

## **TWU PRESIDENT LEAVING FOR NEW POST**

Dr. Carol D. Surles (president's office) was selected last Thursday to serve as president of Eastern Illinois University, located in Charleston, Ill. After a vote by the EIU board of trustees, the board chair offered the position to Surles, who joined TWU in August of 1994. Surles submitted her resignation as president of TWU effective Feb. 5, 1999, during a quarterly meeting of the TWU board of regents in Denton on Thursday; she begins her duties at EIU March 1, 1999.

Surles said that she leaves TWU and many friends in Texas with a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment as she looks ahead with excitement to the needs of EIU. "Texas Woman's University continues to grow and to seek new life through programs, partnerships and our pioneering philosophy in higher education. This process of growth, leadership, development and self-awareness will continue," Surles said. "Our efforts over the past four years to plan and prepare for the future will ensure that the university can continue to explore new ways to educate and enrich the lives of all of those whom we serve, especially students, alumni, faculty and staff."

She added, "These efforts are part of TWU's ongoing plan, an initiative called *Pioneering Our Future*, which has been the focus of activities and discussion at all levels of the university. It is a fluid, dynamic plan that can change as challenges and opportunities occur, but always with its focus on the university's mission and service to the citizens of Texas and this country. TWU has a strong faculty and staff, talented students and dedicated alumni, and the university will mark its centennial in 2001 as a milestone into the next millennium."

Sheila Whitaker-Kellagher, chair of the TWU board of regents, said, "Dr. Surles has laid the foundation for a solid future at Texas Woman's University. Through TWU's strategic planning efforts and Dr. Surles' leadership, we proceed with confidence as a university -- marking a trail in higher education, especially for women, and contributing to the educational experiences, health and well-being of the citizens of Texas. We wish Dr. Surles success at Eastern Illinois University and say good-bye with feelings of pride, sadness and warmth."

(During the TWU board of regents' public meeting on Fri., Dec. 11, Whitaker-Kellagher announced that she had accepted Surles' resignation on Dec. 10 and that the president's last day at TWU would be Feb. 5. She said that the regents currently are putting together a subcommittee to look at the search process, which they plan to begin before Christmas. "We will be very diligent in our selection for president," she said. Regents also have tentatively schedule a telephone conference meeting early Saturday morning -- Dec. 19 -- to discuss the interim president position, executive search firm recommendations and the search advisory committee within the board that will work with a search firm and a university search committee to fill the president's position.)

Surles, who was selected the ninth president of TWU by its board of regents in May 1994, was formerly vice president for administration and business affairs at California State University-Hayward. She is the third woman president to serve as chief executive officer at the nation's largest university primarily for women. As president of TWU, she is responsible for an institutional budget of approximately \$80 million.

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### **SURLES IS LEAVING, *continued***

EIU enrolls approximately 11,700 students on its 320-acre campus near Charleston, Ill., a community of about 20,000 residents. EIU is three hours south of Chicago and two hours east of St. Louis. Approximately 5,500 students live on campus (almost half of its enrollment); 662 faculty members teach -- 91 percent are full time and 71 percent have terminal degrees.

"We are happy to welcome D. Surles as the next president of EIU," said Susan Gilpin, chair of Eastern's board of trustees. "Her administrative experience and academic background have prepared her well for the exciting challenge of guiding us into the 21st century. We have no doubt Eastern's fine academic reputation will continue to grow under Dr. Surles' able leadership."

Surles, who was chosen from among 52 nominees for the university's top administrative post, will oversee a budget of \$118 million at EIU. She said, "It is an honor to have been selected to lead Eastern Illinois University into the 21st century. Eastern is a fine university with a strong liberal arts mission. I look forward to returning to a traditional residential campus with a strong sense of community. I will work diligently to enhance Eastern's already-distinguished national reputation and to build upon the university's multitude of strengths."

She said, "There are no finer faculty, students and staff than ours at TWU. I have learned a great deal about the university's special mission to serve women. Texas Woman's University has contributed

measurably to the supply of well-educated women for almost 100 years.

"I have enjoyed my tenure at TWU. I shall always cherish the opportunity to have served this fine university. I especially appreciate the support of the regents, who appointed me in 1994. Their confidence in my ability to lead served me well throughout my tenure and, during that time, the university has made measurable gains in all of our functions. I leave TWU in good stead. The fact is that I'm leaving one great university for another great university."

