



# IMPACT

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS  
**ADVANCEMENT**  
**ANNUAL REPORT | 2020-2021**





# CONTENTS

02 By the Numbers

---

04 Kuehne Speaker Series  
Scholarship Program

---

06 Corporate and  
Foundation Relations

---

08 Annual Giving

---

10 College Highlights:  
Find Your Flight Path

---

12 UNT Alumni  
Association

---

14 UNT Alumni Awards

---



**42,372**  
**STUDENTS**  
**ENROLLED**

**461,000**  
**ALUMNI**



**MORE THAN**  
**10,000**  
**DEGREES**  
**EARNED**  
**LAST YEAR**



## Student Scholarship Spotlight

“Thank you from the bottom of my heart for awarding me with such a prestigious scholarship. I am so grateful that I can attend the University of North Texas with your help. It means the world to me that I have you on my side in achieving my dreams and building my career.”

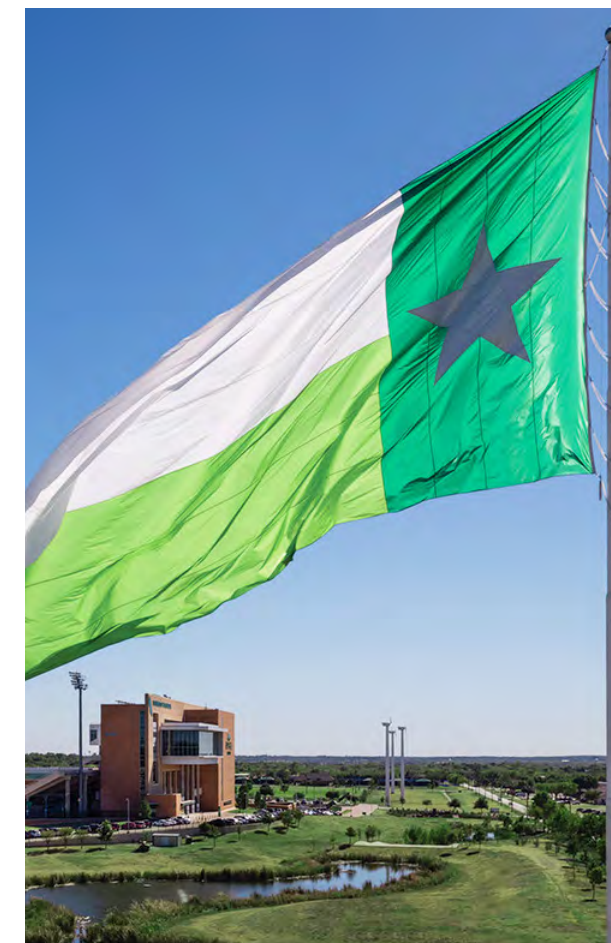
Brook Dearing  
Broadcast Journalism  
Jack B. Tinsley Fort Worth Star-Telegram Scholarship

Because of the generosity of  
our Mean Green family, the  
University of North Texas raised  
**\$32.7 MILLION**

last year to benefit students,  
faculty and programs.

At UNT, world-class faculty are  
making breakthroughs every day,  
and our students and alumni are  
changing the world around them.

**Thank you for helping our  
university increase its  
reach and impact.**







The UNT Kuehne Speaker Series was established in 2013 by alumnus Ernie Kuehne ('66) to create meaningful networking opportunities, bring prominent speakers to North Texas and give UNT visibility in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. But there's always been a deeper vision for the donor-founded series — supporting academic excellence at UNT.

Now, with more than \$3 million raised for scholarships, the series Board of Directors has launched the Kuehne Speaker Series Scholarship Program. In the spring of 2021, the first three Kuehne Scholars were awarded \$25,000 each for the 2021-22 academic year — making this one of the largest donor-funded scholarships at UNT.



Left to Right: JaQualia Morris, Lorenzo Wilson and Camryn Yoder.

“This is such an amazing opportunity that offers a lot of financial stability and helps me set a firm foundation for the plans I have after graduation,” marketing senior Camryn Yoder says.

The Kuehne Scholars will receive more than funds to help with tuition, housing and other necessities. They'll also have access to networking and mentorship opportunities with members of the board of directors and at the semi-annual Kuehne Speaker Series event.

These scholarships go beyond financial aid. They provide exceptional opportunities to pair recipients with members of the Kuehne Speaker Series Board of Directors, who will ensure our scholars are set up for success.

Accounting junior JaQualia Morris says that being a UNT student has already helped her strive for greatness. As a Kuehne Scholar, she is motivated to push even further academically.

“I feel very encouraged, like my hard work is paying off,” Morris says. “And now my family can relax and know that I am focusing on school and putting forth my best efforts.”

