

Brainerd Kiwanis Club
January 31, 2014
By: Steve Angle

Thank you for that gracious introduction. And thank you for your invitation to address you today. Over the past six months, my family and I have been overwhelmed with the tremendous welcome we have received from this community, and we are thrilled to call Chattanooga our home.

I am so proud to be part of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Our Mission

UTC exists as part of Chattanooga, not just in Chattanooga.

OUR MISSION: The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga is an engaged, metropolitan university committed to excellence in teaching, research, and service, and dedicated to meeting the diverse needs of the region through strategic partnerships and community involvement.

We not only educate students, but also serve as a catalyst for growth and improvement to the entire region. Chattanooga is our “laboratory” where we apply what we our students are learning and problems our faculty are addressing in their scholarship and research.

During my six months at UTC I’ve learned a few things that surprised me about the campus, and you might be surprised by some of them as well.

We have Increased Enrollment AND Increased Quality

Students are our future, and we are striving to provide a top quality education to as many eligible students as we can.

At UTC, we have been experiencing tremendous enrollment growth—37 percent over the past decades. The academic profile of our fall 2013 class was the best since we have been keeping these records with the average ACT score increasing to 23.2, and average grade point average rising to 3.40.

Once we have students enrolled, our goal has to be help them progress to graduation in four years and then to career success. So, we are now placing as

much—or perhaps even more—emphasis on Student Success and Retention than recruitment.

Affordability

WHAT DO YOU THINK OUR ANNUAL TUITION IS? Our annual tuition is still less than \$8,000 for undergraduate, full time instate students, which puts us about in the middle for our regional peers. For students who qualify for the Tennessee Lottery Scholarship, their out of pocket tuition cost for a year around \$3,500.

One reason we believe students are making UTC their campus of choice is our commitment to affordability. While the media reports increasing tuition and tremendous loan debt across higher education in the U.S., UTC continues to offer a high quality education experience at an affordable price. In fact, the average loan debt for UTC students is about \$19,000, below the national and state averages.

Last year, UTC was one of only three public universities in the South to be named a Best Value campus by U.S. News and World Report. The Best Value designation is made based on a comparison of quality of program and total cost of attendance.

Athletics Success

UTC continues to build up a legacy of athletics dominance.

Our Football Mocs earned a share of the Southern Conference Championship this year for the first time in more than 25 years.

At this point, our Women's Basketball Mocs hold the longest home winning record going, and Jim Foster, our women's head coach, just became one of the elite coaches to earn 800 career wins.

And our Men's Basketball Mocs hold an 8-0 record in Southern Conference competition.

And while they win in competition, they are leaders in the classroom as well. 28 of our Mocs Student-Athletes were named to the Southern Conference Fall Academic All Conference Team, and more than half of our athletes earned a 3.0 or greater GPA in the fall semester.

IN WHAT SPORT IS UTC TOTALLY DOMINATE WINNING 20 of the past 25 Southern Conference championships? Wrestling

Capital Investments

Since 2000, UTC has invested HOW MUCH IN CAMPUS FACILITIES? More than \$300 million.

This boom includes our \$48 million new library, which we expect to open by the end of the year.

We are finalizing negotiations with the state of Tennessee to acquire several old state office buildings on McCallie Avenue. Acquisition of this property could allow us the opportunity to address two immediate needs: parking and housing.

Partnerships

I talked earlier about our metropolitan mission and how we use the city as a living laboratory to benefit both students and the community.

We are able to achieve these goals through a series of partnerships. A look into any of our academic disciplines quickly reveals these partnerships.

UTC is an active partner in the city's efforts to establish itself as a Gig City. We have provided housing and support for participants in the city's Gig Tank competition. And through use of UTC's connection to the Internet 2— Chattanooga has been able to test 3-D web streaming and live concerts with musicians in Chattanooga and in California.

Our SimCenter last year received one of the White House's Ignite grants to utilize the new gig network. SimCenter researchers are developing an emergency response system that can be used to better mobilize responders during a crisis, resulting in saved lives and resources.

While a lot of attention is given technology and science education, UTC remains a source of cultural, creative, and artistic support for this community. In fact, in 2013, almost 45,000 individuals attended concerts, plays, exhibits, and other arts events in our community in which UTC helped offer these events.

Our College of Business has partnered with Volkswagen to offer MBA courses at the Volkswagen Academy site, and since its inception, enrollment in the program has surpassed all projections.