Surles is actively engaged in her profession of approximately 26 years. On the national level, she is a member of the Presidents' Council of the Association of Governing Boards. On the state level, she serves on the executive boards of the Presidents Council for state universities in Texas and the Texas International Educational Consortium. She is chair of the North Texas Federation of Area Universities and chair of the Association of Texas Colleges and Universities -- an organization of 110 presidents of state and private universities.

Surles works closely with community, state and national leaders in higher education on the university's behalf. She holds a doctorate (Ph.D.) in education from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, a master's degree in counseling from Chapman College in Orange, California, and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. She holds membership in chambers of commerce in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, the Dallas Citizens Council, the Dallas Forum and numerous other civic organizations. In addition, she is a member of the board of directors for First State Bank, Texas-New Mexico Power Company and TNP Enterprises, as well as the Alliance Bar Association.

She is a member of Mortar Board Honor Society, Golden Key Honor Society, Pi Lambda Theta Honor Society and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and is listed in *Who's Who Among Black Americans*; *Who's Who in America*; *Who's Who in the Midwest*; *Who's Who in the South and Southwest*; *Who's Who Among American Women*; and *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*.

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## **COMMENCEMENT SET**

*Pomp and Circumstance* will replace holiday carols -- at least for two days -- when 793 TWU students receive their degrees during December commencement exercises in Denton and Dallas. The program will be even more festive in Denton because both ceremonies will be held for the first time in Pioneer

Hall.

Students and family members who have tickets are invited to attend. The ceremonies in Denton will be held on Sat., Dec. 19, at 9 a.m. with commencement speaker Judge Darlene Whitten and at noon with the featured address presented by Texas Rep. Henry R. Cuellar. In Houston, Texas Sen. Rodney Ellis will talk to graduates during the 2 p.m. ceremony scheduled on Sun., Dec. 20, at the Edwin Hornberger Conference Center in the Texas Medical Center at 2151 W. Holcombe.

The number of degrees earned during the fall 1998 semester includes 519 undergraduate and 274 graduate degrees, according to Dr. Jim Stiles (registrar). Approximately 570 students in Denton and 80 graduates in Houston are expected to participate in their graduation ceremonies.

Times for commencement in Denton reflect candidate assignments, based on specific schools and colleges participating in the ceremonies listed below:

- 9 a.m. -- Ceremony I involves candidates from the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Occupational Therapy; and
- Noon -- Ceremony II will feature graduates from the College of Education and Human Ecology, the College of Health Sciences, the College of Nursing, the School of Library and Information Studies and the School of Physical Therapy.

A reception for graduates, their families and guests who attend either ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. in the southwest dining room of Hubbard Hall. TWU President Carol Surles will be president at all three ceremonies, which include an academic procession, certification of degrees and a commencement address.

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## **TWU HELPS DEVELOP AASCU POLICY STATEMENT**

Addressing what was termed "a policy crossroads," the American Association of State Colleges and Universities released a statement in late November, calling for an increase in state and federal financial support for public higher education. The statement, released during the organization's annual meeting, makes the case that public colleges and universities support a competitive economy and produce "a highly trained and adaptable workforce; the knowledge that sustains our culture, and the means for promoting social equity."

AASCU is a Washington-based association representing more than 425 public colleges and universities and higher education systems across the United States and its territories. The statement, *Supporting the Public Benefits of Public Higher Education*, and a publication, *Public Higher Education and the Public Good: Public Policy at the Crossroads*, that addresses the historical role of higher education in society, were developed by Alice Chandler, president emerita of the State University of New York College at New Paltz, with support from a task force of public higher education leaders -- including Dr. Carol

Surles (president's office) of TWU -- and AASCU staff.

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**AASCU, *continued***

AASCU contends that this sector of higher education is threatened by erosion of state and federal support, while acknowledging that the recent improvements in states' economies have resulted in "modest" increases in education investment. The report cautions that the accessibility and quality of public colleges and universities now are challenged because higher education appropriations have not kept pace with inflation or institutional enrollment growth. It notes, however, that institutions also must do their part by remembering that "the public dollar is a public trust" and by continuing to contain costs and support accountability.

