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It appears that we all agree. Everyone in this room has one goal—we must protect the heritage of TCOM and support a bright, strong and permanent future for our entire institution while supporting the health care needs of Texas.

Let's talk about three areas: institution, commitment and need.

Institution

The UNT Health Science Center houses one of the premier medical schools in the country—The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine.

But we are more than a school....we are a mission. We are not just doctors and educators...we are leaders. We provide leadership throughout the local, state, and national community in a number of ways

- We rank 1st on the Texas Academy of Family Physicians list for providing family doctors in Texas.
- We are a recognized leader in Aging and Alzheimer's research and we receive significant funding from the NIH, Reynolds, and other major organizations to support our great work.
- We have one of the best DNA labs in the country and we maintain a robust relationship with the FBI. Our contracts for conducting identification of human remains extend to several countries, including Chile.
- We operate the NIH-funded Texas Center on Health Disparities.
- We work with Alcon Labs and the Department of Defense to reduce the impact of trauma on vision, particularly for wounded soldiers.
- We have had the top scores on the national osteopathic medical board examinations for parts I, II and III.....that is a clean sweep!

In summary, our institution is bigger and better in every way... across the board.

The MD school will be a strong complement to our existing infrastructure and programs. Our community and our business leaders, as well as all large hospitals and most of the physician groups, support a new school on our campus.

- Dee Kelly, Sr., a longtime Fort Worth civic leader, said in his letter of support, "Supplementing our nationally recognized Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine with the addition of an allopathic medical school would increase our ability to provide care of all types to more people."
- Bob Bolen, former Fort Worth mayor said, "The opportunity that stands above all for me is the chance to establish an allopathic medical school on the campus of the nation's top osteopathic college. The prospect of these students learning, training and practicing together holds the possibility of creating a new paradigm for American medicine and health care delivery."

Today, our institution is strong and the addition of an MD degree program will only make us stronger.

Commitment

We are very proud of TCOM and all of our Health Science Center programs. We have the greatest osteopathic medical school in the country. And we can make it even better.

I am committed to ensuring TCOM's and all of the Health Science Center programs' strength--protecting our heritage and securing a permanent future--by:

- Protecting and preserving TCOM's mission for primary care as a priority for the Health Science Center;
- Increasing TCOM's class size to 230 new students per class over the next 2-3 years upon completion of our new building;
- Honoring and preserving the unique culture and history of TCOM and continuing to promote its traditions and philosophy;
- Maintaining a separate dean for TCOM;
- Ensuring TCOM has excellent facilities such as those of our new building under construction;
- Preserving separate funding for all Health Science Center programs including TCOM through our normal formula approach; and
- Ensuring that new and existing programs will have the same infrastructure cost allocation as those of all our schools and colleges.

We are committed to growing our programs and improving our clinical experiences.

All major Fort Worth hospitals have confirmed their support for both TCOM and the new MD degree program.

By adding the MD degree program, we have the opportunity to develop at least three and probably four comprehensive teaching hospital partnerships for both TCOM and the MD program, as well as for the PA, PT and other programs. This is a big deal. Permanent and comprehensive relationships with our hospitals will allow us to permanently secure our future and clinical education opportunities for our students.

- Bryce Beyer, DO, osteopathic physician and son of TCOM founder D.D. Beyer, said, *"My goal in the development of the new MD school is that we secure the granting of the DO degree in Fort Worth forever."*

The new MD degree will also support economic development, more research, more technology transfer, and more commercialization opportunities.

All said, the new MD school will do more to protect and secure a great future than any other identified action.

- Paul Saenz, DO, prominent San Antonio osteopathic physician, Spurs team doctor and a TCOM alumnus said, *"...erection of an allopathic medical school on the current campus seems, in my*

opinion, to solidify the existence of TCOM and insures a course that will provide continued excellence in undergraduate and graduate training.”

Need

Fort Worth is the 17th largest city in the country and the only large city that does not have an MD-granting medical school.

The State of Texas is short of physicians in 37 out of 40 specialties. The shortages are greatest in cardiology but closely following are all the primary care specialties—family medicine, pediatrics, and general internal medicine. We need more doctors and more medical care for our growing region.

An MD school will ensure that Health Science Center medical students have access to clinical education and graduate training so important for their future careers. With TCOM and an MD school, the hospitals have agreed to future access to important clinical rotations for all of our medical students as well as our PA and other students, as well as residency opportunities.

With a new MD school joining TCOM, we will expand our opportunity to obtain medical and clinical research trials and studies to expand knowledge and bring solutions to patients. It will also provide tech-transfer and commercialization opportunities that will boost our economy. Governmental and corporate research dollars will increase for the UNTHSC if we have a sister MD school.

TCOM helps solve a tremendous medical access problem in Texas. Without family doctors trained at TCOM, many citizens in Texas would be without readily accessible family medicine. With a new MD school, we will be ready to support the “medical home” model, where patients have a family doctor and a team of specialists who take care of their medical needs.

- The Fort Worth Chamber passed a resolution that said, *“Predicted rapid expansion of the Fort Worth and Texas populations, coupled with existing physician shortages, have created a critical demand now and in the future for physicians of all types, both primary care and specialists. An allopathic medical school would supplement the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine’s provision of high quality health care providers and increase the University of North Texas Health Science Center’s ability to retain physicians in Tarrant County.”*
- Stephen Love, president and CEO, Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council, said, *“The Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council, representing more than 75 member hospitals across North Texas, supports the University of North Texas Health Science Center’s efforts to institute an allopathic medical school program in addition to its successful osteopathic medical school class. As you know, physician shortages in Texas negatively impact care for our patients throughout our region. Growth of your school will help this issue for all.”*

Let me close by saying, as we move forward, we are proud to be a great institution, committed to our osteopathic heritage, and determined to meet the needs of our students, our community, our state and our future.

I want to thank the Board for its consideration of this issue. I also want to thank everyone who has participated in this process and who provided great insights, including all members of the Study Group under the chair of former mayor Kenneth Barr, the consulting efforts that helped make the report a reality, the Study Group Staff led by Dean Peska, the osteopathic community, and the great Fort Worth and North Texas community for their continued support and engagement. Thank you all for your efforts.