



Office of the President

Remarks by UTSA President Taylor Eighmy on the University's 2022-23 Legislative Appropriations Request

November 5, 2020 • Joint Budget Hearing – Article III

- Rather than elaborate on our LAR and leave behind supplemental materials, I thought I would focus my comments on how higher education is integral to work force development, economic recovery, and the pandemic response here in Texas.
- By way of example, I'll highlight a few of our efforts, you have already heard some other really good examples today from my colleagues.
- Last year, UTSA graduated over 7,400 students, our largest graduating class ever.
- Our student enrollment this fall increased almost 7%, to about 35,000 students.
- As planned, we are well on our way to realizing a total enrollment of over 45,000 students by 2028 as part of our 60X30 obligation to Texas.
- Four of our five principal student success measures increased significantly this past academic year, moreover our average time to graduation for our undergraduates has steadily dropped from 5.0 years to 4.5 years over these last three years.
- We are one of five institutions nationally selected by Excelencia in Education this year to receive the "Seal of Excelencia" for our continued focus on student success as an "Hispanic-thriving institution."
- Our Quality Enhancement Plan from SACSCOC, to be formally approved next year, is all about "classroom to career" and making experiential learning—especially internships—foundational to our Roadrunner undergraduate educational experience.
- Largely through our Extended Education "Career in Focus" program, we are making stackable certificates available to our community at low cost and to our recent UTSA graduates who desire additional credentials for advancement in the workplace.

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- Our Small Business Development Center COVID-19 Business Recovery Accelerator, funded by the Small Business Administration, has—since March—served over 14,300 small businesses in securing over \$51M in federal COVID stimulus loans.
- We break ground for our new 160,000 SF School of Data Sciences and the National Security Collaboration Center at our downtown campus next month.
- Our soon to be launched Department of Energy \$111M cyber manufacturing institute is poised to support the advanced manufacturing economies in automotive and aerospace here in Texas. A number of institutions on this call are our partners.
- Our collaborative R&D relationship here in San Antonio under the San Antonio Partnerships for Precision Therapeutics—including our sister institution UT Health San Antonio—is leading to important antiviral therapy and vaccine developments as we speak.
- As one of the eight emerging research universities here in Texas, we are all poised to further advance student success, graduate students into our Texas work force, support regional and state economic development, and discover ways to improve human health for Texans during this pandemic.
- I would end by saying this: Higher education is an excellent investment in the future of Texas.
- I appreciate the State's investment in all of our institutions. Thank you for the opportunity to share these thoughts.