

June 27, 2019

Dear Texas Tech Community,

At Texas Tech University, our success in advancing our basic missions of education, discovery and engagement are heavily dependent on the contributions of many people and groups, including a commitment to higher education from our state's legislators. When Governor Abbott signed House Bill 1, it marked a pivotal moment in the university's history and strengthened Texas Tech's position as one of the nation's leading public research institutions.

Much discussion and effort over the last few years, especially since the start of the 86th Texas Legislative session in January, has revolved around plans for a School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) on the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center campus in Amarillo. The legislature's support of our full appropriation request allows us to move forward with the establishment of the state's second veterinary school and the first to be established by a public institution in the U.S. in nearly forty years.

Our efforts during the legislative session also addressed other priorities essential to the support of our faculty and students. Texas Tech's increase in semester credit hours taught and the state's support of enrollment growth contributed to a 5.8 percent increase in our general revenue. This includes an increase in Core Research funding, in part due to our growing research expenditures, and continued support from the Texas Research Incentive Program that provides a match on donor contributions to research programs.

Many people played integral roles in the success of this legislative session. I want to especially acknowledge the efforts of Chancellor Tedd Mitchell, our Board of Regents, and members of our West Texas legislative delegation. We also are fortunate to have active and engaged alumni who advocated on our behalf in Austin through their efforts at Texas Tech Day or by communicating with our legislators during these recent months. Because of the support of many generous donors and the Amarillo Economic Development Corporation, we raised \$90 million for SVM facilities, with the groundbreaking scheduled for September.

As we celebrate the successful session I'd also like to mention a few of the other exciting achievements during the spring semester. As noted in the most recent [Texas Tech Today Monthly e-Newsletter](#), Texas Tech has moved up 182 places in the Forbes Best Value Rankings in the past two years, and now ranks 72nd in the nation among public institutions. The School of Law won the American Bar Association Competitions Championship and the pom and co-ed cheer squads placed first in the National Cheerleaders Association and National Dance Alliance (NDA) Collegiate Cheer and Dance Championships.

The Red Raider men's track and field team won the NCAA championship along with the Big 12 indoor and outdoor championships. This was only two months after the men's basketball team, also Big 12 champions, played for a national championship in the NCAA Final Four in Minneapolis. And our Big 12 champion Red Raider baseball team competed last week in its fourth College World Series in the last six years.

Texas Tech has a lot to be proud of, and even more to look forward to. I am deeply grateful for all you do that makes this a wonderful time in the university's history.

Sincerely,



Lawrence Schovanec
President