



August, 2018

## From the President's Desk



UNT Dallas continues to emerge as our city’s urban university. The lack of an affordable, high-caliber, 4-year university was a missing piece to DFW’s claim as the top job market in the country. But today, on the cusp of announcing another record for enrollment, UNT Dallas is changing the face of higher education in our city and beyond – supplying a diverse and talented pipeline of work-ready graduates to our bustling business community.

Just last week UNT Dallas was named the No. 2 university in the nation and No. 1 in Texas among public institutions for lowest debt per student upon graduation. That means our graduates aren’t entering the robust DFW job market worrying about student loans – instead, UNTD alumni are focused on following their dreams. We are spotlighting our efforts to contain costs in higher education with a new billboard campaign that showcases our efforts to help make dreams come true through affordable tuition plans and comprehensive scholarship/financial aid programs.



It’s an exciting time on campus with additional growth and opportunity on the horizon. Residential students move into Wisdom Hall on August 25 and classes begin two days later. Classes have already begun at UNT Dallas College of Law.

Best of luck this school year to our students, faculty and staff. Thank you for being an integral part of our vision as we continue to build a modern university in Southern Dallas.

## #UNTD News & Campus Updates

**The No. 1 Reason We Are Here:** A study released this month by LendEDU shows that UNT Dallas ranks No. 1 in Texas and No. 2 nationally among public institutions for lowest student debt. Using data licensed from Peterson's College Data, LendEDU posted its [2018 Student Loan Debt by School by State Report online](#). At UNT Dallas, average tuition and fees is less than \$9,200 per year, and graduates leave with an average of only \$6,927 in loan debt. According to LendEDU, the average American college student from the Class of 2017 graduated with \$28,288 in debt, an increase from \$27,975 that the average Class of 2016 borrower owed. In Texas, the average debt per borrower is \$27,001. LendEDU's data-driven study of student loan debt validates who we are at UNT Dallas. This university was built on the belief that every student should have the opportunity to earn a college degree, regardless of their economic background.

**Introducing our newest faculty members:** We are excited to bring in nine new members to our growing faculty. Please welcome them into our UNT Dallas family: **Dr. James Agbodzakey**, Director of the Urban SERCH Institute, Associate Professor of Public Leadership; **Dr. Curtis McDowell**, Visiting Lecturer of Political Science; **Dr. Michael Noyes**, Lecturer of Criminal Justice; **Dr. Dawn Remmers**, Assistant Provost; **Dr. Cathy Scott**, Associate Professor of Business Accounting; **Dr. Patricia Sosa-Sanchez**, Assistant Professor; **Dr. Robert Tinajero**, Assistant Professor of English; **Dr. Pamela Thompson**, Assistant Professor of Business Accounting; **Mr. Jerrod Tynes**, Lecturer of Urban Agriculture.

**Website Rollout:** The much-anticipated transformation of the UNT Dallas website is coming to fruition. The School of Education was first to go live at the end of July. The rollout will continue during the next couple of months. The clean, streamlined and easy-to-navigate site will mark a major improvement for students, prospective students as well as faculty and staff who use our site. Content has been rewritten to be more informative, concise and SEO-friendly so that UNT Dallas more often appears at the top of the list for search-engines. An easy-to-use calendar and news section for each of our four schools are coming soon.

**Big Convocation Announcement:** We are incredibly excited that former AT&T executive and current Dallas Mavericks CEO Cynthia "Cynt" Marshall will deliver the keynote address at the New Student Convocation at 6 p.m. on Aug. 27 in the Library. Marshall has spent her entire professional career blazing trails for women and minorities in corporate America. She spent 36 years with AT&T, retiring in 2017 as senior vice president for human resources and chief diversity officer. Soon after starting her own consulting firm, Marshalling Resources, Mark Cuban hired her in February to transform and optimize the culture of the Dallas Mavericks. Marshall has an inspirational story to tell and one that is incredibly relatable and relevant to our student body. She grew up in poverty in Richmond, Calif., persevered through a challenging home life and later beat cancer on her path to becoming one of the most successful businesswomen in America. Please plan to join us.