Sharing their business acumen beyond the campus has become a critical initiative for the College of Business. The Veteran's Entrepreneurship Program matches veterans with business ideas with UTC faculty and community mentors to help our country's finest transition into successful civilian lives. These new business developers create jobs and drive economic progress.

Excellence In Education

Athletic Training
Physical Therapy

Experiential Learning

All of these partnerships have allowed UTC to adopt a commitment to critical thinking as part of our accreditation evaluation of student outcomes. We recognize that graduates not only need the skills to achieve in their careers and lives, but they also must be able to analyze and synthesize information and then apply that information to make sound decisions and formulate plans of action.

One way students achieve this learning is through experiential learning opportunities and community engagement, such as internships, cooperative education placements, clinical and practical assignments and civic engagement through volunteerism and community service.

We depend on our wide range of community partners to make these opportunities possible.

Chattanooga

When we go across the region to recruit students, faculty, and staff to UTC, we find that one of our biggest selling points is Chattanooga. Because of the close relationship between the campus and the city, it is easy for recruits and their families to see that the Chattanooga educational experience is distinct.

This is a great community, and it's easy to see why people would choose to learn, live, and work here.

Where We Are Today

- Current Strategic Plan: 2009-2013
- All Key Indicators are POSITIVE!
 - Quality of Programs
 - Enrollment
 - Financial Position
- Key Priorities:
 - A Quality Education for Our Students
 - Connections to the Community

Planning for the Future

“The Planets are Aligned for UTC”

- Drive to 55 – Educational Attainment Goal
- Community Success to Build Upon
- Thrive 2055 Regional Growth Plan
- Chattanooga has International Visibility and a Reputation for Doing Things RIGHT!

Governor Bill Haslam has made higher education one of his most pressing priorities, and I am proud to say that UTC is active in pursuing his goals. We enjoy unprecedented support from the University of Tennessee system and President Joe DiPietro. The Board and the system administration have demonstrated their full support for UTC's mission and initiatives, and Chattanooga plays a key role in the new UT strategic plan.

We are working to fulfill the spirit and goals of the Drive for 55 program as well as the Complete College legislation, both of which are aimed at increasing the

number of Tennesseans with post-secondary education. This goal is critical for our state to remain at the cutting edge of economic and technological growth.

The Thrive 2055 regional growth initiative is looking at what this region must do to take full advantage of the economic, cultural, and environmental opportunities that will emerge in the coming decades.

Planning for the Future

- Following the Example of Our Community – DREAM BIG and Set Our Sights HIGH!
- Focus on Students and Their Success
- Leverage the Strength of our Community and Region to Maximize the Impact and Quality of the Student Experience
- UTC will be an Unselfish Partner

Chattanooga has made a name for itself as home to citizen participation and community engagement in solving problems.

Chattanooga accomplished the impossible. From cleaning up the air in America's dirtiest city to reclaiming the Riverfront as a catalyst for development, Chattanooga thinks big.

UTC is at the table, and we are prepared to lead, but we need your help. We will be developing a new strategic plan over the coming months, and community planning and involvement are key elements to its success.

What areas of curriculum development do we need to consider?

Do you need graduates in a field that we are not offering?

Where is the community heading and how does UTC help it get there?

Should we focus on sustainability? Information and big data management?
Biomedical and healthcare?

MBA specialization in Data Analytics, SIM Center, Computer Science, HHP
Wellness

EXAMPLE**Athlete Wellness and Health**

Nutrition, Athletic Training, Nursing, Data, Modeling, Head Trauma (UT School of Medicine), Erlanger Neuroscience (Stroke Strength).

We know we have been part of Chattanooga's past, and we are critical to Chattanooga's present, but how do we become a driving force in Chattanooga's future?

These are questions we will be exploring on our campus, and we absolutely need you to be part of the conversations.

Developing a Vision for the Future

- New Strategic Plan 2014-2019
 - Students and a Quality Education
 - Connections to the Community
- Campus Constituents Will Work with Our Community to Dream Big and Set Goals
- Ideas and Input Will be Debated, Discussed and Revised to Chart Our Future Course
- Community Input is Critical

We firmly believe the concept that every great city needs a great university.

And so, my vision, and the vision of everyone at UTC, is to be that great university for this great city.

You've heard our campus motto before, and you'll hear it again and again. I truly believe that by working together, we shall achieve that goal.

Additional Talking Points

Honors College and Brock Scholar Program

Summer Research Program

Student Government

Free Speech