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## DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

# Time to talk overhaul



Photos by Shaban Athuman/Staff Photographer

Dallas City Manager T.C. Broadnax (left) listened to Mayor Eric Johnson during a City Council briefing on Monday. The meeting was in response to a staffing study that said the police department is not using its resources effectively.

## Chief Hall back at work, ready to address staffing recommendations

By CASSANDRA JARAMILLO  
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Dallas Police Chief U. René Hall showed up to work Monday for the first time in more than a month. A video posted by the department on Twitter showed the chief getting out of her SUV and declaring herself excited to be back after taking time off for medical reasons.

"Now it's time for me to get in here and do the work, because we still have a lot of work to do," Hall says in the video.

Her first appointment was at Dallas City Hall on Monday to address a recommended overhaul of her department, which could bring about some of the biggest changes it has seen in the last 15 years. The meeting was in response to a staffing study that said the police department is not using its resources effectively, laying blame at

**EDITORIAL:** KPMG study identifies need for clear strategy at patrol level and in investigations. **11A**

years of poor oversight by managers.

When council members asked for the chief's response, she said she knew there were issues with patrol deployment but said it was still "hard to hear."

Hall said that the results of the study weren't reflective of "deficiencies" in the command staff, but acknowledged that the department has failed to adapt to new procedures or technology over the years.

Hall said the study "allows us to push the reset button. Right now it feels as though we are pouring oil through a broken funnel."

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Police Chief U. René Hall returned to work Monday after more than a month away for medical reasons. Her first appointment was at Dallas City Hall to address a recommended overhaul of her department.

## G-7 SUMMIT

# Trump, Rouhani willing to talk

No date for meeting, but Macron expects it to happen 'within weeks'

By KAREN DEYOUNG and ERIN CUNNINGHAM  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said Monday that they were willing to meet, the first time the two have been on the same page at the same time about possible negotiations to resolve their escalating differences.

Trump agreed with French President Emmanuel Macron, who served as go-between, that the meeting could occur within

weeks. "If the circumstances were correct, were right, I would certainly agree to that," Trump said at a joint

**TRUMP** says China trade negotiations are set to resume. **5A**

news conference with Macron at the end of the Group of Seven summit in Biarritz, France.

Rouhani, in a televised speech in Iran, said he was open to talks. "If I knew that going to a meeting and visiting a person would help my country's development and resolve the problems of the people, I would not miss it," he said, in an apparent reference to Trump.

See **LIKELIHOOD** Page 5A

## OPIOID CRISIS

# Drugmaker must pay \$572M

Judge's ruling favors Oklahoma in Johnson & Johnson case

By LENNY BERNSTEIN  
The Washington Post

NORMAN, Okla. — A judge on Monday found Johnson & Johnson responsible for fueling Oklahoma's opioid crisis, ordering the pharmaceutical company to pay \$572 million to remedy the devastation wrought by the epidemic on the state and its residents.

Cleveland County District Judge Thad Balkman's landmark decision is the first to hold a drugmaker culpable for the fallout of years of liberal opioid dispensing that began in the late 1990s, sparking a nationwide epidemic of overdose deaths and addiction. More than 400,000 people have died of overdoses from painkillers, heroin and illegal fentanyl since 1999.

"The opioid crisis has ravaged the state of Oklahoma and must be abated immediately," Balkman said, reading part of his decision aloud from the bench Monday afternoon.

