CONVOCATION SPEECH
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SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO THIS MONTH, THE TEXAS STATE SCHOOL OF MINES AND METALLURGY OPENED ITS DOORS FOR THE FIRST TIME TO AN ENTERING FRESHMAN CLASS OF 27 STUDENTS. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SCHOOL WAS AUTHORIZED BY THE TEXAS STATE LEGISLATURE IN APRIL 1913, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS BOARD OF REGENTS CREATED THE SCHOOL BY ITS ACTION ONE YEAR LATER IN APRIL 1914.


THE FIRST STUDENTS TO ENTER THE SCHOOL INCLUDED ONE FROM MEXICO. HE WAS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT IN THE GROUP, SINCE HE WAS ALSO THE TUTOR IN SPANISH. IT'S INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THE SCHOOL OFFERED NO COURSES IN ENGLISH, BUT SPANISH WAS A REQUIRED SUBJECT BECAUSE MOST OF THE PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATING MINING ENGINEERS WERE IN MEXICO AND OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES.

LET'S CONSIDER FOR A MOMENT THE FASCINATING HISTORICAL CONTEXT IN WHICH OUR UNIVERSITY WAS FOUNDED. THE COMMUNITY OF EL PASO WAS GROWING RAPIDLY. IN EARLY 1914, THE POPULATION WAS DESCRIBED AS INCLUDING 50,000 STABLE RESIDENTS AND ANOTHER 10,000 DRIFTERS.

THERE WAS A REVOLUTION UNDERWAY IN MEXICO, WHICH DOMINATED THE NEWSPAPER HEADLINES AND CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE GROWTH OF EL PASO. AFTER EVERY IMPORTANT BATTLE IN NORTHERN MEXICO, TRAINLOADS OF PEOPLE HEADED NORTH. WHEN VILLA CAPTURED OJINAGA IN JANUARY 1914, DEFEATED MEXICAN FEDERAL TROOPS WERE SENT TO FORT BLISS WHERE COMPOUNDS WERE HASTILY BUILT FOR THEM. THAT REFUGEE CAMP HAD OVER 5,000 MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN BY APRIL. OTHER REFUGEES LIVED BY THE HUNDREDS ON THE STREETS OF EL PASO, THEIR NUMBERS INCREASING DAILY DURING THE COURSE OF THE REVOLUTION. POPULATION GROWTH WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENORMOUS OUTPOURING OF CIVIC PRIDE AND COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS. DESPITE THE RAVAGES OF WAR JUST ACROSS THE BORDER, THERE WAS A DYNAMIC UNDERCURRENT OF PROGRESSIVE THINKING IN EL PASO. PEOPLE CONTINUED TO DEMAND IMPROVEMENTS IN EDUCATION AND TO BUILD INSTITUTIONS FOR THEIR FUTURE. IN 1914, THE YEAR THE TEXAS STATE SCHOOL OF MINES AND METALLURGY OPENED ITS DOORS, SEVERAL OTHER MAJOR PROJECTS WERE UNDERWAY:

IN JANUARY 1914, VOTERS APPROVED $360,000 IN BONDS FOR A NEW COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND AUDITORIUM, THE SAME ONE THAT IS TODAY BEING DEMOLISHED.
Another bond election in 1914 approved the building that is still home to El Paso High School. Both it and the courthouse were designed by the renowned architectural firm of Trost and Trost.

Still another school, Lydia Patterson Institute, was established to train Methodists for Spanish-speaking missions on both sides of the Rio Grande.

A new city-county hospital, known today as Thomason General, was constructed.

St. Patrick's Church at Mesa and Arizona was built, and it became the cathedral for the newly organized diocese of El Paso which was authorized by the Pope in early 1914.

At Fort Bliss, the new commander was a man who was to become one of America's foremost military leaders, John J. Pershing.

El Paso bankers spent the early part of 1914 trying to convince government officials to locate one of the new Federal Reserve Banks here, and farmers were looking forward to completion of the Elephant Butte Dam.

