A Shared Trajectory Toward Greatness

As UTD evolves into a world-class research university, it has the potential to make a great city even greater.

The Dallas-Fort Worth region is ranked #6 for economic output among all metropolitan areas in the United States, and it has a $250 billion economy with 18 Fortune 500 companies, five community college districts, six major public universities, two arts districts and six major-league sports teams.

Although the Metroplex is home to several good universities, including UTD, there are zero world-class research universities—a fact that could jeopardize DFW’s strong national standing in the future.

Lack of a top-tier research university is a major economic and cultural weakness for our otherwise thriving area. Having a world-class research institution:

• spurs economic growth
• strengthens the workforce
• helps a region develop, keep and attract a highly educated population
• attracts research dollars that lead to major innovations
• improves education and access to information for the entire community
• contributes to quality of life for everyone in the region

UTD is poised to become a world-class research institution because it has an outstanding student body, a distinguished faculty, a prime location and strong support from key stakeholders. As part of its efforts to eventually fill that role, UTD has developed a detailed strategic plan, which includes specific initiatives intended to improve DFW.

Reasons abound to believe that UTD can and should achieve such an ambitious goal. The university already has a proven track record of managing rapid growth while maintaining academic excellence, and it already has developed a strong reputation for being highly innovative.

The potential economic benefits are also astounding. For every $1 Texas spends on higher education, more than $5 is generated. Currently, UTD contributes a $5.82 “output impact” on the regional economy for every $1 of general revenue appropriations. If UTD continues along its top-tier growth trajectory, it will add more than $600 million in direct expenditures to the North Texas economy by 2020.

A top-tier university would also help DFW attract and keep more of the brightest students and potential entrepreneurs here. This has economic benefits, too, as evidenced by studies conducted in other cities:

• In 1996, more than half of the $100 billion income generated in Silicon Valley came from companies started by Stanford graduates.
• A 1997 study showed that MIT graduates started more than 1,000 new businesses in Massachusetts.

The region would also garner more research funds and enjoy more cultural opportunities, a richer arts scene, and a higher quality of life thanks to important breakthroughs made at UTD that aid in treating diseases and protecting our community.

DFW has so much to offer in terms of a productive business environment and cultural enrichment. The region deserves a hub of education and knowledge to match. UTD can be that hub and make this great city even greater.