

# A Message from the President



April 13, 2018

Dear UNT community,

This spring, [UNT became Texas' first public university with a collegiate esports program.](#) At a launch event on Monday, April 16, you can learn more about this emerging sport.

Esports is the competitive live play of video games with a cash prize pool. By launching [UNT Esports](#), a program within the Division of Students Affairs' Recreational Sports department, our students will have a huge opportunity to play on the varsity collegiate level against teams across the nation!

Whether you're well on your way to becoming a professional esports player or someone who has no idea what esports actually is, **I invite you to join UNT Esports from 5 to 8 p.m. Monday, April 16, in the University Union Lyceum for an [Overwatch tournament](#).** This event promises to be full of fun and Mean Green spirit. Our standout student gamers will help you learn more about this worldwide phenomenon that is the newest professional and collegiate sport. Students also can learn about upcoming tryouts for the League of Legends and Overwatch varsity teams.

It's exciting to see the university continue to respond to our students' interests and to further develop programs in tandem with industry demand. Last year, the esports industry grossed \$696 million in total revenue and is predicted to grow to \$1.5 billion by 2020.

Come see what it's all about, and support our students!

UNT Proud,  
Neal Smatresk  
President