Those who had the vision and who expended the effort to see that a dam was built to aid in the development of agriculture were the same individuals who sought support for bond issues to meet public needs and the same ones who insisted that El Paso should have a mining school.

When the state government agreed that it would provide operating funds if El Paso would produce the land and buildings, these individuals stepped forward with their resources to purchase the land and construct the facilities that became the First Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy.
AS WE CONSIDER THE EVENTS OF THE PAST 75 YEARS, WE COULD POINT TO MANY MILESTONES WHICH HAVE CHARTED THE INSTITUTION'S COURSE THROUGH RAPIDLY CHANGING TIMES. WHAT IS MOST INTERESTING, AT LEAST TO ME, ARE THE CONSISTENT THEMES THAT HAVE SHAPED THIS INSTITUTION THROUGH THE YEARS OF ITS ENORMOUS GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

PARTICULARLY SALIENT ARE THE CLOSE TIES BETWEEN THIS UNIVERSITY AND MEXICO. THROUGH THE YEARS, MEXICAN STUDENTS HAVE ALWAYS ENROLLED AT U.T. EL PASO IN LARGE NUMBERS; IN FACT, WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY HAD THE LARGEST ENROLLMENT OF MEXICAN STUDENTS AT ANY UNIVERSITY IN THE UNITED STATES. RECENT APPROVAL BY THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE OF A SPECIAL TUITION STATUS FOR MEXICAN STUDENTS AT U.T. EL PASO ATTESTS TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS ASPECT OF OUR MISSION TO THE ENTIRE STATE. THIS YEAR, NEARLY 650 MEXICAN STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED AT U.T. EL PASO, AND THEIR NUMBERS CONTINUE TO GROW STEADILY.

TODAY, AS WE CELEBRATE U.T. EL PASO'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY, WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE WITH US A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS WHOSE COOPERATION HAS BEEN ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR EFFORTS TO CREATE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS FROM MEXICO AND WHOSE PRESENCE ACKNOWLEDGES OUR -- AND THEIR -- CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO EXPLORE EVER CLOSER TIES AND TO PURSUE A GREATER RESPONSIVENESS TO THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF THOSE WHO SHARE IN THE LIFE OF THIS BINATIONAL REGION. I'D LIKE TO ASK EACH OF OUR HONORED GUESTS TO RISE AS I CALL HIS NAME:

Dr. Carlos Ochoa Ortega, Rector, Universidad Autonoma de Chihuahua
Ing. Roberto Arana Moran, Director, Instituto Tecnologico de Cd. Juarez
C.P. Francisco Abel Trevino, Rector, Universidad Regiomontana, and Mrs. Maria Lourdes Trevino
Ing. Juan Manuel Duran, Presidente de la Zona Norte, Instituto Tecnologico de Educacion Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM)
Ing. Luis Rene Contreras, Director, ITESM – Cd. Juarez Campus
Honorable Louis Goelz, Consul General of the U.S. in Juarez
The Honorable Jaime Bermudez C., Mayor of Juarez
Dr. Enrique Cortazar, representing the Consulate General of Mexico in El Paso
Dr. Larry Palmer, Pearson Program representative assigned by the U.S. Department of State to U.T. El Paso
Mr. Bill Tilney, former U.S. Consul in Juarez.

I THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING WITH US TODAY.

U.T. EL PASO HAS ALSO TRADITIONALLY SERVED A LARGE NUMBER OF HISPANIC RESIDENTS ON THIS SIDE OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY. INDEED, WE ARE TODAY THE LARGEST HISPANIC-MAJORITY UNIVERSITY IN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES. WE DECIDED TO HOLD THIS CONVOCATION CEREMONY ON THE FIRST DAY OF HISPANIC HERITAGE WEEK TO RECOGNIZE THE GROWING NATIONAL VISIBILITY THAT U.T. EL PASO HAS ACHIEVED FOR SUCCESSFULLY PREPARING LARGE NUMBERS OF HISPANICS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THIS REGION AND IN OTHER MAJOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ARENAS.

THROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY, THE UNIVERSITY HAS ALSO MAINTAINED VERY CLOSE TIES WITH THE EL PASO COMMUNITY. THE EARLY GENEROSITY OF MEMBERS OF THIS COMMUNITY WHO PROVIDED THE LAND AND THE BUILDINGS FOR OUR FIRST CAMPUS CONTINUES TODAY AS WE BUILD A RESOURCE BASE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS, FOR ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS AND CHAIRS, AND FOR OTHER OPERATING ENDOWMENTS AND FUNDS THAT ENABLE US TO ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE IN ALL THAT WE DO. WE CAN BE VERY PROUD THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO IS 2nd ONLY TO U.T. AUSTIN AMONG ACADEMIC COMPONENTS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM IN THE SIZE OF ITS SCHOLARSHIP, PROFESSORSHIP, AND CHAIR ENDOWMENTS.

THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S CONVOCATION, "SHINE ON," REFLECTS BOTH THE SHINING SUCCESS THAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED FOR THE PAST 75 YEARS AND, PERHAPS EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY, OUR DETERMINATION TO SHINE ON AS WE PURSUE OUR INSTITUTIONAL DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE. THE PAST YEAR REPRESENTS A SHINING
EXAMPLE OF OUR CAPACITY TO ACHIEVE THOSE ASPIRATIONS. LET'S FIRST RECALL THE BIG NEWS ITEMS —— THE GOALS WHOSE ACHIEVEMENT HAS ALREADY ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION.


A SECOND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT DURING THE PAST YEAR WAS APPROVAL IN JULY BY THE TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD OF U.T. EL PASO'S PROPOSED DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING. THIS PROGRAM HAD BEEN IN THE PLANNING STAGES FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, AND ALL THE NECESSARY PREPARATION HAD LONG SINCE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. STRONG FACULTY, A GOOD RESEARCH BASE, LARGE STUDENT DEMAND, AND FINE FACILITIES WERE ALL IN READINESS FOR THIS PROGRAM. THE FINAL STEP WAS TO CONVINCE THE COORDINATING BOARD THAT U.T. EL PASO WAS INDEED AN INSTITUTION READY TO OFFER MORE THAN A SINGLE DOCTORAL PROGRAM. WITH THE HELP OF A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS IN THE EL PASO COMMUNITY, NOTABLY HAL DAUGHERTY, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE COORDINATING BOARD, WE WERE SUCCESSFUL IN GAINING APPROVAL OF THIS DOCTORAL DEGREE, WHICH WE ANTICIPATE WILL ADMIT ITS FIRST STUDENTS IN JANUARY, 1990.
LIKE ACCREDITATION IN THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS, THIS PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION NOT ONLY VALIDATES THE QUALITY OF THE ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE PROGRAMS, IT ALSO CREATES ENORMOUS NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO PURSUE RESEARCH FUNDING AND SETS THE STAGE FOR ADDITIONAL DOCTORAL PROGRAMS IN AREAS THAT ARE CRITICAL TO THE FUTURE HUMAN AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THIS REGION. DR. STEVE RITER AND THE FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE ARE TO BE CONGRATULATED.

THE THIRD AREA THAT HAS GAINED SOME ATTENTION OVER THE PAST YEAR HAS BEEN THE REMARKABLE GROWTH IN THE UNIVERSITY'S EXTRAMURAL FUNDING. JUST ONE YEAR AGO, WE WERE PROUD TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BRING TO THE UNIVERSITY $5 MILLION IN EXTRAMURAL FUNDING SUPPORT. IT WAS MY HOPE, AND INDEED, I STATED AS A GOAL, THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO DOUBLE THAT AMOUNT IN 1988–89.

