



In the Know

In the Know is published by the Division of Student Affairs to keep staff informed with news, helpful tips, and points of pride.

Have an idea for *In the Know*? Send it to Ray Willhoft at raymond.willhoft@unt.edu

History of UNT

On Sept. 16, 1890, in a boomtown on the North Texas prairie, Joshua C. Chilton established the Texas Normal College and Teacher Training Institute with 70 students and these auspicious words:

“It will be our aim to become leaders in the education of the young men and women of Texas, fitting them to creditably fill the most important positions in business and professional circles. We desire the cooperation of all who believe in higher education and who want to see our state in the very front of intellectual as well as material progress.”

For 125 years and counting, the University of North Texas has fulfilled its mission to create leaders and visionaries. Our students and alumni embody creativity, curiosity and something else that distinguishes them and makes them successful — grit. These qualities are in UNT’s DNA, borne of an independent spirit that sets us apart. From admitting women on our opening day to pioneering water quality research for the region, establishing the nation’s first jazz studies program and becoming one of the first universities in Texas to desegregate, UNT always takes the road less traveled on our path to excellence.

From humble origins in a rented space above a hardware store in downtown Denton, UNT has grown into one of the nation’s largest public universities and the largest in the North Texas region. We’re a thriving public research university with 38,000 students and a path to any career. As an intellectual and economic engine for Denton, the greater North Texas region and the state, we fuel progress and entrepreneurship. And as a catalyst for creativity, we launch new ideas, perspectives and innovations.

As we’ve grown, so has our reach and impact. Our programs are nationally and internationally recognized. Our research and scholarship spans the arts, science, engineering and everything in between. Our world-class faculty are making breakthroughs every day. And our students and alumni are changing the world around them for the better. This is UNT at 125.