



August 15, 2016

Dear Texas Tech Family,

Texas Tech University celebrated the graduation of 1,607 Red Raiders, at the August 2016 Commencement Ceremony on Saturday. This Saturday, new students will be moving into campus residence halls as we start another academic year. These events, at the opposite ends of the spectrum of a student's college experience, are special moments in a university's calendar. But there have been other exciting developments in my first two weeks of serving as president, which I'd like to share with you as we look forward to the start of the fall semester.

Last week's meeting of the Texas Tech University System Board of Regents (BOR) was preceded by a signing ceremony that established Texas Tech's first international campus in San Jose, Costa Rica. Texas Tech University Costa Rica will provide access to a Texas Tech degree for students in Central America, beginning in 2018. In addition, our students and faculty will have new opportunities to engage in international research and internships and study abroad. This collaboration reflects the continual evolution of our university as a world-class institution, with an increasing global presence. Another important aspect of this partnership is Texas Tech University Costa Rica will be completely self-sustaining and self-supported through revenue generated by student enrollment in Costa Rica and additional resources from our partner, Promerica Group.

During the BOR meeting, Chancellor Robert Duncan announced a \$10 million gift to the College of Visual and Performing Arts from the J.T. & Margaret Talkington Charitable Foundation. This gift adds to the legacy of generosity of J.T. and Margaret Talkington and their support of Texas Tech and the arts. This contribution, and matching TTU support, represents significant progress in plans to renovate the Maedgen Theatre, which is crucial to teaching and creative activities of students and faculty and the general promotion of the arts on our campus and in the broader community.

Additionally, a plan to move forward with construction of a second Experimental Sciences Building (ESB) on campus was approved last week by our Regents. The plans for this new facility were developed from proposals that identified research areas of national significance and Texas Tech's strengths. ESB is intended to provide the infrastructure that will promote interdisciplinary research teams and enhance competitiveness for extramural funding.

Finally, this fall we will be engaged in a revision of our university's strategic plan with the goal of developing a map that takes us through 2025, the 100th anniversary of the first class at Texas Tech. The overarching theme of the initiative will be enhancing the student-centered culture that is essential to the Texas Tech experience, while also solidifying our status as a Tier One Research institution. Aspects of this plan will be discussed in greater detail in a state of the university address that will be announced later in September. We'll stream that presentation so it will be accessible to the Texas Tech community beyond our campus.

There's a great sense of excitement as we approach the upcoming academic year and a new season of intercollegiate sports. I look forward to seeing you at campus events and games, and don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions.

Go Tech!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lawrence Schovanec'.

Lawrence Schovanec