"As a matter of law, I find

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## Cooler, storms likely



## WEATHER

### Relief from the heat is on the way

Relief from the heat is on the way after the Dallas-Fort Worth area endured another day of triple-digit heat. **2B**

### Dorian may become hurricane this week

Tropical Storm Dorian is gaining strength and may grow into a hurricane by Tuesday. **9A**

## INSIDE

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## NATION

### Terminal man chooses his own time of death

The day he picked to die, Robert Fuller had the party of a lifetime. For him, the decision to hasten his death was, if not easy, never in doubt. **4A**

## METRO

### Texas last in 4th-grade reading standards

Texas is dead last when it comes to passing standards for measuring how well children are reading by the fourth grade, according to an analysis. **1B**

### Activist says he turned over audio to Rangers

Political activist Michael Quinn Sullivan said he has turned over the secret recording of his meeting with the Texas House speaker to the Texas Rangers. **1B**

## WORLD

### Iraq coalition calls for withdrawal of U.S. troops

A bloc in Iraq's parliament called for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. **9A**

## LATE SCORES

For results from last night's games, go to [sportsday.dfw.com/scores](http://sportsday.dfw.com/scores).

## HIGHER EDUCATION

# 'It allows us to dream big'

UNT-Dallas fosters success by nurturing homegrown students

By CORBETT SMITH  
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Nearly two decades ago, state Rep. Helen Giddings and state Sen. Royce West helped lay the groundwork for a new four-year university in the heart of southern Dallas.

Seeing that dream come into focus, Giddings said, has been thrilling. On Monday, Giddings and West took part in the grand opening of the University of North Texas at Dallas' \$63 million student center.

"I could not be more excited," Giddings said. "As I drove up today, I couldn't even imagine this hill, this building and all the students, all the excitement when we started years ago."

The new 131,000-square foot building is yet another signpost that the university in



Ben Torres/Special Contributor

Student volunteer Joseph Lashley helped incoming freshmen move into the dorm at the University of North Texas at Dallas on Saturday.

southeast Oak Cliff is finding its way.

UNT-Dallas boasts of one of the most diverse student bodies in Texas: 85% of its students are Latino or African American, more than 70% of UNT-Dallas students are first-generation college students.

Most come from middle- to low-income households, and most are from Dallas County.

Enrollment at the school, which gained its independence as a four-year university in 2009, has topped 4,100

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# UNT-Dallas fills local gap in education

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across its undergraduate and graduate programs for the first time.

That growth has made the institution the fastest-growing public university in the state.

“Now, we’re involved in the conversation in this city; we’re at the table,” UNT-Dallas President Bob Mong said. “It’s a very different era.”

## Collective will

That new era, in many ways, was sparked by Mong, hired as the university’s president in July 2015 after a 46-year career in journalism, including a long stint as editor of *The Dallas Morning News*.

Since Mong’s arrival, UNT-Dallas has added 1,600 students, transitioning from a majority part-time student population to a younger, majority full-time undergraduate body. The number of graduates from its undergraduate and graduate programs also has increased from 475 in 2015 to 900 in the last school year.

Such enrollment growth has propelled expansions in facilities, staff and funding.

In addition to the new student center, the university opened a \$71 million renovation of Dallas’ old City Hall this summer for its burgeoning law school.

The university is hiring 14 faculty members this year.

And during the most recent Legislative session, UNT-Dallas received the biggest increase in formula funding, 23.8%, of any other higher education institution in the state.

“Look, I’m no higher education genius,” Mong said. “There was a collective will to get out of startup. But we had been stuck in startup mode for many years: up one year, down the next. Everybody wanted to grow the university. So we had to build the confidence, involve everybody — students, faculty, staff.”

The school has found its successes by focusing on “three simple goals,” Mong said: community connectedness, growth and student success.

UNT-Dallas’ recruiting efforts are



Brian Elledge/Staff Photographer

The University of North Texas at Dallas celebrated the opening of its \$63 million student center on Monday. The center houses a library, fitness center, and advising, tutoring and financial aid offices.

hyperlocal. Around 90% of its students come from Dallas and its suburbs.

Dallas City Council member Jaime Resendez, a 2008 graduate, said the mission of serving local students is critical to the city’s future.

After eight years in the military and two years at Dallas County Community College District’s Eastfield College, Resendez said he found a clearer focus at UNT-Dallas. After seeing other students with aspirations of going to graduate school, he decided to pursue a law degree — eventually graduating from the University of Texas law school.

