

## **David Watts, PhD President**

As President of the University, his vision is to make the University of Texas of the Permian Basin a beacon for West Texas, attracting students and faculty to create opportunities for a lifetime. He has provided leadership for growth, program expansion, and student service enhancement resulting in several record-breaking enrollments. Scholarships have been expanded for entering freshmen and for classroom teachers to pursue graduate degrees. Committed to building and maintaining strong relationships between U.T. Permian Basin and the communities it serves, Dr. Watts actively supports economic development in West Texas. A native Texan, Dr. Watts earned a bachelor's degree from U. T. Austin, and a master's and Ph. D. in sociology from the State University of New York at Buffalo. A consultant to federal, state, and local substance prevention and treatment programs, he has written numerous publications and grants on substance abuse. In 2001, he was named to the Community Boards of Wells Fargo Bank of Midland and Odessa.

## **About the University**

The University of Texas of the Permian Basin offers the highest quality education and research in the Permian Basin. An institution of The University of Texas System, UTPB provides bachelors and masters degrees, leadership training, and long term research projects that focus on West Texas. Beginning in fall, 2009, a mechanical engineering degree will be offered as well as a doctorate in education, the latter in conjunction with UT San Antonio. Recognized in both *"Newsweek"* and *"US News & World Report,"* UTPB's dedication to excellence is paying off as our students experience tremendous success both inside the classroom and beyond. On average, 75 percent of our pre-med students are accepted into medical programs across the state, and 95 percent of our students pass the state teacher certification test. In fact, according to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the university **ranked number one** in 2007 among state schools for students who find jobs in their fields or acceptance into graduate/professional schools within one year. Building on that foundation of accomplishment, UTPB has continued to expand programs, enrollment and the campus itself. Both freshman and transfer enrollment are growing. Together with our community college partners, UTPB offers transfer students a Direct Connect opportunity to enroll without any loss of credit. The University also continues to extend its classroom walls through partnerships with the Autonomous University of Chihuahua. UT Permian Basin has won national awards for its online distance education program and millions of dollars in grants to fund scientific research and programs to improve education.

Students can choose undergraduate degrees in business, arts and sciences and engineering. Teacher certification and energy management certification are also available. Thousands of dollars have been awarded to UTPB for scholarships to help students get an education in English as a second language, bi-lingual education and in nuclear engineering.

In 2006, the School of Business was accredited by AACSB International – The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Less than one-third of U.S. business schools and only 15 percent of business schools worldwide meet the rigorous standards of AACSB International accreditation. Bachelor of business administration, master of business administration, and master of professional accountancy degree programs are available.

In 2007, the School of Education received accreditation from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE); the social work program has been accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, and the visual art program was sixth in Texas to be accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD).

UT Permian Basin is also well known throughout Texas for its John Ben Shepperd Public Leadership Institute. The Shepperd Distinguished Lecture Series brings Nationally recognized political and leadership experts to UTPB to discuss timely issues. The Shepperd Institute also provides the Shepperd Practical Leadership Workshops, the Shepperd Town Hall Series, and the Texas Leadership Forum, in addition to workshops for high school and college students. UTPB offers a bachelor's multidisciplinary degree in leadership studies and a MPA (Master's of Public Administration) degree.

Additional lectures are available to the public through other academic departments. The University's drama department stages several productions each year, and Student Life is active with clubs, organizations and events. The Student Program Board brings concerts and entertainers to the community. Plans are currently underway to build a 115,000 square-foot performing arts center music program. The University is also constructing two buildings-a science and technology complex that will house state-of-the-art computer and science labs and a student multipurpose center. The UTPB gymnasium boasts a new weight training facility and wooden floor basketball and volleyball courts. Nearby are walking and rollerblading trails, a duck pond, and an Olympic-sized, outdoor heated swimming pool. An impressive Visual Arts Studio facility and two-story Library/Lecture Center are also located on campus. Continuing construction has nearly doubled apartment-style student housing in just a few years, and the 5,600 square-foot Parker Ranch House opened in 2004. It is comprised of a lounge, meeting room and theater, a large commons area with a kitchen, weight room, two computer labs, and a covered, built-in barbeque pit UTPB is now a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) at the Division-II level. Its intercollegiate sports include men's and women's soccer, cross country, swimming, basketball as well as men's baseball and women's softball and volleyball. The athletic program also supports cheerleading and dance teams.

Individuals and businesses support the university through endowments, scholarships and gifts. UTPB has a variety of scholarships available, including 24 Endowed Presidential Scholarships, 51 Endowed Scholarships, and 88 non-endowed scholarships. Some are based on academics, but many are based upon financial need. The university partners with the communities through a variety of programs, including the Small Business Development Center and the Center for Energy and Economic Diversification (CEED). These are housed together, midway between Midland and Odessa off Highway 191 at the Midland International Airport exit, in Midland County. The CEED Building is available for meetings, workshops, and receptions. To find out more about the University or to arrange for a campus tour, call the Office of Admissions at 432.552.2605 or check out the website at [www.utpb.edu](http://www.utpb.edu).