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Centennial Newsletter

UTEP 2014 Commission

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO CENTENNIAL NEWSLETTER

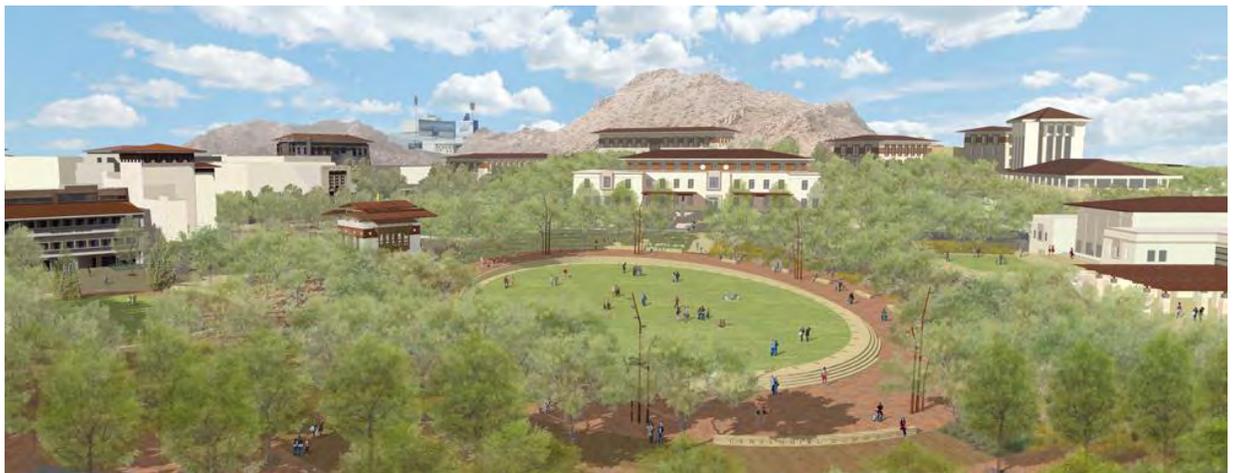
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From the UTEP 2014 Commission

At its July 10 meeting, the Executive Committee of the 2014 Commission developed the operating strategy for the transition from Centennial planning to implementation. The committee was also briefed on Centennial fundraising efforts by Dr. Sylvia Y. Acosta of the University Development Office. Finally, committee members endorsed the work of the Office of University Communications—Chris Lopez, Rene Wong, and John Downey—to modify the Centennial logo. Concerns with the original logo were formally raised by the Marketing Committee and endorsed by the Executive Committee at its June 4 meeting. University leadership accepted the recommendation, authorized the solicitation of input, and assigned the project to University Communications. The changes emphasize “UTEP” and “100 years” while maintaining consistency of color palette and shape. Watch for the new logo appearing soon, everywhere near you.

Centennial on Campus



One of the lasting legacies of the Centennial will be the transformation of the campus into a pedestrian-friendly public space. A gathering place will be created at the heart of the campus together with other projects on Hawthorne, Wiggins, and Circle Drive; and in Leech Grove, the arroyo, the courtyard behind the Physical Sciences Building, and Miner Alley (between Fox Fine Arts, the Sun Bowl parking garage, and Miners, Worrell, and Hudspeth halls).

The University has commissioned two award-winning Texas firms to design the projects—San Antonio’s Lake/Flato Architects and Ten

Eyck Landscape Architects of Austin. These redesigned spaces will create an appealing campus climate that will enhance student recruitment and retention, and knit the campus together into a unique and memorable public landscape.

Construction on Hawthorne Street is currently under way, and one of the elements of the Wiggins projects was put in place when the Health Sciences and Nursing Building was finished last year. Groundbreaking for projects in the center of campus will occur this summer.

UTEP History

Shortly after El Paso civic leaders created a mining school, they also created a city college. After it failed, a second attempt succeeded on the top floor of El Paso High School, and by 1920, its student body was larger than that at the College of Mines (forerunner to UTEP). When state leaders saw the schools as competing, they threatened to close the College of Mines. El Paso politicians spearheaded a deal so that in 1927 the College of Mines and the junior college merged, and in 1931 the school's head became a "president" and a new "school" of arts and education joined a "school" of mining and metallurgy.

Penny-pinching and pluck kept the newly combined school open during the Great Depression. New Deal money funded Holliday Hall and Kidd Field while a state appropriation produced a new museum; more dorms and a library followed. Many of UTEP's earliest traditions can be traced back to this era: Homecoming, an annual Sun Bowl football game between the college and El Paso High School, a mascot, the Golddiggers performing group, and the rivalry between the colleges of engineering and liberal arts. Enrollment reached 1,000 in 1939, and three years later liberal arts awarded the institution's first master's degree.

Centennial Conversation

On December 14, 2011, a distinguished group of faculty, staff, and students met at the Hoover House to share plans for the Centennial. The guests recommended the preparation of a well-articulated basic history of the University, the development of new traditions that are relevant and meaningful in the 21st century, and the creation of a self-guided campus walking tour. They urged that every campus department and unit should become involved and advocated for attention to historical milestones in athletics.

Contact Information

For anything to do with UTEP's Centennial Celebration, please email 2014@utep.edu.

Learn more about UTEP's history at the *Transformations* history blog, <http://transformations.utep.edu>.

Donate to the Centennial Campaign at <http://www.campaignforutep.org/>.

The official website of the Centennial Celebration is <http://2014.utep.edu>.

The Centennial staff works in room 403 of the Administration Building. Call them at 915-747-5362.

UTEP Landscape Quiz



Why is the Memorial Triangle shaped like a triangle?

[Click here for the answer](#)

