Dear UNT Foundation Friends and Family,

During this period of uncertainty relating to the COVID-19 virus, the UNT Foundation remains focused on building a brighter future for the University of North Texas and securing the well-being of our donors, friends and staff. Like you, we are closely monitoring COVID-19 developments, and implementing appropriate measures to ensure the safety of our team members and donors.

In accordance with Denton County’s Executive Order, and consistent with UNT’s implementation, UNT Foundation’s physical offices closed as of 5:00pm on March 24th, and our staff adopted a remote working schedule until further notice. Please note that each of our team members will still be available from 8:00am to 5:00pm every day via phone or email to conduct Foundation business.

Some of you have called or written to inquire about the Foundation’s endowment investment portfolio, and how market declines and volatility are influencing its ability to provide funds to the university. Certainly, global financial markets have had severe reactions to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the short or long-term ramifications cannot be determined yet. It’s important, however, to keep the following in mind:

- UNT Foundation invests its endowment portfolio to achieve favorable risk-adjusted returns for the long-term, while focusing on preservation of the endowment’s corpus, purchasing power, and ability to provide inter-generational support for UNT’s educational mission, in perpetuity.
- In consideration of this infinite time horizon, a significant portion of the portfolio is allocated to equities, which have and are expected to continue to produce favorable long-term returns relative to other asset classes.
- Investments are carefully diversified geographically and across asset classes to manage risk. The portfolio is continually monitored and rebalanced as needed to sustain the Foundation’s strategic allocation.
- The endowments’ distributions are calibrated to be sustained in favorable and unfavorable market conditions, and sufficient portfolio liquidity is maintained to provide continued support to UNT.

UNT Foundation acts prudently to exercise appropriate care in managing the endowment funds, fulfilling its responsibilities under the Texas Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (TUPMIFA), and utilizing industry best practices. We are in close communication with our investment consultants, Investment Committee and Board leadership to ensure that we’re aligned and properly positioned per our investment policy.
As of December 31, 2019, UNT Foundation achieved an annualized return of 6.9% over the last decade, fulfilling its mission and meeting its long-term goal despite intermittent market drawdowns over that period. This is a credit to our generous donors, engaged Board members, and dedicated staff and investment-consulting professionals. We’re committed to the Foundation’s investment process and strategy, which has served us well and will continue to in the years ahead.

Further information regarding UNT Foundation’s investment management process can be found at https://endow.unt.edu/strategy-performance.

We appreciate your partnership and support during this unique and challenging period, and trust that once behind us, our university, nation and world will emerge stronger than before. Thank you for your continued confidence, and for all you do for the University of North Texas.

Mike Mlinac
President & CEO, UNT Foundation