I AM DELIGHTED TO REPORT TO YOU TODAY THAT MY $10 MILLION GOAL WAS FAR TOO MODEST. IN 1988–89, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO RECEIVED OVER $19.7 MILLION IN NEW RESEARCH AWARDS FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES, STATE AGENCIES, CORPORATIONS, AND FOUNDATIONS.

TO THE FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS WHO HAVE DEDICATED THEIR TIME, EXPERTISE, AND ENERGY IN THE PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS, WE OFFER OUR APPRECIATION FOR THEIR EFFORTS AND OUR CONGRATULATIONS ON THEIR SUCCESS. TO JULIE SANFORD, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROJECTS, AND FLORENCE DICK AND MARY ALTIZER WHO WORK WITH HER, WE OFFER OUR SPECIAL THANKS FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY SUPPORT YOU HAVE PROVIDED, DESPITE AN EVER-INCREASING VOLUME OF ACTIVITY.

AT A RECENT U.T. SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING, CHANCELLOR HANS MARK COMMENTED ON THE EXTRAORDINARY GROWTH IN U.T. EL PASO'S BUDGET FOR 1989–90,
20% OVER 1988-89, AND TWICE THE GROWTH RATE OF ANY OTHER ACADEMIC COMPONENT IN THE SYSTEM, LARGELY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN EXTRAMURAL FUNDING.

ALL OF OUR GRANT AWARDS ARE SPECIAL, BECAUSE THEY BRING TO US NEW RESOURCES, BOTH FINANCIAL AND HUMAN, THAT ENABLE US TO GO FAR BEYOND THE CONSTRAINTS OF STATE-APPROPRIATED FUNDING. ALTHOUGH TIME WILL NOT PERMIT ME TO TELL YOU ABOUT ALL OF THE AWARDS WE HAVE RECEIVED THIS YEAR, LET ME MENTION JUST A FEW THAT MIGHT SERVE TO GIVE YOU A FLAVOR OF BOTH THE MAGNITUDE AND THE DIVERSITY OF THE PROJECTS IN WHICH WE ARE PRESENTLY ENGAGED:

-- U.T. EL PASO WAS DESIGNATED BY THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION LAST FALL AS A MINORITY RESEARCH CENTER OF EXCELLENCE, ONE OF ONLY 6 SUCH RESEARCH CENTERS TO BE FUNDED NATIONALLY. U.T. EL PASO WILL RECEIVE NEARLY $5 MILLION TO SUPPORT THE CENTER DURING THE 5-YEAR FUNDING PERIOD.

-- THROUGH THE GOOD EFFORTS OF CONGRESSMAN RONALD COLEMAN, THE INSTITUTE FOR MANUFACTURING AND MATERIALS MANAGEMENT WAS AWARDED $3 MILLION TO BEGIN ITS WORK IN THE AREA OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. IN ADDITION, THE INSTITUTE RECEIVED SPECIAL LINE ITEM FUNDING FROM THE STATE TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP TO A CONSORTIUM INCLUDING LAREDO STATE UNIVERSITY AND U.T. PAN AMERICAN IN A PROJECT ENTITLED "TEXAS CENTERS FOR BORDER ECONOMIC AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT." ABLY DIRECTED BY DR. DON MICHIE, THE INSTITUTE IS RAPIDLY BECOMING A HIGHLY VISIBLE INTERFACE BETWEEN U.T. EL PASO AND THE REGION THAT IT SERVES.

-- THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION HAS FUNDED TWO NEW PROGRAMS, COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL CENTERS FOR MINORITIES AND RESEARCH CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES FOR MINORITY SCHOLARS, ATTESTING TO U.T. EL PASO'S GROWING IMPORTANCE AS AN
INSTITUTION CAPABLE OF AND COMMITTED TO ADDRESSING THE SERIOUS
UNDERREPRESENTATION OF HISPANICS IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
CAREERS. THESE TWO PROGRAMS WILL BRING OVER $4.5 MILLION TO
U.T. EL PASO OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS.