Hesitant to apply for such a competitive scholarship, accounting junior Lorenzo Wilson was speechless when he was told he had been selected as a Kuehne Scholar. But the award falls in line with how he sees his university — a caring place full of opportunity.

“Thanks to the Kuehne Speaker Series donors, I'm a member of the UNT family, part of a tight-knit community,” Wilson says. “It's truly life-changing.”

## KUEHNE SCHOLARS



JaQualia Morris



Lorenzo Wilson



Camryn Yoder



## UNT FOOD PANTRY PRESENTED BY KROGER

Since opening its doors in 2015, UNT's food pantry has been an accessible on-campus food source for more than 9,000 visitors. Now, with a five-year, \$250,000 commitment from Kroger, the university is prepared to alleviate more barriers and challenges associated with hunger.

"This generous donation from Kroger is going to allow our food pantry to strengthen its efforts to fight the food insecurity our students experience," says Dr. Elizabeth With, UNT vice president for student affairs. "We are so grateful to Kroger for partnering with us in this important work that will benefit our students for years to come."

Through the renamed UNT Food Pantry Presented by Kroger, the university can further its work of providing healthy



Tim McGurk and Elizabeth With

and nutritious food with protocols that allow for student confidentiality and dignity to be maintained. The support from Kroger will help ensure the food pantry's shelves remain stocked and will enable the employment of two student workers to assist with inventory, volunteer management and an online order system.

"We are honored to partner with the University of North Texas for this important initiative as we work together to address food insecurity across the communities we serve," says Adam Wampler, Kroger Dallas Division president. "At Kroger, we aim to Feed the Human Spirit and through this donation, we hope UNT students will never have to worry about their next meal — and can continue to focus on their studies and excel as our future leaders."



Left to Right: Elizabeth With, Luis Ruiz, Tim McGurk, April Martin, Neal Smatresk, Gerard Hudspeth and Norah Shazad.

 **258**  
NEW CFR PROPOSALS

**TOTAL CFR GIVING**  
**\$8,022,095**



## SCRIPPS HOWARD FOUNDATION GRANT

Thanks to a \$300,000 grant from the Scripps Howard Foundation, the Mayborn School of Journalism is working to train the next generation of journalists and help newsrooms better represent the broader population.

With the funds, the Mayborn School created a three-year curriculum that joins faculty together with local and regional media outlets for a rigorous in-field training program designed to produce top-tier journalism graduates.

"This opportunity aligns perfectly with our vital mission of helping to pave the way to a more diverse and inclusive world of journalism and communication in the years ahead," says Dr. Andrea Miller, dean of the Mayborn School of Journalism. "As a majority-minority and Hispanic Serving Institution, we're excited to partner with the Scripps Howard Foundation to provide a real pathway forward."

The program will create a strong mentor network, a series of high school workshops, "career bootcamps" in partnership with the national associations for Black and Hispanic journalists, opportunities for students to have their work published by major news organizations and continuing education programs for regional high school teachers.

"The Scripps Howard Foundation grant is an extremely generous investment and elevates UNT's Mayborn School of Journalism," says Dr. Dorothy Bland, one of the program's key coordinators at the Mayborn School. "We share a commitment to developing emerging journalists and diversifying the talent pipeline for the news media and communication industries."





# LOYAL EAGLES

2,654  
MEMBERS

319 10+ YEAR  
MEMBERS

MOST YEARS  
CONSECUTIVE GIVING 40



## WE CARE WE COUNT

In her 20 years working for UNT, alumna and staff member Rachel McMullen ('00) has learned that every donation makes a difference. And during the annual We Care We Count Faculty and Staff Giving Campaign, she joins her colleagues in going above and beyond to increase her impact at the university.

Why does McMullen choose to give to UNT? For the same reason as hundreds of other faculty and staff donors: to show she believes in what her university is doing.

"I'm Mean Green through-and-through, and I like doing what I can to help this school," says McMullen. "There are incredible, hard-working students and groundbreaking things happening across campus every day that deserve our support."

As a volunteer We Care We Count champion, McMullen also helps her fellow employees find ways to contribute to areas they are passionate about. She is a powerful example of our

community's dedication to shaping the university's future and preparing students for success.

"The UNT community is supportive," she says. "When someone does something amazing, we all cheer for them. And on the flip side, when someone needs help, we will always find ways to pull together and help them."



\$343,672  
TOTAL COMMITTED

206 FUNDS  
SUPPORTED

847 GIFTS



Watch our video for more details at [tinyurl.com/MGMobileM](https://tinyurl.com/MGMobileM).

## UNT DIAMOND EAGLES SOCIETY FUNDS MEAN GREEN MOBILE MEDIA

For Dr. Andrea Miller, dean of the Mayborn School of Journalism and interim chair of Media Arts, a used trailer presented a world of possibilities for the UNT community. With a little help, she thought, the trailer could be transformed into a mobile production unit. The goal? To bring live events to the homes of students, alumni and friends of the university.