The statement decries a shift in philosophy in federal financial aid funding that puts more of an emphasis on loans than grant aid for students. The statement, which offers policy recommendations to states, colleges and universities, the general public, and the federal government, asks Congress to "provide financial aid adequate to ensure that low- and middle-income students can attend college without excessive debt." America "cannot afford to become two nations -- one prosperous and well-educated, the other trapped in economic stagnation and rising despair," the statement said. It offers solutions and recommendations in six policy areas: access, academic quality, research and public service, accountability, public financial support, and balanced governance.

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**REGENTS MEET, APPROVE INCREASE IN HOUSING RATES**

The TWU board of regents held its quarterly meeting last Thurs. and Fri., Dec. 10 and 11, in Denton. In addition to hearing numerous reports, the regents approved an increase in housing rates for fall 1999 and toured food service facilities in the Student Center Underground, Jones Hall and the Guinn-Stark Commons.

***Finance and Audit***

Regents heard a report on the status of the university's financial portfolio, projecting about a seven percent increase in investment gains over the next 12 months. They also learned about the high quality

nature of the portfolio, which protected the university's investments during the third quarter when the stock market took a major dive.

Regents then heard a report from Dr. Brenda Floyd (finance and administration) on the implementation of a new campus debit card system, the renovation of Hubbard Hall and the cost of elevator repairs (\$460, 592) in MCL. In addition, regents reviewed and approved the university's investment policy and discussed strategic initiatives as they relate to TWU's strategic plan.

### ***Student Life***

Dr. Richard Nicholas (student life) asked regents to approve a five percent increase in residence hall room rates, effective fall 1999, and also gave a report on athletic benchmarking at TWU. With the help of Dr. Dee Siscoe (student life) and Jamie Teal (conference services), Nicholas then gave a report on activities of his division, which included the completion of a new soccer field, plans for future remodeling in the Student Center and the news that TWU is one of 17 schools in the United States currently being considered for a flagship campsite of the UCA cheerleading camp.

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### **REGENTS, *continued***

#### ***Academic Affairs***

Dr. Basil Hamilton (psychology and philosophy), speaker of the Faculty Senate, discussed proposed new awards for faculty and criteria (Distinction in Teaching; Distinction in Scholarship; Distinction in Service; Innovation in Academia; and the Humphries Award for Dedication to TWU) and an amendment to a page of the *Faculty Handbook*. The regents recommended approval of both items and then heard a report from Dr. Wilkes Berry (academic affairs) on faculty appointments and retention. In his report, Berry gave various reasons for why faculty members resign.

David Peat (enrollment management) then gave a report on admission data for first-time college students in an effort to see where resources might best be focused. He noted that students tend to leave TWU for reasons other than academic issues and that he currently is collecting data in an effort to improve retention. The regents also heard a report from Dr. Beverley Byers-Pevitts (academic affairs), who called on Dr. Ruth Ann Ragland (mass communications) to discuss the drafting of a mission statement for the School of Management and also on Dr. Keith Swigger (Library and Information Studies), who told regents about recent Internet-based innovations in TWU's library science efforts. Finally, Berry discussed the new core curriculum, the process of revising the curriculum and how the new 42-hour

curriculum makes it easier for students to transfer to TWU from junior colleges.

### ***Institutional Advancement***

Regents heard from Kathleen Gigl (institutional advancement), who asked them to consider approval of a comprehensive campaign fundraising feasibility study. The draft Gigl presented sought proposals from vendors outside of TWU. With the university's centennial celebration drawing ever near, "...now is the optimum time for fundraising," Gigl said.

Gigl went on to discuss her division's internal plan for integrated marketing, announced the retirement of Donna Ryan (alumni relations) and reported that three finalists have been chosen in the search to fill Ryan's position. Additionally, Gigl noted that, while the fundraising goal for the university's annual fund -- Help Keep the Promise -- was met this year, fundraising in other areas is down from last year. She also called for further alumni support, outlined fundraising initiatives and spotlighted recent projects produced by the office of public information.

At the meeting, regents also learned that Jackie Goins (general counsel's office) will retire this year. Goins, who works as an assistant to TWU's attorney, John Lawhon, has spent 23 years with TWU -- including 10 years recording meetings of the TWU board of regents.

