As UTEP begins the countdown to the celebration of its centennial in 2014, the Centennial Commission report released today, Nov. 17, 2005, provides an external stakeholders’ vision of the University on its 100th birthday.

Co-chaired by UTEP alumni U.S. District Judge Philip Martinez and retired business CEO Larry K. Durham, the Centennial Commission brought together the perspectives of 100 alumni, supporters and community leaders.

“The vision and recommendations presented here will ensure that UTEP’s future development is aligned with the aspirations of our external stakeholders, both in this region and elsewhere,” UTEP President Diana Natalicio said.

The Commission made recommendations for long-range goals and strategies of UTEP’s future development in the following areas:

- El Paso’s Quality of Life
- UTEP’s Image
- Health Professions Education/Health and Biomedical Research
- PreK-16 Educational Collaboration
- Alumni Relations and Development
- UTEP’s Neighborhood
- Graduate and Professional Development Programs
- Regional Economic Development
- U.S. Mexico border/International Programs
- Undergraduate Education

“We thank all of the Centennial Commission members for their deep commitment to UTEP reflected in the time and talent that they dedicated to this initiative,” Natalicio said.

The Centennial Commission was modeled after the highly successful UTEP 2001 Commission formed in 1989 on the occasion of the University’s 75th anniversary.
“Overall, the vision of the members of the Centennial Commission is considerably bigger and bolder than the one articulated in 1989 because UTEP is a far more competitive institution today than it was 15 years ago,” Natalicio said. “Expectations of us, both on and off the campus, are significantly higher.”

Much has changed since UTEP’s origins as the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy in 1914.

Today, more than 19,000 students enroll in UTEP’s six academic colleges and Graduate School. UTEP offers 81 bachelor’s, more than 70 master’s programs and 13 doctoral degrees – and counting. UTEP ranks second in the UT System and among the top 200 universities nationally in annual research expenditures.

“We’ve compiled an enviable record of accomplishments and now we are poised for even greater success in years to come,” Durham said. “This Centennial Commission report will serve as a catalyst for strategic planning on the UTEP campus.”

UTEP ranks third in the nation awarding bachelor’s degrees to Hispanics; and has recently been named as the top engineering graduate school in the nation for Hispanics.

However, UTEP’s future success will impact more than the students who enroll here.

“The future development of the university is of crucial importance to the Paso del Norte region,” Martinez said. “The success of our students ensures the economic and social development of our region, and the contributions our students have made, are making and will make to the world are immeasurable.”

The entire report can be read online at www.utep.edu/centennialcommission

###