Dear Fellows,

I am very honored and excited to welcome you to my hometown of Lubbock and to my University, Texas Tech. TTU was founded in 1923 and has been the hub for both men and women of aspiring minds to gather from all over, West Texas, the USA, and the world. Last year we celebrated our centennial year! We have welcomed 259,000 Alumni, hosted over 1900 faculty members, awarded over 190 million in scholarships, and reached 40,000 in enrollment.

TTU is a tier 1 research university with 150 degrees to choose from. We also have a Law, Health Science Center, and Vet school. TTU is also a top Hispanic serving institution.

I could go on and on, but I think it is best to let your time here serve as your example of our University. Welcome to Tech, Wreck 'em - Kat Cade-Gerzon
Why so Spirited?
You might notice that Americans are all about school spirit, but where does that come from? It is ingrained in us from a very young age. Even in elementary school we have a mascot and a school song. Students with school spirit are more likely to be engaged, perform better academically, and be happier than their peers. They may also be more socially and civically involved, and take ownership of their education. This sense of identity can boost their self-confidence and motivate them to excel.

Meet our Mascots!
Texas Tech is unique in that we have 2 school mascots, Raider Red (seen above) and the Masked Rider (pictured left). The University's first mascot was the Masked Rider who charges onto the football field before each game in a full gallop and cape flying behind them!
Then right before the 1971 football season, the Southwest Conference passed a rule which restricted the bringing of live animal mascots to out of town games. Thus, the Masked Rider, Tech's official mascot, would not be able to travel representing the university. So Raider Red was created!

A Harris Polls survey of 1,300 students and several hundred parents and principals showed school pride had multiple benefits.
- 75 percent of students with "the most school spirit" performed better than average (only seven percent of these students performed below average).
- Students with "the most school spirit," identified as having the most school pride, were much more involved in all activities at their school and had parents who were much more likely to be active in the school and aware of their student's work in class.
- Students with school pride, according to parents and principals, most often were happy and satisfied and had a higher self-esteem. They also more often reported having a group of good friends.

Sources: NASSP.org | ttu.edu/traditions
TRADITIONS

The Campus Seal

Designed by the campus’ master planner, William Ward Watkin, in 1924, the Tech Seal’s symbols are the lamp, which represents "school," the key for "home," the book for "church," and the star for "state." Cotton bolls represent the area’s strong cotton industry and the eagle is suggestive of our country. The seal first appeared on Tech diplomas in 1948, but it wasn’t officially approved as "The" Seal of Texas Tech University until 1953. On April 27, 1972, the seal was placed at the Broadway and University entrance to the campus in what became known as the Amon G. Carter Plaza. It is made of red granite and stands 12 feet high. It has been referred to by students through the years as "the Oreo."

Will Rogers & Soapsuds

One of the most well known landmarks on campus is the statue of Will Rogers and his horse Soapsuds. This memorial was dedicated on February 16, 1950 by longtime friend of Rogers, Amon G. Carter. Carter believed Texas Tech was the perfect setting for the statue and that it would fit into the traditions and scenery of West Texas. The statue stands at 9’11” tall and weighs 3,200 pounds; its estimated cost was $25,000. On the base of the statue, the inscription reads “Lovable Old Will Rogers on his favorite horse, 'Soapsuds,' riding into the Western sunset.”

Today Texas Tech tradition and legends surrounds the statue. According to one legend, the plan to face Will Rogers so that he could be riding off into the sunset did not work out as it would cause Soapsuds’ rear to be facing downtown. To solve this problem, the horse and Will was turned 23 degrees to the east so the horse’s posterior was facing in the direction of Texas A&M, one of the school’s rivals.

Superstitions

While there are many superstitions on campus here is one of the most popular!

The Murray Carpenter/Wells Clock Tower is located on the northwest side of the campus. One superstition involving the tower states that walking under the clock will result in not graduating on time.

The "Guns Up" sign is the widely recognized greeting of one Red Raider to another. It is also the sign of victory displayed by the crowd at every athletic event. The sign is made by extending the index finger outward while extending the thumb upward and tucking in the middle, little and fourth fingers to form a gun.
Welcome to Lubbock Texas!
Lubbock is the 11th largest city in Texas with a population of 280,000 people. It is known as the “Hub City” because it is surrounded by 5 major highways, which resemble a wagon wheel. It is also the economic, educational, and healthcare hub of West Texas or the South Plains. Lubbock is the hub because all other major cities, such as Dallas to the East, Albuquerque to the West, and Oklahoma City to the North are about 5+ hours away by car. To a Lubbockite (person who lives in Lubbock) a short car trip for travel is 3-5 hours! That is an easy trip because we are used to traveling far distances to get places. Texas, after all, is the second biggest state in the USA, after Alaska.

