

Dr. Ricardo Romo
President
The University of Texas at San Antonio

Dr. Ricardo Romo became the fifth president of The University of Texas at San Antonio in May 1999. As president, he leads one of the fastest growing institutions of higher education in Texas and the nation. Since he became president, UTSA has become an institution of first choice for students seeking a university degree, and UTSA is now poised to be one of the state's next premier research universities.



President Romo recently unveiled "The UTSA Plan: A Roadmap to Excellence," a strategic effort to enhance both access to education and excellence in scholarship and service at the University. As a result, UTSA will more than double the current number of tenured and tenure-track faculty by 2012 and develop additional doctoral programs and research institutes. To accommodate future growth, UTSA plans to add nearly \$750 million in new facilities, including an \$84 million science building that will be one of the most sophisticated learning centers in the state when it is completed in 2005.

During President Romo's tenure, UTSA's enrollment has increased 40% and the University has added numerous programs and facilities to enhance student life, including a \$20 million Recreation/Wellness Building, a 1,000-bed Olympic village-style housing complex and several new student support programs designed to help students succeed at earning a university degree. The number of advisers has tripled, and UTSA is recognized as a leader in "Closing the Gaps," a statewide initiative by the Legislature to enroll more Texans in higher education.

Dr. Romo graduated from Fox Tech High School and is a native of San Antonio's West Side. He attended The University of Texas at Austin on a track scholarship. He holds a master's degree in history from Loyola Marymount University and a Ph.D. in history from UCLA. A nationally respected urban historian, Romo is the author of "East Los Angeles: History of a Barrio," which is now in its ninth printing (one in Spanish).

In 1980, President Romo returned to UT Austin to teach history before becoming a vice provost for undergraduate education. From 1987 to 1993, Romo directed the Texas office of the Tomás Rivera Center, housed at Trinity

University, where he evaluated the impact of governmental policies on Latinos. In 2002, President Bush appointed him to the President's Board of Advisers on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

President Romo is married to Dr. Harriett Romo, an associate professor in social and policy sciences at UTSA. She also works with the National Head Start Family Service Center. They have one son, Carlos, who graduated from Stanford University and now attends The University of Texas School of Law. Their daughter, Anadelia, received a doctoral degree from Harvard University.

A talented photographer, President Romo's photos have been included in several regional art exhibits, including "Havana," a collection of his prints taken in Cuba.