UTEP Day in Austin

We have now made history twice on April 16! In 1913, Texas Governor O. B. Colquitt signed S. B. 183 (1913), authorizing the creation of the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy. Exactly 100 years later, in 2013, UTEP alumni filled the capitol to express thanks and share UTEP’s vision for the future of higher education in Texas and the nation.

“UTEP Day” began with a breakfast attended by legislators and their staff at which President Natalicio spoke about UTEP’s unique mission and record of success. University of Texas System Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa offered his best wishes as did all of the members of the El Paso delegation—Senator Jose Rodriguez and Representatives Joe Pickett, Marisa Márquez, Naomi Gonzalez, Joe Moody, and Mary González. The group was joined by SGA President Tanya Sue Maestas and other students for a historic photo that symbolically unites the parties who brought about and benefitted from the legislature’s decision 100 years ago.

UTEP friends and alumni gathered in the Chambers of the House and Senate for readings of a historic resolution celebrating UTEP’s successes over the past century. Read by Rep. Márquez and Sen. Rodríguez, the resolution touched on UTEP’s history, its national recognition for fostering student social mobility, and its impact on the lives of thousands of alumni. Members of both chambers offered their personal congratulations to UTEP’s representatives on the floor—President Natalicio, Chancellor Cigarroa, Regent Paul Foster, Russ Vandenburg, and Tripper Goodman. In the galleries were dozens of UTEP alumni and friends showing their pride with orange apparel and Texas-sized smiles! During the afternoon, 60 “Alumni Ambassadors” visited the office of every legislator to talk about UTEP’s past successes and current legislative priorities.

In the evening, hundreds of alumni and friends gathered in the ballroom of the AT&T Conference Center for a fabulous reception where the food, decorations, and company were exquisite. President Natalicio invited all to join the coming Centennial Celebration events and Mr. Vandenburg raised a toast to UTEP’s future. Regent Foster and Chancellor Cigarroa shared their pride in UTEP and its mission.

Praise and excitement abounded. Rapid social media coverage created buzz and turnout. The alumni advocacy made history and increased pride. Go Miners!

centennial.utep.edu/events.html

Centennial events for the next two years are now online
Photos from Austin


In the capitol (above, l-r): Tripper Goodman, UT System Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa, President Natalicio, Russ Vandenburg, Regent Paul Foster.

Above left: Vandenburg; Above center: Genie Bustos, Jackie Macias, Claudia Vargas, Andrew Velasquez, Rodrigo Rodriguez, Rosemary Prieto, Ana Martinez; Below center: Richard Daniel, Bobby Gonzales, Michael Martinez, George Saucedo, Russell Autry, President Natalicio, Art Gloria, Gustavo Reveles Acosta, Bonny Schulenburg.