



Dear Campus Community,

For the past seven years, Debbie and I have given our all to UNLV. We never thought this would be our last stop, but we never once considered other opportunities that presented themselves.

However, in the past few months an opportunity arose that I was encouraged to explore. Today I am being named the sole finalist for the presidency of the University of North Texas, pending approval by the UNT Board of Regents.

Both of our children and our grandchild are in Texas, and with our son's growing family and our daughter's upcoming marriage, Texas has been pulling on our heartstrings. UNT is a great university, in many ways similar to UNLV – its student population is growing in size and quality, its research endeavors are expanding and it's vitally important to the economic strength of the Dallas-Fort Worth Region. Serving as UNT's president will allow me to combine an opportunity, the skills I have developed, and our family life all in one place.

While I am excited to work with another institution that is rising on the national stage, this is a bittersweet moment for both Debbie and me. We will miss the faculty, staff, students, and community—we could not ask for better colleagues and friends. Thank you all for your talent, vision and perseverance. UNLV and Las Vegas are stronger, more vibrant and more united than ever before, with many exciting pieces of our vision coming together.

I am confident in you, the future of this university and this region—UNLV is a rising star. Thank you for your support and know that UNLV will always be in my heart.

Sincerely,

Neal J. Smatresk
President