complex. |  |
| 2003 |  |  | Construction begins on the Helen of Troy Women’s Softball Complex. |  |
| 2004 |  |  | The $10 million Academic Services Building opens. |  |
| 2004 |  |  | UTEP celebrates its 90th anniversary. | President Natalicio at an event at Miner Heritage Park. The park, located near Old Main, was re-dedicated in 2015. |
| 2004 |  |  | UTEP begins offering a doctoral degree in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences. It is the first joint doctoral degree in the College of Health Sciences and the School of Nursing. |  |
| 2005 |  |  | UTEP’s Centennial Commission, cochaired by alumni Larry K. Durham and Philip Martinez, presents its vision for UTEP in 2014, its 100th anniversary | The official UTEP Centennial logo. |
| 2005 |  |  | UTEP enables Internet2 high-capacity U.S.-Mexico connectivity through a partnership with Mexican universities. | A ceremony marking the start of Internet2 connectivity took place in the Undergraduate Learning Center. |
| 2005 |  |  | UTEP Athletics joins Conference USA. |  |
| 2005 |  |  | UTEP organizes the first Bhutan Days celebration, introducing UTEP and the El Paso community to Bhutanese music and culture. |  |
| 2006 |  |  | U.T. System approves $124 million for new and upgraded science and engineering buildings at UTEP. |  |
| 2006 |  |  | “Glory Road,” a film celebrating the 1966 Texas Western men’s national basketball championship team, premieres in El Paso, with participation by 1966 team members, the film director and cast members. |  |
| 2007 |  |  | The 1966 Texas Western College NCAA champions are inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. |  |
| 2007 |  |  | UTEP joins the Army High Performance Computing Research Center. |  |
| 2007 |  |  | UTEP alumnus and NASA astronaut John “Danny” Olivas travels to the International Space Station aboard the shuttle Atlantis. |  |
| 2007 |  |  | UTEP’s enrollment surpasses 20,000. | UTEP students in 2007. |
| 2008 | 2013 | Campus Transformation | President Natalicio has overseen a significant rise in physical growth. The 420-acre campus has seen the completion of a number of significant construction and renovation projects, including a major pedestrian-friendly transformation of the campus core. |  |
| 2008 |  |  | UTEP is designated as a Center of Excellence for Border Security and Immigration. | Victor Manjarrez, Jr., Ph.D., served for more than 20 years in the United States Border Patrol. He is now the assistant director of UTEP's Center for Law & Human Behavior. |
| 2008 |  |  | The UTEP Center for Inland Desalination Systems is established. | Center for Inland Desalination Systems researchers Thomas Davis, Ph.D., Malynda Cappelle, and Shane Walker, Ph.D., in 2014. |
| 2008 |  |  | Construction begins on the $60 million Health Sciences and Nursing Building. |  |
| 2009 |  |  | The UTEP Library building celebrates its 25th birthday. |  |
| 2009 |  |  | Construction begins on the $70.2 million Chemistry and Computer Science Building. |  |
| 2009 |  |  | The new University Bookstore opens. |  |
| 2009 |  |  | The Foster-Stevens Basketball Center opens. |  |
| 2010 |  |  | UTEP launches “At the Forefront: The Centennial Campaign for UTEP,” the most ambitious fundraising campaign to date with a goal of raising $200 million by 2014. |  |
| 2010 |  |  | UTEP forms the 2014 Commission, charged with envisioning and planning the Centennial Celebration. El Paso business leader Paul Foster serves as Honorary Chair. The Commission is co-chaired by UTEP alumni Ed Escudero and Laura Tate Goldman. | From left: 2014 Commission co-chair Ed Escudero, Alan Russell, Russell Vandenburg and co-chair Laura Tate Goldman. |
| 2010 |  |  | Hispanic Business magazine ranks UTEP as the No. 1 MBA program for Hispanics in the United States. |  |
| 2010 |  |  | “Mining Minds,” an iconic piece of public art created by Michael Clapper, is installed in the roundabout at University Avenue and Sun Bowl Drive. |  |
| 2011 |  |  | UTEP awards its 100,000th degree. |  |
| 2011 |  |  | The UTEP Cheerleading Squad takes first place in the National Cheerleading Co-ed Championship. |  |
| 2011 |  |  | UTEP receives the largest single gift to date — $10 million from alumnus Mike Loya. |  |