**UNT Dallas/Toyota Mobile Market Event:** In conjunction with the grant awarded by Toyota, UNT Dallas is thrilled to co-sponsor an important event for our Southern Dallas region, the UNTD/Toyota University Challenge: Low Emission Fresh Mobile Market. The event takes place on campus from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. on Sept. 12. The event, which include representatives from Toyota, local farmers and growers, non-profit agencies, and residents of our neighboring communities, is two-fold: addressing food insecurity in our vulnerable communities and promoting the benefits of low-emission vehicles. A farmers market will be set up in the Founders Hall courtyard for community members to take home fresh produce. A hearty congratulations goes to Dr. Kelly Varga, Lecturer of Biology, for her work that secured the generous grant from our budding partnership with Toyota.

**Exciting event for School of Education:** On Sept. 14 from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. in the UNT Dallas library, please join us for the Encounter the School of Education event as we celebrate those who have answered the call to be teachers and leaders for change in young people's lives. This event is to celebrate, appreciate and connect our current undergraduates, graduates, alumni, faculty and staff. Look for your invitation to RSVP.

**Move-In Day:** We are quickly approaching our second Move-In Day on the morning of Saturday, Aug. 25. Wisdom Hall is again full so we'll have plenty of incoming students and parents on campus -- and surely with plenty of questions. Our tremendous faculty and staff have answered the call of Dee Goines, our Director of Residence Life, Housing and Conference Services, as nearly 50 of you signed up to volunteer to help our new Trailblazers move in. [Check out our Move-in Day preview with Dee and UNT Dallas social media specialist Benjamin Bullock.](#)

**Building & Construction Update:** Our under-construction-courtyard picked up major steam at the end of July with the pouring of the concrete slab starting from the northwest corner and working towards south and east. This will be followed by forming and pouring the concrete planter walls, sandblasting the concrete slabs to provide the right texture, installing lights, sprinkler lines, etc. By the start of the fall semester, we will be able to walk across the courtyard between Building One and Founders Hall. Trees and plants will be planted later to ensure they will take root. As soon as the courtyard is accessible between the two buildings, Phase II will begin with the removal of the three flag poles for future re-installation at the median between the university sign and the guard shack. The current sidewalk will be removed to make way for a new welcoming drop-off area.

**Office of Supported Projects Coming Soon:** A major development we're proud to announce is the Sept. 1 opening of the Office of Sponsored Projects and Sponsored Projects Accounting. Faculty and staff will no longer need to dial up Denton for assistance with proposal development, submission, award management or research compliance needs. Alicia Brossette, executive director of sponsored projects, will lead the Office of Sponsored Projects in Building One, Room 344. Janet Burton, director of sponsored projects accounting, with head up Sponsored Projects Accounting in Building One, Room 362M. These new offices will serve as your on-campus support to assist faculty and staff in obtaining and managing sponsored projects while assuring proper

stewardship of those funds.

**Gasko Gains Exclusive Membership:** Congratulations to Dr. John Gasko, Dean of the School of Education and founder of the Emerging Teacher Institute, for being named a member of Deans For Impact, a 22-member national network of leaders committed to transforming how the United States prepares future educators.

**Orientation Wraps Up:** A sure sign that summer is almost over and classes are about to begin is the wrapping up of orientation. The final two orientation sessions of the summer are now behind us with transfer students touring our campus on August 16, while the final group of incoming freshmen were here on August 17.

**New Dean in Big D:** Felecia Epps, the new dean at the College of Law, officially took charge on July 1. Epps, a former Marine and the former dean at Florida A&M College of Law, brings more than 30 years of experience in the law profession to UNT Dallas. She replaces the founding dean, Hon. Royal Furgeson, who will remain with the College of Law in a fundraising role.

**Get Your Parking Permit:** 2018-19 parking permits went on sale Aug. 1. Current parking permits will expire on Aug. 31. [Purchase new permits online](#) or in the Office of Police, Parking and Transportation located in Founders Hall 131, from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday; and after Sept. 10 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Thursday. Enforcement will begin on Sept. 10.

**Distinguished Certification:** Our Child Development and Family Studies program earned the Certified Family Life Educator designation from the National Council on Family Relations. This certification allows graduates to bypass a time-intensive and costly certification exam. Students will receive the CFLE credential, which qualifies graduates to complete a CFLE-approved program application, rather than taking the CFLE exam.

**Join the Culture Committee:** Join President Mong and the Culture Committee at a kickoff reception from 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. on Aug. 21 in Founders Hall 138. The Culture Club plays a key role in the university's initiative to become a "Best Place to Work." Come for the light refreshments, stay for the important conversations -- and be sure to sign up and join the club.

