

ON THE MOVE

The Official Newsletter of UNT Dallas President Bob Mong

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From the President's Desk



At UNT Dallas, we are proud of our campus diversity. Our student body, faculty and staff truly reflect the the southern Dallas communities we serve as we continue to work hard every day to make higher education accessible and affordable for all, regardless of one's economic background.

We call it our Urban Advantage.

There is no better time to promote our unique mission than now, as we move from honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., on his birthday last month to celebrating Black History Month throughout February. We are the fastest-growing university in the State of Texas because we offer an affordable pathway to a college degree that previously did not exist for too many simply because of unjust economic barriers.

Our mission is working. Of our 3,750-plus students enrolled for the 2018-19 academic year, 85 percent represent minorities. Sixty-eight percent of our staff is minority, while 64 percent are women. And among our growing faculty, 45 percent are minority with 52 percent being women.

We know that in Dallas, like most cities in America, the percentage of university graduates in a family are often aligned to how much money the parents make. The top 20 percent economically in America, almost all those students have a bachelor's degree by the time they're 25. The middle 40 percent -- America's middle class -- has made slow, but steady progress with 35 percent earning a bachelor's degree by the time they're 25. But in that bottom 40 percent, it's been stubbornly stuck at about 10 percent.

And that's where we come in. Universities like ours are the pathway to the middle class. Many of our students come here from household incomes in the \$30,000-range, and according to state statistics, they're leaving for salaries of about \$45,000. Progress is being made.

Our enrollment is rising, as is our retention and graduation rates. We are providing life-changing opportunity, a path forward for students of all backgrounds to blaze their trail!

Partnership with YTexas creates unique CEO mentoring, networking opportunity; works to raise homegrown workforce

The Dallas economy is booming and companies are relocating to North Texas seemingly every day. But throughout the region, businesses are facing real shortages of skilled, career-ready job candidates. To combat this problem, UNT Dallas and [YTexas](#), a consortium of forward-focused chief executives, have partnered to create a unique mentoring and networking program for UNT Dallas students. The program launched with a successful campus event on Jan. 22 attended by some 30 business executives and 20 students interested in the program. Eligible students will have enrolled at [UNT Dallas through the Dallas County Promise](#), an innovative partnership that affords high school seniors at 43 Dallas County high schools the opportunity to first earn an associate degree tuition-free, and then pursue a bachelor's degree tuition-free at UNT Dallas, the only four-year university in the City of Dallas. YTexas will donate \$25,000 annually to the UNT Dallas Foundation to be used to fund Dallas County Promise students at UNT Dallas. We were happy to have [CBS 11 reporter Robbie Owens back on campus](#) to report our story to her viewers.

More: [YTexas will donate \\$25,000 to the UNT Dallas Foundation in support of students](#)



School of Liberal Arts & Sciences, and Graduate School name Interim Deans, both familiar campus faces

University of North Texas at Dallas Provost Dr. Betty Stewart announced two promotions for the Spring 2019 semester, tapping Dr. Mario P. Casa de Calvo as Interim Dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Dr. Ali Shaqlaih as Interim Dean of the Graduate School, a newly created position. Dr. Casa de Calvo, an Associate Professor of Psychology, served as the coordinator and original designer of the UNT Dallas Psychology program from 2014-2018, and as Associate Dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 2018. He replaces Dr. Glenda Balas, who is staying on at UNT Dallas as a Professor of Communication and Technology. "I have complete confidence that Dr. Casa de Calvo and Dr. Shaqlaih possess the knowledge and skill to lead and grow their respective schools in both enrollment and academic success," Dr. Stewart said. "These two professors are deeply committed to UNT Dallas, and we are fortunate that they are willing to assume the responsibilities of Interim Dean."

More: [Both professors ready to take on challenges of new roles](#)



The untold graduation story: Ora Foster, 69, and her will to 'never give up' can inspire students of any age

UNT Dallas prides itself on welcoming a diverse student body. Our more than 3,750 students span just about every race, religion, economic background and, yes, even age. Meet Ora Lee Foster, a member of UNT Dallas' Fall 2018 graduating class. On Dec. 14, 2018, she beamed a smile as big as the Inspired Body of Christ auditorium as she practically glided across the stage. At age 69, she could call herself a college graduate. "Sixty-nine-and-a-half," Ora said proudly. "It was awesome. The person calling the names at graduation asked me how old I am. I said 69 ½, and he said can I announce it? When he announced it, the whole place just blew up."

