TEXAS TECH HISTORY

Texas Technological College became Texas Tech University in 1969. Though the name Texas State University was preferred by many faculty and students, alumni and others wanted to retain the Double T, so the name Texas Tech University was proposed and ultimately approved by the Board of Regents and the Texas Legislature. The Texas Tech University School of Law was approved by the legislature in 1968. The State Legislature established the School of Medicine in 1969 and since that time Schools of Allied Health Sciences, Biomedical Sciences, Nursing and Pharmacy have been added. The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center operates as a multi-campus system, with its primary campus and administrative center in Lubbock and regional campuses in Amarillo, Midland-Odessa and El Paso. In its short 35-year history, TTUHSC has been successful in training health care professionals to care for West Texas and beyond. Of 8,000-plus graduates, more than half have remained in Texas and half of those have stayed in West Texas.

TEXAS TECH TRADITIONS

THE DOUBLE T Texas Tech’s first football coaches were the originators of the trademark using it on letter sweaters.

WILL ROGERS STATUE Will Rogers donated $2010 for the Texas Tech band to play at the TCU football game in 1926. He wanted the people of Fort Worth to hear a “real West Texas band.” In 1948, the Amon Carter Foundation presented Texas Tech with a statue of Will Rogers and his horse, Soapsuds. “Riding into the Sunset,” by Electra Waggoner Biggs, stands east of Memorial Circle. The horse’s rear faces College Station and Texas A&M University.

VICTORY BELLS A set of fixed bells, housed in the east bell tower of the Administration Building, are rung after every Texas Tech athletic victory. The bells were a gift of the Class of 1936.

THE FIGHT SONG The “Fight Song” was written by Carroll McMath and updates the term “Matadors,” Tech’s original name for the athletic teams, to the Red Raiders.

TEXAS TECH SEAL William Ward Watkin, campus master planner, designed the Texas Tech seal in 1924. The seal was placed at the entrance to the campus in 1972.

SADDLE TRAMPS The Saddle Tramps organization was formed in 1936 by Arch Lamb. The spirit group wraps the Will Rogers statue with crepe paper before each home game and rings the victory bells after each athletic win. The all-female spirit group the High Riders join the Saddle Tramps in support of all athletic programs.

THE MASKED RIDER The Masked Rider tradition began at the 1964 Gator Bowl when a student wearing a red shirt, a red and black cape and a black cowboy hat, riding a black horse led the team onto the field. The Masked Rider’s earliest sighting dates back to the 1930s when Arch Lamb and some friends would “borrow” a palomino horse and make sporadic appearances at some football games.

TEXAS TECH ADMINISTRATION

Kent Hance, Chancellor, Texas Tech University System
Jon Whitmore, President, Texas Tech University
Dean Smith, VP for Research, Texas Tech University

Learn more about the university at: www.ttu.edu

As early as 1916 there was a move to establish a branch of Texas A&M College in West Texas. After two failed attempts at legislation, many began to question the wisdom of bringing a branch of Texas A&M to the area.

Instead, on Jan. 25, 1923 a bill creating Texas Technological College was introduced by Texas Sen. W.H. Bledsoe and Representatives Lewis Carpenter and Richard Chitwood. On Feb. 10, 1923 Gov. Neff signed the legislation.

A site selection committee began visiting West Texas towns in July. On Aug. 8, 1923, Lubbock received word that the city had been chosen on first ballot as the home of Texas Tech. An August 28 celebration hosted 30,000 guests, although the population of Lubbock was only a few thousand at the time.

Classes opened at Texas Tech in the fall of 1925 with 914 students studying Liberal Arts, Agriculture, Engineering and Home Economics. Today, the comprehensive research university is the largest in the western two-thirds of the state.
THAT HIGHLIGHT OUR RESEARCH ENDEAVOR. THESE ARE ONLY A FEW OF OUR CURRENT RESEARCH INTERESTS; FIND MORE AT TTU.EDU/ADMINISTRATION/VP/R. KEEP UP WITH LIFE ON CAMPUS AT WWW.NEWS@TTU.EDU

Texas Tech’s annual Water Law and Policy Symposium, hosted by the Texas Tech University School of Law, allows leading experts to address the roles that the public and private sectors, as well as government agencies, play in developing standards for managing water resources.

The Historic Preservation Program of the College of Architecture is one of the pioneers in using laser scanning technology, such as that used to document the first tent used by George Washington during the American Revolutionary War and ancient dwellings in Mesa Verde National Park. The college is also creating the only existing measured drawings of the Statue of Liberty. The National Park Service will use the documents to preserve and maintain the national icon.

Parents and teachers on the South Plains concerned about autism are continuing to utilize the services provided by the College of Education, which contains the Burkhart Center for Autism Education and Research, the only organization of its kind in the area, specializes in outreach initiatives with area students, teachers and parents affected by autism.

The Virtual Vietnam Archive enables scholars, students and veterans unprecedented access to hundreds of thousands of pages of Vietnam War era documents and images. The Archive is one of the largest collections of Vietnam-era related documents in the world. Only the Pentagon has more material on the Vietnam war.

From here, it’s possible.