**Assistant law school dean set to retire:** Rebecca Garza Greenan, the Assistant Dean for Student Life, will retire from her current position on Sept. 1. Fortunately, she will be remaining at the College of Law on a part-time basis as Special Assistant to the Dean for External Relations starting on Nov. 1. In her new role, Greenan will assist Dean Felecia Epps, who took charge on July 1, with outreach to the Dallas community. Greenan joined the College of Law in January 2014. Dean Kevin Robinowich, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, will assume her previous duties.

**Law School earns recognition:** UNT Dallas College of Law received multiple awards at the recent American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) annual conference. Ed Hart, assistant dean for the law library and assistant

professor of law, took home the 2018 Volunteer Service Award. The law library was also honored with "Non-Print Division of Publications" for the blog, "Best Brochure"; and "Best PR Toolkit." Dean Hart attributes the success to "hiring talented people and getting out of their way."

**Caruth Police Institute:** CPI is approaching its milestone 10<sup>th</sup> year of service. An anniversary celebration is planned for Sept. 27-28. An evening reception and panel discussion will kick things off on Sept. 27, followed by a breakfast with a keynote speaker the following morning.

## UNT Dallas Police debut Twitter and Facebook channels with wildly popular lip sync challenge video

Turns out the dedicated officers of our UNT Dallas Police Department are pretty talented in other areas beyond keeping our campus safe. Led by the creative mind of Officer Nathaniel Lones, the squad put together a rollicking video as part of a nationwide police department lip sync challenge. Chief Christopher Shaw, Sgt. Dennis Dotson, Officer Tim Allen and Lones roll through popular tunes by Taylor Swift, Jason Derulo, Ed Sheeran and Drake. The video was timed to launch the department's foray into social media. If you don't already follow them on Twitter and Facebook, please do so: @UNTDallasPD. If you haven't seen the video yet, you're one of the few. It has racked up more than 200,000 views combined on Facebook and YouTube, and generated 1 million impressions.

More: [Just go ahead and name the UNT Dallas Police Department the lip sync champions](#)



## ETI launches comic book "Jovi La Justiciera," an innovative approach to recruiting tomorrow's teachers to UNT Dallas

Our Emerging Teacher Institute introduced the first edition of its original comic book, "[Jovi La Justiciera](#)," at the [Texas Latino Comic Con](#) a few weekends ago at the Dallas Latino Cultural Center. An innovative approach to recruiting future bilingual educators, the comic book tells the origin story of Jovanna (Jovi). A Dreamer born in Honduras and educated in the Dallas public school system and then UNT Dallas, where, through the School of Education's Emerging Teacher Institute's bilingual grow-your-own superhighway, Jovi returned to her South Dallas community as a teacher and leader.

More: [ETI's "Jovi" promises to be a winner in the comic book world, and in the real world of teaching](#)



## UNT Dallas and El Centro College launch Emerging Teacher Academy

In front of a packed house at El Centro College on Aug. 8, UNT Dallas officially launched its partnership with El Centro College and unveiled the Emerging Teacher Academy, which will primarily focus on creating a pathway for aspiring teachers to earn a bachelor's degree while increasing the number of bilingual teachers in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. "Right now, the school districts have to go all over the Spanish speaking world to find teachers for bilingual students," said UNT Dallas President, Bob Mong. "Well, we can grow our own right here in Dallas County and plenty of people can benefit from that." The partnership will allow students to co-enroll between both institutions. Each student will first earn their associates degree at El Centro, followed by receiving their teaching degree from UNT Dallas.

More: [Another way UNT Dallas is the city's emerging urban leader in education](#)



## Despite days on end of 110-plus-degree heat, workers kept SLSC rising

While most of us spent the month of July bellyaching about the brutal and unwavering heatwave, at least we were able to do it from the comfort of our air-conditioned offices. Outside your cozy cubicle with the Keurig machine within arm's reach, is another matter altogether. Somehow, some 125 construction workers toiling daily on the \$63-million Student Learning and Success Center didn't miss a beat as the mercury rose beyond 110 degrees and with little relief in sight. You've seen the roof go up and framework throughout the state-of-the-art facility take shape. The SLSC remains on target to open in Spring 2019.

**More: [Video: How construction workers at UNT Dallas beat the heat and kept on building](#)**



*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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