The Mean Green Mobile Media project, a joint venture between the Mayborn School, the Department of Media Arts and Mean Green Athletics, is moving forward thanks to the UNT Diamond Eagles Society — donors who work together to create high-impact change on campus. Every year, Diamond Eagles members make \$1,000 contributions, which are pooled together to fund a project determined by a majority vote.

"Our members are proud to support this ambitious project," says Cathy Bryce, co-chair of the Diamond Eagles Society. "We're excited to help our students grow and learn as they work to bring our UNT family closer together."

Mean Green Mobile Media will create invaluable, real-world experiences for students as they offer year-round coverage of UNT and community events.

"This is going to dramatically expand our capabilities and open new avenues for students who want to work in the production of live events, movies and television," says Miller. "It's going to be a game changer — adding field production to our list of training we offer our students. We can't say thank you enough to the members of the Diamond Eagles Society!"





## FIND YOUR FLIGHT PATH

The Find Your Flight Path initiative, produced in partnership with UNT Advising Services, is designed to help students understand career pathways after graduation. Watch the video series to hear some of the unique ways our alumni use their majors: [bit.ly/FindYourFlightPath](https://bit.ly/FindYourFlightPath).



### COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

**Rosalynn Hernandez Petrutsas** ('00, '06)  
*B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies*  
*M.Ed. Counseling*

"My time at UNT really allowed me to grow and be more confident as a woman – to know that I can take these risks and do great things."

### COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

**LaTonya Smith** ('12)  
*B.S. in Computer Engineering*

"UNT really places your foot in the ground and gives you a very solid foundation for your education experiences. The opportunity to go to school and actually work really gave me the feeling that I could accomplish more."

### COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC SERVICE

**Rhonda Lawson** ('87)  
*B.S. in Criminal Justice*

"Coming to the University of North Texas from the East Coast, not knowing anyone and changing my major along the way caused me to adapt to the various environments and changes that occurred. That has lent itself to law enforcement — there is never a routine day!"

### COLLEGE OF INFORMATION

**Dexter Evans** ('92, '93)  
*B.A. in Communications*  
*M.S. in Information Science*

"The faculty members made the difference. They allowed students to work together and collaborate in the classroom. I wanted to spread my wings, and North Texas gave me those foundational pieces to help me manage and move on to the next journey."



### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

**Barrett Cole** ('18, '21)  
*B.S. in Integrative Studies*  
*M.S. in Advanced Data Analytics*

"I interned at the U.S. Capitol for a U.S. senator through a program at UNT called NTDC. It gave me a real-world firsthand opportunity that I wouldn't have had on the Hill otherwise."

### COLLEGE OF MERCHANDISING, HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM

**Brent Reaves** ('99)  
*B.S. in Hospitality Management*

"I decided to go to UNT because I went to the campus and it was such a beautiful feeling — a lot of diversity, so many different types of people there. That's the cool thing about UNT — it felt like a big family. Our teachers weren't just teaching us from a book, they were teaching us from life."

### COLLEGE OF MUSIC

**Justin Griffith** ('05)  
*B.M. in Music*

"I strongly feel that North Texas polished me and made me into a better musician, a better performer, a better songwriter, a better teacher — absolutely 100%."

### COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

**Patrick Abbott** ('96, '98, '02)  
*B.S., M.S., Ph.D. in Physics*

"The knowledge that I gained in optics and electromagnetic theory at UNT — I use it every day. It's really cool to be able to say, 'Wow, I remember studying this,' and here I am doing it."



### COLLEGE OF VISUAL ARTS AND DESIGN

**Annette Becker** ('15)  
*M.S. in Art History*

"I looked at programs in London and New York, and ultimately chose UNT for a master's degree in art history because it had all of the components that I knew would be important to me in developing my professional path."

### G. BRINT RYAN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

**Devin Carter** ('16)  
*B.S. in Logistics Supply Chain Management*

"Logistics classes were the most project-based. I had to rely on other people, which directly translated to my career."



### MAYBORN SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

**Angela Jones** ('91)  
*B.A. in Journalism*

"Having studied journalism at UNT, and learning a variety of different writing styles — everything from writing news stories to feature stories to even fiction articles and freelance work — really helped mold and shape what I wanted to do."



## UNT DAY AT THE CAPITOL

UNT Day at the Capitol has proven that when alumni volunteers and students work together to advocate for the university, we see impressive results. In 2021, the UNT Alumni Association's letter-writing campaign helped gain support for the university's funding priorities.