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### **NEWSBRIEFS**

**Information and news about activities, programs or TWU people may be sent to Ann Hatch (public information), editor, either through campus mail or by e-mail to [s\\_hatch@twu.edu](mailto:s_hatch@twu.edu). The weekly deadline to receive information is Tuesday at 5 p.m. for the following week. Student information for the "People" section is not published unless it is submitted by or in conjunction with a faculty member and that faculty member's related activities.**

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### **NEWSBRIEFS, *continued***

***The last issue of TWU Update for 1998*** will be posted on Mon., Dec. 14. *TWU Update* will resume its weekly schedule online beginning Mon., Jan. 11, 1999. Happy holidays!

***Holiday poinsettias*** used for the seasonal coffees last week will be sold to university employees on Tues., Dec. 15, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the southeast dining room of Hubbard Hall. "Don't miss your

chance to purchase (at a discount) a beautiful poinsettia to decorate your home for the holiday season," said Bobby Trevino (physical plant).

***Diversity Days will be held*** in Denton April 5-9, hosted by the office of intercultural services. All university departments are invited to participate in the annual celebration by developing programs or events that promote and encourage awareness of diversity within and outside of the TWU community. Any department interested in sponsoring a program or event is asked to submit in writing a brief description of their observance and the date(s) so that the information may be included on calendars. All program or event items/summaries must be submitted to the office of intercultural services by Feb. 22, 1999. For details, call Patrick Vasquez at 8-1-3679. Persons who would like to volunteer to serve on the Diversity Days committee should call Anissa Breaux at 8-1-3634 or send e-mail to [intcultural@twu.edu](mailto:intcultural@twu.edu) before Jan. 13, 1999.

***Reminder: TWU is seeking nominations*** for candidates who will be considered for the staff Outstanding Achievement Awards and the TWU Award of Excellence. Nomination guidelines and forms were distributed in December, and completed nominations should be returned to the office of human resources no later than Feb. 5, 1999. The awards will be presented during honors convocation on Fri., April 16. For details, call 8-1-3555.

***Golden Key National Honor Society*** will hold a fundraiser on Tues., Dec. 15, at Pancho's Mexican Restaurant in Denton (1117 S. Ave. C) from 4 to 9 p.m. Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to come and support the organization by dining in at Pancho's during those hours. "Take a break and come out to support us," said May Kwan, Golden Key member. A portion of sales from the evening will support Golden Key; for details, call Kwan at 8-1-4787.

***Reminder: All faculty are invited*** to attend a brown bag luncheon chat with Dr. Carol Surles (president's office) at noon on Tues., Dec. 15, ACT 301.

***The semester's traditional midnight breakfast*** during final exams will be held on Mon. Dec. 14, from 10 p.m. to midnight in the Underground. Volunteers (those extra Santa's helpers) are asked to assist with set-up, beginning at 9:30 p.m., and clean-up until 12:30 a.m. For details, call Sodexo-Marriott food services at 8-1-3663.

***Reminder: Faculty members*** who are planning a syllabus for the spring 1999 semester are urged to incorporate a special performance by the Georgia Sea Island Singers on Feb. 8 and 9. The group's visit -- part of Black History Month activities -- will include master' classes and a public performance. More information will be provided in future issues of *TWU Update* as the event draws near; for details before then, call Karen Mongo (English, speech and foreign languages) at 8-1-2324.

***Reminder: In the weeks before December graduation,*** three TWU students will showcase their original artworks in Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts exhibits in the university's student gallery. The shows, which are free and open to the public, are displayed Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For details, call 8-1-2530.



**Come to the Baker's Dozen** for faculty/staff "Happy Hour" from 2 to 3 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the Student Center! Bring a faculty or staff TWU ID and get a free shot

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### **NEWSBRIEFS, *continued***

of your favorite flavored syrup with the purchase of a Grande coffee; or a free cookie with the purchase of any specialty coffee; or 50 percent off a second cup of coffee or decaf when you bring a friend and purchase the first cup at the regular price.