--- THE SOLAR POND PROJECT, DIRECTED BY DR. ANDY SWIFT IN ENGINEERING,
RECEIVED OVER $500,000 FROM THE ENERGY RESEARCH APPLICATIONS
PROGRAM OF THE TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD TO
CONTINUE ENERGY-RELATED RESEARCH.

--- THE UNIVERSITY HAS ONCE AGAIN BEEN FUNDED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION IN THE AMOUNT OF $450,000 TO CONDUCT AN UPWARD BOUND
PROGRAM ON OUR CAMPUS. THIS PROGRAM, WHICH WILL BE DIRECTED BY
MIKE SALAZAR, WILL HELP U.T. EL PASO ADDRESS THE UNACCEPTABLY HIGH
ATTRITION RATE, ESPECIALLY AMONG HISPANICS, IN AREA SCHOOLS.

--- THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH CONTINUES TO SUPPORT U.T. EL PASO'S
FACULTY THROUGH THE MINORITY BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH SCIENCES PROGRAM
WHICH FOSTERS RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS PLANNING CAREERS
IN BIOMEDICAL FIELDS.

--- BOTH THE AIR FORCE OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND THE ARMY RESEARCH OFFICE
HAVE FUNDED SEVERAL PROPOSALS IN THE COLLEGES OF SCIENCE AND
ENGINEERING FOR A TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT OF OVER $1.3 MILLION.

--- THE LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS DEPARTMENT, UNDER JON AMASTAE'S ABLE
LEADERSHIP, SECURED A GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
TO SUPPORT UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN FACULTY-DIRECTED
RESEARCH IN LINGUISTICS.

--- IBM HAS ENTERED INTO A PARTNERSHIP WITH U.T. EL PASO, PROVIDING A
COMPUTER AND WORK STATIONS AS WELL AS SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT
EXPERTISE TO SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY REMEDIAL
INSTRUCTION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE TEXAS ACADEMIC SKILLS
PROGRAM.
THE UNIVERSITY'S NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED MOTHER-DAUGHTER PROGRAM HAS RECEIVED A MAJOR GRANT FROM THE MEADOWS FOUNDATION TO CONTINUE ITS OUTREACH EFFORT WITH 6TH-GRADE GIRLS AND THEIR MOTHERS.

AS YOU CAN READILY SEE, U.T. EL PASO FACULTY AND STAFF ARE AGGRESSIVELY AND SUCCESSFULLY SEEKING SUPPORT FOR A WIDE VARIETY OF INITIATIVES WHICH FURTHER OUR INSTITUTIONAL GOALS AND CONTRIBUTE TO OUR GROWING NATIONAL VISIBILITY, THEREBY CREATING ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR US ALL.

IN ADDITION TO THE NEARLY $20 MILLION IN EXTRAMURAL FUNDING GENERATED THROUGH PROPOSALS BY FACULTY AND STAFF, OUR FUND-RAISING EFFORTS THIS YEAR HAVE BEEN ENORMOUSLY SUCCESSFUL, DUE IN NO SMALL MEASURE TO THE DEDICATION OF OUR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS IN THIS COMMUNITY WHO GIVE COUNTLESS HOURS AND MANY DOLLARS IN AN EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE IN THIS UNIVERSITY AND ITS FUTURE ASPIRATIONS.


FINALLY, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, LET'S SPEND JUST A MOMENT TALKING ABOUT THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THOSE FOR WHOM ALL OF THE AFOREMENTIONED ACTIVITY IS UNDERTAKEN: UTEP'S STUDENTS. A UNIVERSITY HAS NO PURPOSE, NO REASON TO
EXIST, SAVE FOR THE STUDENTS WHOSE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS WE WORK TO STIMULATE AND DEVELOP. ACCREDITATION, DOCTORAL PROGRAMS, AND R & D FUNDS ARE IMPORTANT ONLY AS THEY RELATE TO CREATING ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN A QUALITY EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE.