More: [Read Ora's full story and what she plans to do with her Liberal Arts & Sciences degree](#)



Don't miss a special engagement with African-American history scholar Dr. George C. Wright to commemorate Black History Month

We are proud to welcome distinguished African-American scholar and Texas A&M history professor, Dr. George C. Wright, as special guest speaker to commemorate Black History Month on Thursday, Feb. 7. Dr. Wright's compelling presentation will focus on "Black Migrations," chronicling African-American migration patterns beginning with the largest forced migration in human times that delivered Africans to the United States as slaves; to post-Civil War internal migration from southern farming communities to form distinctly African-American communities; to the Great Migration of the 20th Century from the south to the urban Northeast, Midwest and West because of economic inequalities, racial violence and harsh segregationist laws. Dr. Wright will examine how these movements have shaped African-American life and culture, progress made, and improvements that still must come. In addition, he will lecture on lynchings and racial violence, an issue that gained nationwide attention last

year with the opening of [The National Memorial for Peace and Justice](#), in Montgomery, Ala., a first-of-its-kind museum that confronts this nation's brutal history of mob lynchings.

More: [Learn more about Dr. Wright and his lecture that will also examine roots of racial violence](#)



#UNTD News & Campus Updates

Spring Enrollment Growth: All five our schools at UNT Dallas have experienced growth from last spring in terms of semester credit hours. Congratulations to our deans on this important growth milestone.

National Recognition for Chief Shaw: Congratulations to UNT Dallas Police Chief Christopher Shaw for being named a Campus Safety magazine Director of the Year finalist. Each year Campus Safety magazine honors the nation's school, university and

hospital police chiefs, security directors and emergency managers. Chief Shaw took charge of the UNT PD last April after serving as interim chief since 2016. Winners will be announced at the Campus Safety Conference (CSC) West in Las Vegas on June 17-19. On July 21-23, Campus Safety will return to Dallas for a second consecutive year for CSC Texas.

School of Education Acquires Principal Impact Collaborative (PIC): Exciting news for the School of Education. The PIC is a prestigious, existing principal training program already prominent in the community. The acquisition of PIC bolsters the SOE's ability to have even broader impact on the educational leadership landscape by being able to wed our pre-service leadership offerings as a School with our ability to support principals already in the field. Targeted at principals 3-10 years into the job, the signature two-year fellowship model that PIC provides helps already high-performing principals reach the next frontier of performance through a focus on four to five distinct pillars. Data-to-date suggests that PIC principals who go through the program have among the highest rates of student achievement in the region. A launch event in March is currently being planned. PIC's Program Director Alejandro Barbosa and Program Manager Catherine Worth will soon move into the School of Education department in Founders Hall.

Dean Epps Featured on Urban Advantage Podcast: Dean of the UNT Dallas College of Law Felecia Epps, who replaced founding dean Judge Royal Furgeson last year, is featured on the latest episode of the Urban Advantage Podcast, co-hosted by UNT Dallas Senior Marketing and Communications Specialist Benjamin Bullock and CEO of Rainmaker Inc., Greg Campbell. If you are not yet a subscriber, please take a moment to follow on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), or subscribe directly on [Soundcloud](#) or [YouTube](#).

Experiential Learning Fair Delivers 35 Companies on Campus: We promise students that experiential learning will be a significant part of their degree programs. It's critical to place students in real-world work environments to ensure career-readiness. Developing relationships with local businesses is imperative to placing our students in internships. We continue to take giant strides in that area as evidenced by our second [Experiential Learning Fair Event](#) on the 2018-19 academic year. Under the direction of Project Coordinator Eronia King, our students interacted with more than 35 companies on campus, face-to-face opportunities to land internships and even full-time employment.

CPI Provides Dallas Cops With Well-being Training: As the job of policing becomes increasingly stressful, our innovative [Caruth Police Institute](#), along with [Center for BrainHealth](#), is providing [Dallas Police Department](#) officers with "mindfulness training," a

unique approach to help manage reactions and think clearly in increasingly stressful scenarios.

Thanks to [CBS DFW](#) for filing [this report](#).

Mobile Market Initiative a Top Story: [Dallas Innovates](#) recently published its most-read stories of the year in each of its six innovation categories. Their story on our launch of the Fresh Produce Mobile Market initiative, a collaboration with Toyota and DART, was their sixth-most read story for Social innovation. Our students will be working to transform a low-emission DART bus into a mobile market that will sell fresh fruits and vegetables in southern Dallas communities that are considered food deserts because of their inaccessibility to grocery stores and fresh and whole foods.

Construction Update: Things are really coming together as the latest construction report pegs the entire project at 87 percent complete. The courtyard between DAL 1 and Founders Hall has been prepared for the concrete pour, and pavers of the center beds has begun. The north side of the walkway under DAL 1 opened over the weekend. Grading and leveling of the additional fenced-in beds in the courtyard will begin this week in preparation for spring planting. The large planters on the east side of the fences are now complete, and grading and stair installation will begin this week as well!

The University of North Texas at Dallas is our city's emerging urban university. UNT Dallas empowers students, transforms lives and strengthens communities. Perched on a hilltop, overlooking the Downtown Dallas skyline, UNT Dallas is the only public, accredited 4-year university in the City of Dallas. UNT Dallas includes the UNT Dallas College of Law in Downtown Dallas and is part of the UNT System.



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