The people of Lubbock are friendly, hard-working, and love Texas Tech! The University is the center of the city. You will see the Double T logo everywhere you go in West Texas!

Lubbock is the birthplace of rock 'n' roll legend Buddy Holly and other famous people from the city including Chace Crawford, Natalie Maines, Mac Davis, Joe Ely, and Butch Hancock. The city honors Buddy Holly with a statue, museum, and fall festival called "Bud Fest".

**Economy:** Lubbock is a center of a diversified agricultural-industrial complex, producing cotton, petroleum, earth-moving equipment, cottonseed oil, and engineering products. It's also home to award-winning wineries and produces more than 80% of Texas wine grapes.

**History:** Spanish explorer Coronado named the land where Lubbock now sits the Llano Estacado while searching for the "City of Gold". The city was officially named in 1902 and the county of Lubbock was founded in 1876.
At 318,679 people (Metropolitan Statistical Area), Lubbock is the 10th largest city in Texas, the 2nd largest west of Interstate 35 and is projected to grow 3 percent through 2028. With a median age of 31, the city’s residents are youthful and hardworking.

### City and County Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lubbock City</th>
<th>Lubbock Country</th>
<th>Texas</th>
<th>USA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>59.55%</td>
<td>48.12%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>9.59%</td>
<td>8.36%</td>
<td>40.93%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>37.65%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>3.99%</td>
<td>3.43%</td>
<td>5.71%</td>
<td>6.19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Economy:
Lubbock, TX employs 129k people. The largest industries in Lubbock, TX are Educational Services, Health Care & Social Assistance, and Retail Trade.

### Religion
As of 2020, Christianity was the dominant religion in Lubbock, with 64% of the population identifying as Christian, down from 90% 50 years earlier. The largest Christian groups in Lubbock in 2020 were Baptists, Catholics, and Methodists. However, the Evangelical Christian population has decreased by 12% since 1990, and the number of people identifying as agnostic or atheist has increased by more than 8%.

### Student Diversity (Lubbock is home to 4 Universities)
In 2022, 5,356 men were awarded degrees from institutions in Lubbock, TX, which is 0.69 times less than the 7,765 female students who received degrees in the same year. In 2022, the most common concentration for Bachelor’s Degree recipients in Lubbock, TX was Registered Nursing with 972 degrees awarded.

Texas Tech University is home to 2,878 International Students as of Fall 2023. 1092 from India, 233 from Bangladesh, and 229 from Nigeria.
WEATHER

Prepare for Hot, Dry, Summer Weather!

Lubbock has a semi-arid climate with hot summers and mild winters. Lubbock is a windy city. Winds can vary from a breeze to high winds, which can produce dust storms, these are most common during the winter and spring months.

Precipitation: There is very little rain on the South Plains, which makes for a dry climate with little to no humidity. The rainiest times are in the Spring and Summer. Lubbock averages 19 inches (483 mm) of precipitation per year. While snow is uncommon you might be lucky enough to experience a bit of snow in the winter. The average snowfall on the South Plains is 9 inches.

Summer Average Temperature: 89.3F (31.6C)
It is not uncommon for temperatures to reach 100F (38C) and higher.

Dress for the heat!

- Light and airy fabrics
- Deodorants (Americans wear deodorant to prevent body odor from sweat).
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- A handheld fan
- A light jacket or sweater. (Mornings can be cold, and then quickly get warmer. the majority of buildings are also kept air-conditioned). Conditions are often changing from cold to hot, and back again very quickly and often!
**What if I need to take a call?**

If you need to take a call related to work or an emergency back home, please quietly step out of the room to do so. You do not need to interrupt the speaker to ask permission to take the call.

**Texting** and scrolling on your phone during a lecture or while someone is speaking can be seen as disrespectful and show a lack of interest in the speaker’s discussion. Please do not use your phone during sessions or class time.

