

## Scott Ransom UNTHSC Presidential Confirmation Press Conference Transcript

Date: July 18, 2006—3 p.m.

### **Lee Jackson, UNT System Chancellor:**

Well we have this backdrop here so that we can record this event for posterity. Before I let Dr. Ransom say a few words and introduce his family, I want to again thank the faculty and staff and students who served on the search committee. All four of the deans served on the committee. We may not be able to do that again in the future because this institution is growing so much that each college is so proud and so ambitious, that it is becoming just an almost impossible task to channel it, but you did it and you helped us find the right person. I want to thank Dan Perugini for giving us steady support in serving in the interim role in these recent weeks this summer keeping us on track. So thanks to all of you within the institution who've helped maintain the momentum. You all said you wanted a transformational leader to take us now to the next step to build on what we've accomplished. Be careful what you ask for. We now have a transformational leader, we think in place, and I'm very pleased to present Dr. Scott Ransom.

### **Dr. Scott Ransom, UNT Health Science Center President:**

Well thank you. It's my privilege and honor to be standing here before you. We're absolutely delighted. I'd like to introduce my family first. The young lady in the middle, in pink, is my wife Elizabeth. Elizabeth actually is an otolargist and will be looking for something in the area soon. The rather tall woman on the side is my 15-year-old daughter Kelly. She will be starting at Fort Worth Country Day School here in a few weeks. The gentleman on the left there is Christopher. He is looking forward to be transforming from a University of Michigan fan to a University of Texas fan. But three years ago, he it was actually really funny, he was debating whether he wanted to play football at University of Michigan or University of Texas. Three years ago which was way before all of this started, so we have great expectations and hopes. And then Sarah is our 9-year-old our little ballerina. We are all delighted to be here.

As far as the organization—this organization is a fantastic foundation. We are the number one osteopathic medical school in the country without question. We have greater resources, research depth than others, but to take this to the next level, I guess. That's what made me excited about coming here is there's great opportunity and you have the right infrastructure and foundation to take it really to a national playing field not just competing with other osteopathic medical schools but also allopathic medical schools and academic medical centers. We are absolutely ready to do that.

And as far as when I'm thinking about this medical school and other parts of the university, I'm thinking more on the line of balance. We're going to continue to develop more academic programs in the areas of physical therapy perhaps, pharmacy and other areas. We're very excited about expanding those opportunities.

Secondly, expanding the clinical opportunities so we can really serve the members of the Tarrant County community in a more effective way in all different specialties. We're

looking forward to partnering with other community hospitals and other organizations in town to help see that vision.

Thirdly, in research. You've developed a great research infrastructure, but again, looking at that balance. I'm very, very interested and passionate about developing interdisciplinary research to really solve problems that can change people's lives, not just research for the sake of publishing a paper, which is good. And I'm not discouraging anyone in the research world from publishing more papers. But to really transform that research, translate that research from basic science to clinical science to social science, behavioral science to really make a difference in people's lives.

And then lastly, in the community. The community has been engaged in this medical center for a long time, but we hope to really take that to the next level. We're really looking for community engagement, not just outreach, I mean going out there. But also engagement where we really do feel like it's a two-way street, a bi-directional opportunity to bring kind of the resources of the university to the community and hopefully be able to engage the community into the university.

So we're absolutely delighted to be here, and I look forward to meeting you all in the various activities to follow this afternoon. Thank you.