***Reminder: Spring semester staff scholarships*** -- a limited number -- are available through the office of enrollment management for interested persons. "To be eligible for the scholarship, you must be a full-time or part-time permanent TWU employee, have been employed at TWU for at least 12 consecutive months by the start of the spring 1999 semester and be a TWU degree-seeking student," said David Peat (enrollment management). Previously enrolled students must have at least a 2.0 cumulative grade point average. The scholarship will pay one-half of tuition and fees for up to one three-hour course, which can be at either the undergraduate or graduate level. Scholarship request forms are available through the office of enrollment management. (Note: Scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until all available money is expended. Preference will be given to those staff members who have not received a previous fall staff scholarship, according to Peat. If the staff member withdraws from the course for anything except medically-related reasons, the scholarship must be repaid. All undergraduate or graduate admission requirements must be met as well.) For details, call Peat's office at 8-1-3010.

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### **THE NEXT MONTH AT TWU: DECEMBER 14, 1998, TO JANUARY 10, 1999**

#### **Dec.14-16**

- Library open 7:30 a.m.-midnight; bookstore open 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wellness Center open 6 a.m.-10 p.m.

#### **Dec. 1-18**

- Visual arts: BFA and MFA exhibits, Fine Arts galleries, free, weekdays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

## **Mon., Dec. 14**

- Midnight breakfast for students, SC Underground, 10 p.m.-midnight.

## **Dec. 15-16**

- Continuing education: conflict resolution workshop on general civil mediation, ACT.

## **Tues., Dec. 15**

- Brown bag lunch for faculty with Dr. Carol Surles, ACT 301, noon.
- Golden Key National Honor Society fundraiser at Pancho's Mexican Restaurant, 1117 S. Ave. C, 4-9 p.m.

## **Wed., Dec. 16**

- Payroll deadline: finalize web hours through Dec. 15 by 5 p.m.

## **Dec. 17-18**

- Library open 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; bookstore open 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wellness Center open 6 a.m.-10 p.m.

## **Thurs., Dec. 17**

- Payroll deadline: approve hourly timesheets on RHEA by 5 p.m.

## **Sat., Dec. 19**

- Basketball: Pioneers vs. Texas Wesleyan, Fort Worth, 3 p.m.
- Commencement: Denton, Pioneer Hall -- Ceremony I, 9 a.m., for the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Occupational Therapy;

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**CALENDAR**, *continued*

**Sat., Dec. 19 (continued)**

- Commencement: Ceremony II, noon, College of Education and Human Ecology, College of Health Sciences, College of Nursing, School of Library and Information Studies and School of Physical Therapy; reception 10 a.m., HH.
- Blagg-Huey Library open 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; bookstore closed; Wellness Center open 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

**Sun., Dec. 20**

- Commencement: Houston -- 2 p.m., Edwin Hornberger Conference Center in the Texas Medical Center, 2151 W. Holcombe.
- Blagg-Huey Library closed; bookstore closed; Wellness Center open 1-6 p.m.

**Dec. 21-23**

- Blagg-Huey Library open 1-5 p.m., bookstore open 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Wellness Center open 10 a.m.-7 p.m. in Jones Hall and closed in Pioneer Hall.

**Dec. 24-Jan. 1**

- Season's holiday: TWU closed; offices re-open on Mon., Jan. 4

**Dec. 24-Jan. 3**

- Blagg-Huey Library closed; bookstore closed; Wellness Center closed.

**Thurs., Dec. 31**

- Basketball: Pioneers vs. Tarleton State, PH, 2 p.m.

## **Jan. 4-8**

- Blagg-Huey Library open 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; bookstore open 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wellness Center open 6 a.m.-10 p.m.

## **Mon., Jan. 4**

- Basketball: Pioneers vs. Midwestern State, Wichita Falls, 7:30 p.m.
- University offices and departments re-open, 8 a.m.

## **Jan. 8-10**

- Continuing education: conflict resolution workshop on advanced mediation, SH.

## **Fri., Jan. 8**

- Basketball: Pioneers vs. Texas A&M-Kingsville, Kingsville, 7:30 p.m.

## **Jan. 9-10**

- Blagg-Huey Library closed.

## **Sat., Jan. 9**

- TASP test, CFO/MCL, registration from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

## **Sun., Jan. 10**

- Mizuno High School Coaches Clinic (softball), Pioneer Hall.

**HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY!!! HAPPY 1999!!!**