



Legislative Advocacy for UNT

UNT Day at the Capitol has proven that when alumni volunteers and students work together to advocate for the university, we see impressive results. But advocating for UNT doesn't just happen once every other year – it's 365 days a year! Here are some ways you can make a difference for your alma mater with our state legislators.

1. Find out who represents your area

Go to <https://wrm.capitol.texas.gov/home> to find out who represents you. Legislators are much more likely to take your correspondence seriously if you are a constituent, which means they're that much more likely to see the great information you're sharing about UNT. Focus on state senators and representatives.

2. Write thank you notes

Everyone likes to be thanked – including our state representatives! Write to your representatives to thank them for their service, especially for their focus on higher education, but also to remind them of important UNT facts and milestones. For example:

- Did you know UNT just graduated more than 8,000 alumni who are going to go out and help shape the future of Texas?
- Focus on things in your area: UNT's appearance in the inaugural Frisco Classic Bowl brought out more than 5,000 alums, students and fans, a huge win for the Collin County area!
- Important research, awards, viral news, etc.
- Thank them for things the Legislature has specifically funded, such as new buildings on campus or the Center for Agile Adaptive Additive Manufacturing.

See the sample thank you note on the next page.

3. Invite them to your events

Senators and representatives like to meet their constituents in a friendly environment, so make sure you invite them to your receptions, happy hours and other events! Even inviting them to speak at a chapter meeting is a great way to engage and let them know about the important impact UNT has on the state, communities and alumni.

You can email invitations through each legislator's website using the link above.



4. Know what UNT is asking for

Our specific legislative funding priorities change each session, but there are some things UNT will always need from the Legislature, including:

- Funding for research facilities
- Continuation of TRIP funding, a match of gifts that meet certain criteria
- Formula funding for enrollment growth

Learn more about our current funding priorities by visiting <https://untalumni.com/unt-day-at-the-capitol/>. You'll find links to helpful facts, points of pride and sample wording there.

Sample thank you note:

Dear Representative/Senator [Last Name],

On behalf of my alma mater, the University of North Texas, I want to thank you for making higher education funding a priority as part of your service to the state of Texas. Your commitment makes a world of difference to UNT's 42,000 hardworking students. The Legislature's support for UNT's additive manufacturing lab, for example, is helping put Texas at the forefront of this exciting technology.

I'm very proud of my university and the incredible impact alumni like myself are making across our great state. In fact, UNT just added 8,000 brand-new alumni during commencement ceremonies this past winter. From me and my hundreds of thousands of fellow alums here in Texas, I just wanted to say thank you and Go Mean Green!

[Signature]

How to address the envelope (find addresses at <https://wrm.capitol.texas.gov/home>):

To a State Senator or Representative:

The Honorable [First Name] [Last Name]

Send mail to the Capitol address during session; send to district address when out of session. You can learn more about the Legislature's schedule at <https://capitol.texas.gov/MnuCalendars.aspx>.