U.T. EL PASO'S ENROLLMENT HAS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY AGAIN THIS YEAR. 15,800 STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 5% OVER ONE YEAR AGO. THIS INCREASE IS DUE NOT ONLY TO THE SPLENDID JOB THAT BETO LOPEZ, DIANA GUERRERO, RICHARD ARANDA, MANNY PACILLAS AND MANY OTHER STAFF AND FACULTY MEMBERS HAVE DONE IN SPREADING THE WORD AMONG POTENTIAL STUDENTS THAT U.T. EL PASO OFFERS A WIDE VARIETY OF QUALITY ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, BUT ALSO TO THE SUCCESS OF STUDENT SUPPORT EFFORTS DESIGNED TO FOSTER THE RETENTION OF STUDENTS WHO CHOOSE TO ATTEND THIS UNIVERSITY. ORIENTATION PROGRAMS FOR NEW STUDENTS GET THEM OFF TO A GOOD START; THE ADVISING CENTER, THE STUDY SKILLS AND TUTORIAL SERVICES PROGRAM, THE SCHOLARSHIP OFFICE, FINANCIAL AID, PLACEMENT SERVICES, AND OTHER UNITS IN STUDENT AFFAIRS ALL WORK TO ENSURE THAT HIGHLY MOTIVATED AND TALENTED STUDENTS WILL PROGRESS TOWARD THEIR DESIRED EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER GOALS.

U.T. EL PASO STUDENTS ARE NOT ONLY MORE NUMEROUS THIS YEAR, THEY ARE ALSO INCREASINGLY WELL PREPARED. TWO-THIRDS OF OUR NEWLY ENROLLED FRESHMEN WERE RANKED IN THE UPPER HALF OF THEIR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASSES, AND NEARLY 40% IN THE TOP QUARTER. DURING THE PAST YEAR, 7 AREA HIGH SCHOOL VALEDICTORIANS AND 16 SALUTATORIANS CHOSE TO ATTEND U.T. EL PASO, AS DID 6 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS AND 5 NEW MEXICO SCHOLARS.

THE REAL MEASURE OF THE QUALITY OF THIS UNIVERSITY AND ITS STUDENTS IS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR GRADUATES, AND IT IS HERE THAT U.T. EL PASO CAN BE ESPECIALLY PROUD. RECENT GRADUATES OF U.T. EL PASO ARE BEING RECRUITED BY
THE MOST SELECTIVE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS -- FOR EXAMPLE, THREE MAY 1989 GRADUATES ACCEPTED SCHOLARSHIPS TO HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, AND OTHERS RECEIVED NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, GEM, FORD FOUNDATION AND OTHER PRESTIGIOUS POST-GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS. THESE RECENT GRADUATES CONTINUE A PROUD TRADITION OF OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS BY OUR ALUMNI BEGUN SO HOPEFULLY WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT IN 1914 OF THE TEXAS STATE SCHOOL OF MINES AND METALLURGY.

THE EXCITEMENT OF A NEW SCHOOL YEAR RELATES NOT ONLY TO A RESUMPTION IN ACTIVITY, BUT ALSO TO THE NEW DREAMS AND HOPES THAT EMERGE AS FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS COME TOGETHER ONCE AGAIN TO RENEW THEIR QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE. THIS EXCITEMENT IS PARTICULARLY GREAT AT U.T. EL PASO BECAUSE SO MANY STUDENTS, AN ESTIMATED 80%, ARE THE FIRST IN THEIR FAMILIES TO ATTEND COLLEGE. THE STUDENTS' DESIRE TO DEVELOP THEIR TALENTS TO BECOME PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY AND THE FACULTY AND STAFF'S RECOGNITION OF THEIR ROLE IN FOSTERING THAT DEVELOPMENT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE GROWING DISTINCTION AND VISIBILITY U.T. EL PASO HAS GAINED THROUGH THE SHINING SUCCESS OF ITS GRADUATES.


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