LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

FY 2022 - FY 2023

A Carnegie-ranked Tier One public research university, the University of North Texas is a place where students from all walks of life push creative boundaries and tap into their imaginations to transform the world around them. This year, when COVID-19 hit, our UNT community responded to the crisis the way we have responded to our region's needs the last 130 years — with a determination to persevere and ensure our students have every opportunity to become Texas' creators and leaders of tomorrow. UNT faculty and staff came together and worked tirelessly to transform nearly 8,000 courses and adapt nearly all student services to virtual experiences to meet the needs of our students and ensure they stayed on track for graduation.

Through it all, UNT continues to reach new heights in serving Texas' students, enrolling nearly 41,000 students, improving retention rates and graduating record numbers of students each year. UNT awarded more than 10,000 degrees in 2019-20 and consistently ranks among the state's top universities for the number of doctoral degrees awarded annually. UNT helps power the North Texas region's workforce with well-educated, highly qualified graduates. Of its 434,000 alumni, 294,000 live in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

UNT offers choice and convenience in providing a high-quality education to serve the North Texas region and consistently delivers a tech-, business- and people-savvy workforce for DFW, the state of Texas and beyond. UNT is home to 239 programs — many nationally and internationally recognized in areas ranging from education to music to political science, which provides a strong foundation for growth. Already one of the nation's largest universities, UNT also is one of the most diverse. This year, the university was designated a Minority-Serving and Hispanic-Serving Institution, better reflecting the population of Texas.

UNT continues to evolve its programs so students have the latest knowledge and skills necessary to contribute to a strong workforce, which helps drive Texas' economy. With support from the Texas Legislature in providing sufficient General Revenue and Exceptional Item funding, UNT will continue to fulfill its mission of graduating leaders and being a strong partner and resource for communities and businesses.

PRIORITY ITEM REQUESTS

FORMULA FUNDING AT 100%

UNT's greatest need is for the formula to be funded at 100%. This is critical for UNT to continue providing a high-quality, affordable education to its growing student population. The formula is the most effective way of ensuring the state's support goes directly to students. Sustained general revenue is needed to:

- Enhance and expand academic programs and student support services
- Increase need- and merit-based scholarships and aid
- Attract and retain high-quality faculty and staff

CONTINUED FUNDING FOR THE CENTER FOR AGILE AND ADAPTIVE ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING (CAAAM)

(FY 2022: $5,000,000/FY 2023: $5,000,000)

UNT's Center for Agile and Adaptive Additive Manufacturing (CAAAM) launched in 2019 following a $10 million appropriation by the 86th Texas Legislature. This center is on the cutting edge of additive manufacturing innovation for U.S. and global markets. As the recent coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak has demonstrated, it is crucial that our manufacturing industry can pivot quickly to meet changing needs. Because of its unprecedented efficiency, limitless applications and transformational shift in design, manufacturing and supply approach, industry will increasingly turn to additive manufacturing technology. Through support from partnerships and the state of Texas, CAAAM is positioned to build and support next-generation manufacturing prowess to lead U.S. global competitiveness and address acute shortages in manufacturing workforce training in additive manufacturing processes. The center is poised to forge innovative interdisciplinary collaborations across a multitude of fields, including cybersecurity, data and decision sciences, complex logistics and supply chain management, and high-performance computing. CAAAM's educational unit, the Institute for Transformative Education in Additive Manufacturing, focuses on developing a comprehensive and integrated education and training program in additive manufacturing.

Continued funding for this initiative will ensure that Texas remains a leader in this critical field. CAAAM empowers companies to embark on additive manufacturing innovation and create industry-research partnerships with regional and multinational manufacturing industries and their partners to meet the needs of public, private, federal and defense industries. These partnerships ultimately will lead to technology development and commercialization opportunities.

