



Statement by Richard A. Castro, Board Chair and Eddie Rodriguez, Executive Director of CREEED on UTEP President, Dr. Diana Natalicio's retirement:

El Paso, TX - In response to UTEP President, Dr. Diana Natalicio's official announcement that she will retire after a successor is identified, Eddie Rodriguez, Executive Director of the Council on Regional Economic Expansion and Educational Development (CREEED), issued the following statement:

Under Dr. Diana Natalicio's leadership, The University of Texas at El Paso has transformed into a major research institution, steadily climbed in national college rankings, attracted tremendous research funding, and most importantly built deep connections with the El Paso border community and the diverse students this region educates.

The departure of such an immensely talented and tenured leader will be deeply felt among the community but we are certain that Dr. Natalicio's legacy to create both access and excellence for the students of our region will remain. We are also optimistic and encouraged that UTEP's new leadership will continue to work with the El Paso business and civic community as well as our school districts to address the academic needs of our region, reduce rates of remediation, and strengthen our workforce by increasing the number of college graduates in El Paso to meet the Texas 60x30 goal.

We congratulate Dr. Natalicio on a remarkable career and for her tireless commitment and service to El Paso.