

Dear Texas Tech Family:

Since my last letter to the campus, a number of exciting things have happened that show we are moving forward in many initiatives and that we continue to advance in our goal of a four year medical school.

**Extramural awards.** We have been fortunate to receive expanded support from the Health Resources and Services Administration through the receipt of three separate awards. The Hispanic Center of Excellence (HCOE) has been refunded for three additional years, and we have received a new award for a Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP). These programs serve to encourage young people from grade school through medical school to undertake health care careers. In addition, HCOE supports our faculty in their efforts to achieve strong academic potential. In addition to these awards, Texas Tech has also received renewed funding for the Health Education and Training Centers Alliance of Texas (HETCAT), a consortium of Texas colleges and universities working together on border health issues. HETCAT is headquartered on the El Paso campus. These three awards amount to over \$3.9 million for the three year funding periods.

**New Associate Dean.** Dr. Zenaido Camacho has been appointed Associate Dean on the El Paso campus. Dr. Camacho will work closely with me on numerous administrative issues and will take the lead on a number of new initiatives, including departmental reviews.

**Departmental Reviews.** One of the action items to come from the recent Cloudcroft retreat was the initiation of periodic departmental reviews. A process has been developed by a committee including Dr. Zenaido Camacho, Dr. Manuel Rivers, Dr Tony Jesurun, and Dr. Jose Gonzalez. The process will include a self-study by the department, review by an internal review committee, and a visit by a team of external site visitors. The purpose of the process is to identify the strengths and weaknesses of each program and to provide specific recommendations for ongoing improvement of the programs. The first departments to participate in the process are Pediatrics, Obstetrics/Gynecology, and Pathology.

**AAMC Site Visit.** Texas Tech is honored to be one of three finalists in a national competition sponsored by the Association of American Medical Colleges. The competition recognizes the medical school with an outstanding outreach program. Site visitors from Washington, DC visited our clinics in the lower valley to observe our teaching and patient care programs in San Elizario, Fabens, Montana Vista, Socorro, and La Lecheria.

**Legislative Budget Board Decision.** As many of you know, Governor Perry has recommended funding for a number of projects. This includes \$38.5 million for the new four-year medical school in El Paso. The LBB has been considering this proposal and is

scheduled to vote on the recommendation on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005. Of course, we are hopeful for a positive decision as this will provide funds for us to begin immediately with faculty recruitment and other programs needed to move ahead with the new medical school.

*Jose Manuel de la Rosa*  
Regional Dean  
TTUHSC -El Paso  
(915) 545 ^510