“It’s extremely important for folks in southern Dallas to see that kind of

institution in our backyard,” Resendez said. “It allows us to dream big.”

To reach potential students, UNT-Dallas has been eager to join and create partnerships with neighboring school districts, DCCCD and area businesses, striving to build a smoother pathway from high school graduation to a high-demand job.

On Monday, West called the university a “catalyst for economic development in the southern sector.”

Those words echoed Mong’s call to make graduates career-ready to fill high-need jobs in Dallas.

To that end, UNT-Dallas was the first four-year institution to take part in Dallas County Promise, a program started by DCCCD and Dallas-based

education nonprofit Commit Partnership to offer a free associate’s degree to any high school graduate from a predominantly low-income high school. For students desiring a four-year degree, UNT-Dallas extended that tuition-free path for students who had made it through community college.

## Plenty of partnerships

The Promise now has 43 participating high schools — including most of Dallas ISD’s campuses — and reaches nearly 17,000 graduating seniors. UNT-Dallas has 261 students from the Promise program.

“One reason we’re involved is that those are our Tier 1 recruiting high schools,” Mong said. “It made sense for us to be involved.”

Mong and UNT-Dallas have also extended partnerships on a more personal level.

Brian Lusk, Dallas ISD’s chief of strategic initiatives, said that Mong is integrally involved in early college high school efforts at Lincoln and Sunset High Schools, attending advisory meetings at those campuses, and helping shape curriculum development.

According to Lusk, Mong played a pivotal role in helping secure two industry partnerships for Lincoln High’s hospitality and logistics career pathways: Hyatt Hotels and FedEx.

The university’s integration at Sunset’s collegiate academy is even more pronounced. UNT-Dallas is an industry partner at Sunset, offering its expertise on the academy’s two areas of study: public health and education. The high school is connected with the UNT System’s Health Science Center in Fort Worth. And it is also collaborating with DISD, DCCCD and UNT-Dallas’ Emerging Teacher Initiative, to create a pipeline of bilingual teachers from its Spanish-speaking student population.

“They realize this challenge that’s in front of us is too big to solve alone — so they are amazing at partnerships,” said Todd Williams, the chairman and CEO of Commit. “I think we are blessed in Dallas to have the leaders in Dallas ISD, DCCCD and UNT-

Dallas working together, not worrying about turf or fiefdoms, basically doing what they can that’s best for kids.”

## ‘Affordable as it gets’

Another key driver for UNT-Dallas’ growth is its affordability.

Full-time undergraduate students taking 15 credit hours per semester will pay around \$9,100 for the 2019-20 school year, making the university one of the most affordable four-year schools in the state.

Most students are eligible for Pell grants and Texas Public Education Grants. But Mong and his administration are trying to build up an endowment that would provide scholarships and completion assistance to cover gaps in cost.

On move-in day for the school’s only residence hall, the 120-room Wisdom Hall, new students and student volunteers cited the school’s affordability and proximity to home as key reasons why they chose UNT-Dallas.

Wilma Trevino, a senior from North Mesquite High School studying criminal justice, transferred after two years at Eastfield College. She said staying closer to home allowed her to keep her job and avoid room and board.

“It’s as affordable as it gets,” Trevino said. “I’m not graduating with student debt. I think that’s the main part. When you go out and start looking for a job that covers your student loans, your house, your car and everything, that’s difficult given the way the economy’s going. So it’s essential to look for colleges that are within your budget.”

Giddings, who helped sponsor the 2001 bill that led to UNT-Dallas’ creation, said Monday’s celebration was proof that there was “a real need for this university, so that students who otherwise couldn’t afford it would be able to pursue their college degrees.”

“It sounded like a lofty idea. It sounded like it was going to be very tough. But the response from these students — and this community — has made this happen.”

Twitter: @corbettsmithDMN

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