

THE  
PRESIDENT'S



# viewpoint

September 2006

## The Future Starts Here

As I watch students returning to campus and enjoy seeing the arrival of our entering freshmen, I am reminded of my first day on the UTD campus a little more than a year ago. Much like our students, I arrived here filled with ambition, hope and possibilities for the future. As I look around the campus today, it is rewarding to see that future starting to unfold.

One of our greatest accomplishments during the past year was finalizing the UTD Strategic Plan, which outlines our primary objectives and strategic initiatives for the next 10 to 15 years, and it will serve as a guide as we implement changes and encounter continuing growth opportunities.

Last year also brought a \$1.8 million grant for the Texas Schools Project, which gathers data from public schools and other state agencies that can be studied to improve academics statewide. As part of the grant, UTD will join Duke University, Stanford University and other top research schools in tracking nationwide data to learn how we can improve our education system.

UTD is also making changes to keep its own curriculum on the cutting edge, including the addition of a new degree in emerging media, which studies evolving forms of media and communications such as Web-based writing and content development. We also recently created a new graduate degree in materials science and engineering, which involves the study of advanced materials, including metals, composites and polymers. Looking ahead, the addition of a new Bachelor of Science degree in computer engineering will further expand the curriculum at our nationally recognized Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science.

These curriculum developments are just the beginning. Expect even more changes, starting with a new name for the School of Social Sciences, which is now called the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences to reflect more accurately the expanding range of contemporary global disciplines this school has to offer.

This fall, students will find that the campus is also abuzz over some new physical developments. Construction is nearing completion on the Natural Science and Engineering Research Laboratory, which will tremendously enhance on-campus research capabilities. The Center for BrainHealth is anxiously awaiting its new, state-of-the-art facility, which is scheduled to open in January. Recently, UTD was also awarded \$27 million for a specialized math, science and engineering research education building that will focus on boosting competitiveness in key scientific areas and study how to teach math and science more effectively. Students approved a new fee that will enable construction of a student services building, bringing all student services under one roof and freeing up space in the library for expansion. We are also very excited about our \$10 million landscape enhancement project, made possible by a private gift, which will transform the look and feel of the campus and create beautiful and functional outdoor spaces. The campus continues to grow and to reflect the excellence that characterizes UTD.

Cutting-edge facilities, new academic opportunities, strengthened emphasis on research and an aggressive expansion program—it's all part of elevating UTD to the next level. The future starts here, and the entire UTD community is embracing it with all the energy and determination of ambitious, young graduates, ready to meet new challenges and change the world.



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FROM THE  
DESK OF  
DAVID E. DANIEL

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