**Teaching styles and classroom etiquette at TTU may be very different from what you are used to. While in some countries it is expected to listen to the lecture without speaking in class, students in the US are expected to engage in discussion during class.**

American culture in general is seen as very laid back compared to many countries. People dress casually even in class. They wear joggers, jeans, T-shirts and tennis shoes. Students often refer to professors and other staff members by their first names, rather than their family names. However, there are still some cultural rules that apply to the classroom. Some things such as talking on the phone in class or texting can be seen as rude and distracting to others and to the speaker. Let’s discuss some of the typical American classroom etiquette.

**What if I need to use the restroom or stretch?**

Like with taking a phone call, you do not need to ask permission to take a restroom break or a stretch break. Out of courtesy to others who might be trying to focus on the lesson, it is best to quietly step out of the room at a stretch, get a drink of water, and then return to your seat. Being quiet shows respect to the speaker as well as others in the room who are trying to concentrate. We encourage you to take breaks as need!

**Time is seen as “personal” to Americans**

Being on time is very important in the USA. Being late to a scheduled event or meeting disrespects the instructor/speaker’s time. Americans see this as you not valuing them or the effort they put in to make time for you. We try to make the most of every minute of our day, time is a resource. Thus, many Americans admire a "well-organized" person, one who has written lists of things to do and a schedule for doing them. Being punctual and managing time are important in American culture, and being late or delaying a meeting or gathering can be seen as inconsiderate and disrespectful. If someone is running more than 5–10 minutes late, it’s considered polite to call or text to let others know and apologize for any inconvenience. It's also important to follow through on invitations, as not showing up can be impolite and damage relationships.

“If you are on time you are late; if you are early you are on time.”

Plan to arrive at least 5-10 minutes ahead of any scheduled meeting/activity/session.

**How do I address Instructors/Staff?**

Many students (not just international students) are unsure of how to address their instructors. Most of your Wooster faculty will probably wish to be addressed as Doctor or Professor Last-Name, but ask them if you are not sure. Remember, it is always better to be invited to be less formal than to be corrected for being overly casual.
The Carpenter/Wells Complex is a suite-style residence hall, offering three-bedroom townhouses, four-bedroom flats, and a limited number of two-bedroom units available. Other amenities include meeting rooms and limitless laundry rooms for all residents.

Each suite includes a living room, kitchenette (refrigerator, microwave oven, and two-burner cooktop), private bedrooms and two bathrooms. All suites have outside entrances.

Suite furnishings include a sofa, table, and chair (living room); dining table and chairs; and each bedroom is furnished with a twin bed, dresser, study desk, and chair. The bedrooms have vinyl wood-plank flooring. The kitchen and bathrooms have vinyl floors.

NOTE: The Mandela team will provide the basic necessities for your dorm. If you want anything additional it can be purchased with your stipend.

Laundry

The Laundry room is located in the Clubhouse which is located in the center of Carpenter Wells (where we all met and checked you in on your arrival day). You will need your key to get into the club house!

How to use the Shower

Scan this QR Code to watch a short video on how to do your Laundry at TTU with Raider Red!

What’s my Mailing address?
601 Indiana Ave, Lubbock TX 79401
GETTING AROUND LUBBOCK

The primary mode of transportation in Lubbock is by car. Lubbock is very flat and land is plentiful so the city has been built out rather than built up, but most citizens own cars. Public transportation is more common in cities like New York that are more congested and where owning a car is considered a pain due to traffic and parking fees. That is not the case in Lubbock. Lubbock does not have a train system or a subway. A bus runs around part of the city, including Texas Tech! The on-campus bus can be a life saver, especially on such a large campus and it is completely free! Let's learn how to easily navigate Lubbock when you are car free.

The Texas Tech Bus System

Two routes are used just for the Texas Tech campus *buses run less frequently during the summer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Red Raider Route</th>
<th>Double T Route</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Circles campus clockwise</td>
<td>Circles campus counter-clockwise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service every 6 minutes*</td>
<td>Service every 5 minutes*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from 7:25 a.m. to 7:17 p.m.</td>
<td>from 7:25 a.m. to 6:59 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Citibus provides several Off-Campus routes, including ones that transfer to Texas Tech campus buses. Click here to see a list of maps for these routes.

How to get from Carpenter Wells (your dorm) to the International Office.
1. Walk North across the parking lot to the bus stop across from the Business College
2. Take the North 4th Bus (#47 Route) this is an off campus route
3. Your first stop will be the International Office.

To get back
1. Take the North Indiana Bus (Route 48)
2. Get off at the first stop College of Business
3. Walk South, back to dorms.