



# The University of Texas at El Paso

## One of Texas' Next National Research (Tier One) Universities

- ✘ Texas has only two public national research (Tier One) universities: UT Austin and Texas A&M. Rice, a private university, also holds this designation.
- ✘ States such as California, New York, Massachusetts and Florida have 12, 9, 7 and 5 national research (Tier One) universities, respectively.
- ✘ To compete in the global economy of the 21st century, Texas must expand the number of comprehensive, top-echelon research universities—three national research (Tier One) institutions in the large and great state of Texas are inadequate to serve a fast-growing and diverse population.
- ✘ There is considerable consensus that the development of national research (Tier One) universities in 21st century Texas is likely to be most successful in large urban centers such as El Paso, where there is great potential for research collaborations, synergistic investments, technology transfer and commercialization.
- ✘ The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching classifies UTEP as a doctorate granting research university with high research activity—which places UTEP among the top 7 percent of all colleges and universities in the United States.
- ✘ UTEP's transformation into a national research (Tier One) university was endorsed in a 2004 report by the Washington Advisory Group (WAG). The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board designated UTEP as an emerging research university in 2005.
- ✘ According to the WAG report, UTEP can be the model for a university that has a positive impact on the economic and social environment of a region that is challenged by increasing cultural and economic changes.
- ✘ The WAG report also commented that UTEP's vision is exciting, with the twin goals of delivering high quality education in an economically responsible manner and at the same time achieving national research prominence.
- ✘ UTEP's success in securing research grants, particularly from federal sources, has fostered progress toward national research (Tier One) status, but this progress needs to be accelerated to enable Texas to compete with other states and countries across the world for the most talented minds and the economic benefits that come with robust research activity.
- ✘ The yield on research investments at UTEP has already been significant in terms of national research competitiveness and funding. UTEP's total annual research expenditures increased by 36%—from \$36.9 million to more than \$50 million—between 2004 and 2008.
- ✘ Federal support for research at UTEP also grew during the 2004-2008 period, and UTEP now ranks 4th among all public universities in Texas in total annual federal research expenditures. There is every reason to expect that this return on investment will accelerate as newly recruited faculty and recently established research centers prepare increasingly competitive funding proposals.
- ✘ It is imperative that Texas make a strategic investment at this time to accelerate the progress of its emerging research universities toward national research (Tier One) university status—with UTEP among the front-runners.
- ✘ As has been amply demonstrated by UTEP during the past several years, the return on such an investment will be enormous: in leveraging federal research funding; promoting regional and statewide economic growth; and fostering the educational achievement of this state's fast growing and increasingly Hispanic population.
- ✘ UTEP is poised to become one of Texas' next national research universities and the first national research (Tier One) university in the United States with a 21st century demographic.

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The University of Texas at El Paso ✘ Diana Natalicio, President