PRIORITY ITEM REQUESTS

FUNDING FOR THE CENTER FOR INTEGRATED INTELLIGENT MOBILITY SYSTEMS (CIIMS)

(FY 2022: $5,000,000/FY 2023: $5,000,000)

The recent need for widespread quarantine due to coronavirus COVID-19 has highlighted the potential advantages of automated delivery systems, including autonomous vehicles and drones in supply chain management. Autonomous vehicle and aerial drone technology is progressing rapidly, but its future success will require an integrated approach to successfully deploy affordable, safe, accessible and resilient intelligent mobility systems in both rural and urban settings. UNT is forming the Center for Integrated Intelligent Mobility Systems (CIIMS) to accelerate this deployment by collaborating with original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), transportation users and providers, area developers and policy makers. Faculty and student researchers are working collaboratively on integrated intelligent mobility systems, spanning disciplines including engineering, business, science, information, and health and public service. UNT's expertise and DFW-area industry connections make it uniquely positioned to be the leader in this field. Funding for this initiative will position Texas as the global leader in developing and deploying intelligent mobility systems for public, commercial and defense uses while increasing and facilitating global and domestic trade arriving at Texas ports and moving within the state to create an affordable, safe and accessible public mobility system.

FUNDING FOR CENTER FOR RACIAL AND ETHNIC EQUITY IN HEALTH AND SOCIETY (CREEHS)

(FY 2022: $2,000,000/FY 2023: $2,000,000)

The recent health crisis has highlighted longstanding racial and ethnic health disparities within Texas. Data suggests that communities of color, particularly black and Hispanic communities, are being disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. UNT's Center for Racial and Ethnic Equity in Health and Society (CREEHS) seeks to uncover the impact of health care gaps and provide research for the development of best practices and policies for remedying these issues. A team of 25 UNT researchers from business, political science, education, health services, geography, rehabilitation and other social science areas is uniquely poised to develop partnerships with industry, municipalities and community organizations across the state. Core faculty members have received federal and state-funded grants to support their work on the educational, economic, environmental and social determinants of health and enhance the quality of life for underserved populations across Texas. Health care makes up approximately half of Texas' budget, and the state is second in the nation in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). Reducing health disparities can lower expenditures and decrease the acuity of health issues. Funding for this initiative will address health and health care access; quality and utilization; economic stability and development; and workforce development.

TEXAS ACADEMY OF MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

(FY 2022: $1,297,391/FY 2023: $1,297,391)

UNT's Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science (TAMS) provides a unique opportunity to educate, accelerate and encourage gifted and talented high school students in the environment of a top-tier research university. The academy, which encourages minority involvement, reinforces UNT's mission by being an innovative teaching program and serves the nation as a model for accelerated education of our gifted youth. Texas, in particular, has an increased need for STEM professionals, given the recent increase of science, engineering and technology industries in several areas in the state. TAMS continues to serve Texas and the nation by providing students with a clear path to science and engineering professions to help address nationwide shortfalls. Continuing the TAMS funding will allow for scholarship opportunities for talented Texas students in science, mathematics and engineering.

TUITION REVENUE BONDS

TUITION REVENUE BOND REQUEST FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH BUILDING

($126,000,000 on TRB authorization with $10.8M annual debt service)

UNT has made significant strides to grow as a public research university, from hiring more distinguished faculty to building strength in key research areas to developing a stronger infrastructure. However, UNT's research growth hinges on the ability to provide more modern space to accommodate the cutting-edge research taking place. Many of the UNT buildings dedicated to science and technology are older, at capacity and would require significant renovations to bring them up to date. Therefore, UNT requests the authorization of a $126 million TRB for its Science and Technology Research Building. Construction of the approximately 167,700-square-foot building will provide state-of-the-art space for faculty to carry out solutions-based research.

COMMERCE, ANALYTICS, TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING (CATE) BUILDING FOR UNT NEW COLLEGE AT FRISCO

($85,000,000 on TRB authorization with $7.4M annual debt service)

UNT's branch campus in Frisco is growing rapidly to serve the needs of businesses and organizations in Collin County. The campus is situated in Frisco, one of the fastest-growing communities in the nation. As the student body has grown, the university is expanding facilities to meet these needs. The greatest demand for educated workers in that region is in the areas of commerce, analytics, technology and engineering coupled with a great need for individuals who can bring a creative and innovative approach to the future of this region. Therefore, UNT requests the authorization of an $85 million TRB for its Commerce, Analytics, Technology and Engineering Building. Construction of the approximately 120,000-square-foot building will provide state-of-the-art space for applied learning and collaboration to support a range of degree programs.