Humanities Center Panel – Press Release

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Retired Texas Tech Professors to Reflect on "The Mission and Mystery of the University"

Free public panel on Nov. 18 opens the Humanities Center's 2026–27 themed programming

LUBBOCK, Texas — November 5, 2026 — The Humanities Center at Texas Tech University will open its annual themed programming with a free public panel discussion, "Degrees of Value: Past, Present and Future: A Conversation with Retired Texas Tech Faculty," featuring four emeritus professors on Wednesday, Nov. 18, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Formby Room of the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library. This year's theme is "The Mission and Mystery of the University."

Moderated by Amy Floweree, associate professor of philosophy, the panel will take up how universities create and share knowledge, nurture ethical leaders, and support the public good. Drawing on their decades at Texas Tech, the panelists will also reflect on how the university has changed over time and where it stands today.

The panelists are:

- Charlotte Dunham, Professor of Sociology emerita and former Director of the Women's and Gender Studies Program.
- Ed George, Professor of Classics emeritus and former President of the Faculty Senate.
- Daniel Nathan, Professor of Philosophy emeritus and former President of the Faculty Senate.
- Robert Ricketts, Professor of Accounting emeritus and former Frank M. Burke Chair in Taxation and former Director of the School of Accounting.

"Given the seismic social, political and cultural shifts we have seen in recent years over the significance of a university education, it is more important than ever to take stock of the local, national and international impact of Texas Tech in particular, and of the 'university' in general," said Don Lavigne, Director of the TTU Humanities Center.

The event is free and open to faculty, staff, students and members of the Lubbock community. The panel will be followed by audience Q&A and a reception; refreshments will be provided. Attendees should RSVP; in-person attendance will be limited to 75. For those unable to attend in-person, the event will be broadcast via a webinar.

To RSVP for the in-person event or for the webinar, and for further details on our along annual theme programming, please visit our website: https://www.depts.ttu.edu/provost/humanities-center/annual-theme.php.

About the Humanities Center

The Humanities Center fosters world-leading research in the humanities. We facilitate collaboration among the diverse research communities of Texas Tech, the nation, and the globe in pursuit of richer conceptualizations of human cultural production.

As Texas Tech's hub for humanistic inquiry, the Center presents the full range of critical engagement explored in our research to non-specialists. On campus, we organize intensive pedagogical endeavors under the year's research theme to instill the analytic tools and critical thinking necessary to succeed at Texas Tech and beyond.