| 2011 |  |  | UTEP earns the coveted Carnegie Foundation designation as an Engaged Institution, one where “teaching, learning and scholarship engage faculty, students and community in mutually beneficial and respectful collaboration.” |  |
| 2011 |  |  | UTEP begins offering a Doctor of Nursing Practice. It is the first doctoral degree by the School of Nursing. |  |
| 2011 |  |  | UTEP is designated by the Department of Defense as a “Military Friendly School.” |  |
| 2012 |  |  | The U.S. Department of Education lists UTEP as having the lowest out-of-pocket cost, or net price, of all research universities in the nation. |  |
| 2012 |  |  | The Chemistry and Computer Science Building opens its doors. |  |
| 2013 |  |  | Washington Monthly magazine ranks UTEP among the top 10 of all U.S. universities. In the social mobility category, UTEP was ranked No. 1. |  |
| 2013 |  |  | The Texas Legislature commemorates the 100th anniversary of UTEP’s founding. |  |
| 2013 |  |  | A group of UTEP students and faculty travel to Bhutan to perform the first Western opera produced in Bhutan. |  |
| 2014 | 2018 | Centennial and Beyond | President Natalicio has deftly guided the University to national prominence as a research institution, all the while being relentless in ensuring access and affordability for the student population that it serves. The world has taken notice. |  |
| 2014 |  |  | UTEP celebrates its 100th anniversary. Among its most impactful activities was UTEP Celebrates, an outreach initiative that engaged more than 180,000 children in 260 local schools in the Centennial Celebration. |  |
| 2014 |  |  | The Hunt Institute for Global Competitiveness, funded by the Hunt Family Foundation, was established. | Woody Hunt and Patrick Schaefer, director of the Hunt Institute for Global Competitiveness. |
| 2014 |  |  | NSA designates UTEP as a Center for Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense. The Director of National Intelligence designates UTEP as an Intelligence Community Center of Academic Excellence. | Salamah I. Salamah, Ph.D., Clinical Associate Professor and Director of Software Engineering holds the NSA certificate for the designation. |
| 2014 |  |  | The women’s basketball team finishes a winning season in the Women’s National Invitation Tournament championship, a sold-out game held at the Don Haskins Center. | UTEP women's basketball player Kayla Thornton at the Women's National Invitation Tournament at the Don Haskins Center. |
| 2014 |  |  | UTEP presented with the sculpture, “Esfera Cuántica Tlahtolli” by Mexican artist Sebastián, to recognize UTEP’s success in educating thousands of Mexican students. |  |
| 2015 |  |  | UTEP’s School of Pharmacy is approved, clearing the path for the Doctor of Pharmacy degree. |  |
| 2015 |  |  | Construction of Centennial Plaza is completed, and the Bhutanese Lhakhang opens. |  |
| 2015 |  |  | Miner Canyon student housing opens. | UTEP celebrated the opening of Miner Canyon in August 2015. |
| 2016 |  |  | The National Science Foundation and Department of Homeland Security designate UTEP as a CyberCorps university and fund a five-year Scholarship for Service grant. | UTEP faculty accept their new Scholarship for Service grant from the National Science Foundation during a ceremony on Jan. 12, 2016, in Washington, D.C. |
| 2016 |  |  | Players from the 1966 men’s basketball team return to campus to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their NCAA championship title. |  |
| 2016 |  |  | UTEP women’s basketball standout Cameasha Turner named one of nine finalists for NCAA Woman of the Year Award. |  |
| 2017 |  |  | A study by the Brookings Institution ranks UTEP No. 1 for its success in achieving both competitive research and student social mobility. |  |
| 2017 |  |  | Total new grant awards for 2017 hits $43.7 million. |  |
| 2017 |  |  | Construction begins on the $85 million Interdisciplinary Research Building. |  |
| 2017 |  |  | Fall enrollment surpasses 25,000. |  |
| 2018 |  |  | UTEP attains coveted R1 designation for doctoral universities with very high research activity in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. It is one of only 130 universities among 2,883 four-year higher education institutions to earn the distinction. |  |