

## TALKING POINTS FOR FY 2022-FY 2023 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA REQUESTS LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN

### UNT Introduction

- ✦ Enrolled nearly 41,000 students, a record-breaking year that made UNT unique in increasing enrollment when many other institutions saw declines
  - Despite challenges brought on by COVID-19, faculty and staff transformed nearly 8,000 courses and adapted nearly all student services to virtual experiences in Spring 2020. The efforts continued as many classes remained virtual in the fall.
- ✦ Graduate more than 10,000 students a year
  - 253,000+ degreed alumni; \_\_\_\_\_ are voters in your district
- ✦ Set records with research expenditures exceeding \$83 million
- ✦ Achieved recognition as a Minority-Serving and Hispanic-Serving Institution, which better reflects Texas' population
- ✦ Continued progress in developing custom programs to prepare its students for success and to help major employers in the North Texas region and beyond
  - Corporate partners include Fidelity Corp, Cinemark, the Dallas Cowboys, PGA, Cisco Systems, Toyota, Dell and many others...

### YOUR Personal Story

- ✦ What UNT did for me?
- ✦ How is UNT on the rise to help more students succeed and impact Texas – and the world?

### Legislative Support Requests

- ✦ We hope higher education receives strong support this session.
- ✦ We need more qualified employees with degrees to meet our state's current and future workforce demands.
  - Please keep higher education funding at existing or higher levels.
- ✦ **Keep Texas manufacturing competitive with continued funding for our Additive Manufacturing request**
  - Texas is behind other states in this critical new technology.
  - UNT is a nationally acknowledged leader in this research area and proposes to train up industry leaders and supply the workforce for them through this proposal.
  - We are working with the U.S. Army and Air Force national laboratories and others in this vital area, but Texas needs to be a leader here.
- ✦ **Help Texas be a leader in developing and deploying intelligent mobility systems by funding our Integrated Intelligent Mobility Systems request**
  - Future success of autonomous vehicle and aerial drone technology will require an integrated approach to successfully deploy affordable, safe, accessible and resilient intelligent mobility systems in both rural and urban settings.
  - UNT's expertise and DFW-area industry connection make it uniquely positioned to be the leader in this field.

- ♦ **Combat racial and ethnic health disparities within Texas with the Racial and Ethnic Equity in Health and Society request**
  - 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.
  
- ♦ **Invest in research facilities:** It is important to equip our campus with the necessary facilities to conduct research and continue to be competitive in attracting more distinguished faculty and providing our students with top-quality facilities for experiential learning.
  - UNT – ranked a Tier One research university by the Carnegie Classification – has made significant strides to grow as a public research university and needs the investment of \$126 million in Tuition Revenue Bond resources for a Science and Technology Research Building and \$85 million in Tuition Revenue Bond resources for a Commerce, Analytics, Technology and Engineering Building at UNT's brand campus in Frisco.
  - Construction of the buildings will provide state-of-the-art space for faculty and students to carry out solutions-based research.
  
- ♦ **Continue TRIP Funding to encourage giving:** It is important to increase TRIP funding to encourage donors to get more involved in supporting emerging research in our state.
  - We have donors who get discouraged when their gifts are not funded.
  - TRIP-eligible gifts to UNT are at an all-time high and UNT has received more than \$10 million since the program's start in 2009.