



## View from the Chancellor's Office

### *— From the Desk of Chancellor Roe —*

No matter what age the student, the first day of school is always a special day – seeing social media feeds light up with first day photos is always a highlight this time of year. It's also a special day for our institutions, and the first day of classes for the majority of UNT World took place earlier this week.

UNT welcomed its largest freshman class in history to Denton this week, including 32 National Merit finalists. UNT Dallas is projecting record enrollment for a third consecutive fall and just officially opened its state-of-the-art student center. And UNT Health Science Center in Fort Worth welcomed the historic inaugural class of the TCU-UNTHSC School of Medicine a few weeks ago, as well as students from the other five UNTHSC schools and colleges.

At UNT System administration, our leadership team is excited about the future following a very positive Board of Regents meeting on August 15-16 at UNTHSC. While extremely productive, this board meeting was bittersweet on one hand, because it was G. Brint Ryan's last as our chairman. On the other hand it was exciting, because we passed the gavel to our new chair – Laura Wright.



Chairman Ryan now becomes Regent Ryan, and we are thankful for everything he's brought to UNT World as chairman. Our institutions are breaking records for enrollment, fundraising, research, legislative funding and in athletics – it's no coincidence that all of these positive milestones have been achieved on Regent Ryan's watch as chairman. [You can listen to Regent Ryan reflect on his time as chair, as well as discuss his time as a student at UNT and his business success, on the latest episode of my Bridging Gaps Podcast.](#)

Like me, Regent Ryan says he is excited to work with Chair Wright moving forward. She has been a ground-breaker throughout her business career and is just the second woman in history to chair our Board of Regents. Chair Wright's business acumen and passion for UNT World is inspiring. She is the former Chief Financial Officer for Southwest Airlines and – like Regent Ryan – she is also a UNT alum.

During the recent board meeting we were wowed by a panel of UNT Health Science Center students who served our country in the armed forces prior to attending UNTHSC. Their stories of past service and what led them to UNT World inspired the room and, at least to me, our incredible students are why we do what we do for a living. All of us play a role in the success of our students and to know we are changing lives makes our hard work worthwhile.



**UNT Dallas featured for growth and commitment to DFW**

On August 26, UNT Dallas held a grand opening event for its new, \$63 million student center. The celebration included students, faculty, staff, community members and elected officials who have all played a role in UNTD's record growth. The Dallas Morning News also attended the celebration and published a front-page feature on the university's remarkable growth and commitment to Dallas and the greater North Texas region.

[More from the Dallas Morning News](#)



**UNTHSC librarians and cancer survivors create 'Hope Directory'**

UNT Health Science Center librarians Lorraine Sheldon and Brandy Klug are both cancer survivors who understand the challenges of finding reliable healthcare information. Using their own experiences as inspiration, Sheldon and Klug created the Hope Directory – an innovative online directory of health organizations, programs and events at UNTHSC.

[More from UNTHSC](#)



**UNT announces new Vice President for Research & Innovation**

Mark McLellan, the vice president of research & graduate studies at Portland State University, will be the next vice president of research & innovation at UNT. Said President Neal Smatresk: "Dr. McLellan's leadership will be critical as our university solidifies our reputation as a Tier One research university. He is a highly experienced leader in higher education and has extensive experience at major research institutions."

[More from the Denton Record-Chronicle](#)



**UNT System facilities team goes extra mile to serve UNT World students**

Our UNT System facilities offices in all locations have been very busy completing projects in time for student arrival. Record spring rains slowed construction progress and contributed to the conclusion of two critical projects coming "down to the wire." Vice Chancellor for Facilities Steve Maruszewski especially appreciates the efforts of Kendall Hohmann, Jay Henson and Chad Joyce for their tireless efforts to make sure the Student Center at UNT Dallas and the Fouts Field parking lot at UNT were ready for student arrival. Their hard work, and the efforts of many others, helped make this year's student return a more positive experience for all.

**NASA Executive named new Chief Financial Officer for UNT System**

This week we announced that Dan Tenney, Associate Administrator, Mission Support for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), will be the UNT System's new Vice Chancellor for Finance/Chief Financial Officer. Dan was offered the position following a national search and will begin his new role on Sept. 23. He will replace Interim Vice Chancellor/Chief Financial Officer James Mauldin, who has accepted a new position outside of UNT World and will depart in mid-September.

Dan served NASA for more than 27 years, most recently as the senior most official in the federal agency responsible for institutional and business functions – including areas such as procurement, human resources, facilities, partnerships, and protective services. He oversaw an annual budget of \$3.5 billion, 7,500 employees and 5,000 highly technical facilities. As NASA's Associate Administrator for Mission Support, Dan led a significant effort that moved the agency from an independent operating model with redundant capabilities across 10 field centers to an enterprise approach with a geographically dispersed workforce – estimated to save the federal agency millions of dollars.

I am very familiar with Dan's incredible experience, skillset and leadership abilities from our time together at NASA. Dan has provided strong and effective leadership in all areas of financial management. At the same time, he has demonstrated proven abilities in developing strategic plans, accomplishing ambitious goals, managing complex operations across multiple locations and developing future leaders for the nation. I am truly honored to have such an amazing leader as Dan Tenney join our UNT System Team.

Thank you to James Mauldin, who stepped up and served admirably in an interim capacity, we wish him well in his new opportunity. I also want to wish longtime ITSS executive Dorothy Flores well in her retirement from the UNT System – thank you for your service!

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## *Town Hall*

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### **UP NEXT: UNT World Town Hall, September 19 at UNT Dallas**

We will hold our next UNT World Town Hall on September 19 at 2 p.m. in the new Student Center at UNT Dallas. UNT World Town Halls are held each quarter to help keep you informed and to provide an opportunity to ask UNT System leaders, including me, work-related questions.

This quarter's moderated discussion will include several key updates, including where UNT System Administration is headed in Fiscal Year 2020. As always, UNT World faculty and staff from all institutions are welcome to attend our town halls in-person, pending supervisor approval.

The Town Hall will also be live streamed via Facebook Live and video will be posted to our web site for those that cannot attend. To participate in the live stream, please visit <http://facebook.com/untsystem> at the time of the town hall and click on the live video link (Facebook account required). For those that do not use Facebook, the video will also be available on the UNT System web site once the town hall concludes.

I look forward to our Town Hall discussion next month and appreciate everyone's commitment and hard work as we enter the new academic year.

Together We!



Lesla B. Roe  
Chancellor