### RESULTS:

- The Legislature added much-needed formula funding for enrollment growth at UNT. Overall, the UNT System received about \$24 million more in funding than initially expected.
- UNT's general revenue was increased by \$38 million, or 19.5%.
- UNT received \$500,000 for its Center for Agile and Adaptive Additive Manufacturing (CAAAM).



75+

Volunteers writing letters  
and thank-you notes

302

Letters assigned to be  
written to legislators

291

Boxes sent to volunteers  
and legislators

Alumni volunteers received boxes filled with everything they needed to write impactful letters to legislators — plus some UNT Alumni Association swag!



## LATINX ALUMNI NETWORK

Just after his retirement in 2017, UNT alumnus Bob Garza ('74) walked into a meeting with a blank pad of paper and a single goal — to find a way to help the UNT community do more with and for Latinx students. That pad of paper filled over the years, and in early 2021, Garza became the first president of the UNT Alumni Association's new Latinx Alumni Network (LAN).

The program has a powerful mission: To engage Latinx alumni who will support the recruitment, retention and success of Latinx students.



"We're creating a community for alumni and, at the same time, saying that we need their help. We need alumni to come in and be an example of what it means to be UNT friendly to Latinx students," says Garza.

As a first-generation, non-traditional college graduate, Garza knows how difficult it can be to navigate the university system. So does LAN's vice president, George Esquivel ('91) — the youngest of eight children and the first to attend a four-year university.

"There were so many questions I had at the time — some were as simple as wondering what a credit hour was," Esquivel says. "And I've talked to enough people who were in a similar position to know that I'm far from alone in that experience."

After working with the university to attract Latinx students, members of LAN will connect students with resources that will help them

succeed academically, as well as give them more opportunities to love campus life. Keeping students enrolled until they cross the stage in a cap and gown is the first goal, but LAN's work will not end at graduation.

"We're going to mentor students and help them achieve successful careers," says Esquivel, now the co-founder of Four Corners Brewing in Dallas. "I felt inadequate going out into the workforce — the transition to my first job was harsh. With a strong network, I'm confident we can provide valuable guidance."

The founding members of LAN hope to move beyond helping individuals. They want to give back to the North Texas region by grooming top talent into a workforce that will bring more companies and jobs into the area.

"We have to invest in people now if we want a better tomorrow. We need to help create our next generation of leaders," Esquivel says.

For Garza, the core of LAN's mission is finding new ways for alumni to get involved and give back. He's encouraged that LAN is an official organization affiliated with the UNT Alumni Association and backed by university leadership.

"I FEEL REALLY GOOD  
ABOUT IT, AND I'M JUST  
SO PROUD OF UNT THAT  
WE'VE COME TO THIS POINT  
AND THEY'VE EMBRACED  
IT — THEY'VE EMBRACED IT  
WHOLEHEARTEDLY."  
— BOB GARZA



## 2020-21 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

*A long-standing university tradition, these awards recognize the best in our alumni family. Throughout their careers, recipients have made significant contributions to their companies, communities and the university while upholding the highest standards and values.*

### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

**Lynn Gravley** ('87)

"My involvement with the university continues because I'm so proud of it. When I look back on my life and the opportunities that have made themselves available to me, a lot of it started at North Texas."

**Wilson Jones** ('85)

"I stay involved as a supporter at UNT because I consider it part of my foundation. I believe that we should give back — especially to organizations that have helped us along the way, like North Texas."

**Frank Lawlis** ('62, '65 M.Ed.)

"To give back to North Texas with gifts is something that I wouldn't have expected to do, but I wanted to do it. I wanted to somehow fulfill the destiny of North Texas as a great, genuine learning institution."

### DISTINGUISHED YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

**Dustee Jenkins** ('01)

"The experience of being a part of the university really shaped who I am today. I can't say enough about how important it is to look back, to attend and to show up for the university."

**David Wachira** ('13 Ph.D.)

"My North Texas story has impacted pretty much every aspect of my life. Supporting UNT is fundamental. For UNT to continue to achieve its greatness, it requires for alumni to continually give back — either financially or through service."

### OUTSTANDING ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

**Michael Penaluna** ('88)

"Because an alum helped me, I want to give back and help others. It's extremely important for alumni to support our current students and give them opportunities for the same successful careers that we have had."

### ULYS KNIGHT SPIRIT AWARD

**Steven Pettit** ('02)

"I'm thinking about North Texas, and they're thinking about me. There is a family here. It's we. It's easy to be engaged for a team like this and a school like this."



*Left to Right: Wilson Jones, Steven Pettit, David Wachira, Michael Penaluna, Dustee Jenkins, Lynn Gravley and Frank Lawlis.*





**UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT**

1155 UNION CIRCLE #311250  
DENTON, TEXAS 76203-5017

**GIVING.UNT.EDU**