

# HR HIGHLIGHTS

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HR Highlights is the Official Newsletter of UNT System Human Resources.



## FACULTY & STAFF

# Spotlight

### KATHRYN LYTTON

Academic Communications Director  
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and  
School of Health Professions  
**UNT Health Science Center**

Kathryn Lytton is a member of HSC's [academic communications team](#) helping to promote the great work being done at the Fort Worth institution, especially the numerous efforts throughout the pandemic. She joined the team just over two years ago and as we start the new year she has big news on two fronts -- she recently transitioned to a new role directing communications for the School of Health Professions and Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences; and she grew her family of three to four (pic inside)! As beautiful and miraculous as pregnancy is, it can certainly cause interesting cravings as her response to "favorite restaurant" suggests. One thing's for sure, the office is never dull or lacking laughs when Kathryn's around. Click to find out why.

[READ MORE](#)

If you'd like to nominate a faculty or staff member to spotlight, please email [communications@untsystem.edu](mailto:communications@untsystem.edu).

## This Just In! News, Notes & Resources



### New year brings a new Chancellor and a familiar fight against COVID-19

Dr. Michael R. Williams began a new era on New Year's Day as he assumed the role of UNT System Chancellor. On Monday, he [addressed UNT World employees in an email](#) with words of enthusiasm and excitement about our limitless potential to shape the future of North Texas and beyond.

Chancellor Williams also addressed our continued fight against COVID-19. Our top priority across the UNT System remains to ensure the health and safety of students, faculty, staff and community members. Part of that process requires any faculty or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19, has symptoms or had possible exposure, to report it via email to their respective campus (please see below). Continue to check in for updated information at [UNTSystem.edu/covid](https://untsystem.edu/covid).

[COVID-19 reporting guidelines by location](#)

[UNT System](#) | [UNT](#) | [UNT Dallas](#) | [UNT Health Science Center](#)



***Save big on yoga mats to eyeglasses >>  
Benefits available to UNT World faculty & staff***

We often don't associate our health insurance with discounts on great products that can improve our yoga game to the ergonomics of our home workspace, to discounts on everything from eyeglasses and contact lenses to hearing aids. If you don't know about [Blue365](#), it's time to check it out. It's the Blue Cross Blue Shield discount program available to you as a UNT World employee. [Register](#) today to get started (be sure to have your insurance card handy). Don't forget about all your other perks via the [UNT World discount programs](#).

Blue365®



**HIGH FIVE: UNT System ITSS team goes above and beyond during Winter Break to get new Chancellor up and running**

When it's Winter Break and certain things just have to get done -- oh, like getting the new Chancellor's email set up as Dr. Michael R. Williams officially started his new role on New Year's Day -- who ya gonna call? Yep, UNT System IT Shared Services. ITSS gets a shoutout for putting in hours over the holiday break, and especially this determined duo: Andy Mears (pictured left/top), Chief Enterprise Architect, and Mac Edwards (pictured right/bottom), System Administrator. Your commitment is appreciated and never taken for granted.





### HIGH FIVE: [The Dallas Morning News](#) nominates UNT history professor for 2021 Texan of the Year

[Andrew Torget](#), Associate Professor in UNT's Department of History, has been nominated as a finalist for *The Dallas Morning News*' [2021 Texan of the Year award](#). The newspaper's editorial board wrote that it was fascinated by a new field of research gaining attention in Texas that studies thousands of enslaved people who escaped toward freedom through Texas in the 1800s. Dr. Torget has focused his research on the cotton industry and how its growth in the 1820s changed not only the Texas economy but the state's relationship with slavery. Dr. Torget is one of three Texas scholars nominated as finalists. Wrote the DMN's editorial board: "That sounds like a worthy mission to us. And the Texans who are serving it deserve to be finalists for *The Dallas Morning News*' 2021 Texan of the Year." We agree.



### HR UPDATE

UNT System Human Resources has numerous programs and tools available at no cost to assist you with health or well-being issues, work-life balance, financial issues and more. Explore your [UNT System benefits](#), and follow this space weekly for tips, programs and promotions.

>> VIEWED YOUR TOTAL REWARDS STATEMENT YET?: Available now in the [Employee Portal](#) is the new Total Rewards Statement, providing employees a first-time view of compensation beyond base salary. It distinguishes any additional pay, health and retirement plans, vacation and sick leave, faculty/staff scholarship and other benefits, calculating a single figure that represents the total value of your compensation package. For additional resources, including how to contact your campus HR team for questions, visit our new [Total Rewards](#) web page.

>> REMINDER: NEW YEAR MEANS DEDUCTIBLE RESET: Jan. 1 marked a reset for your health insurance deductibles and coinsurance. For detailed information on your insurance plan, [this chart](#) shows deductibles and coinsurance info for [HealthSelect of Texas](#) and [Consumer Directed HealthSelect](#) plans. Click on those plans for detailed information. And Blue Cross Blue Shield provides [this helpful information](#) to better understand how your health insurance deductibles work.



### ON THE AIR: The DMN's Sharon Grigsby, Gromer Jeffers Jr. discuss a year like no other in Dallas

[The Deep Side of Dallas](#) podcast is a collaboration between UNT System and *The Dallas Morning News* that dives into local news and issues, and explores the past, present and future of Dallas and North Texas. In our [latest episode](#), co-hosts [Paul Corliss](#), UNT System Chief Communications Officer, and DMN editor [Rudy Bush](#), host a special reporter's roundtable with DMN political writer Gromer Jeffers Jr. and columnist Sharon Grigsby on the year in Dallas. The group breaks down everything from the legislative session to Mayor Eric Johnson's new approach at City Hall.



# Save The Date. UNT World Well-Being Calendar.

Upcoming well-being opportunities from UNT World HR.

Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#); Visit our [website](#)

Paying Yourself Income: Options in Retirement

[Jan. 11, 12 -- 1 p.m.](#)

Envisioning Your Future and Setting Goals with David Yebra

[Jan. 13, 10 -- 11 a.m.](#)

Los Secretos del Dinero: Cómo Gestionar los Ingresos y las Deudas

[Jan. 13, 3 -- 4 p.m.](#)

1° of Difference: Changing One Habit Can Change Your Life

[Jan. 20, 10 -- 11 a.m.](#)

Social Security Considerations

[Jan. 20, 11 a.m. -- 12 p.m.](#)



## We Are North Texas. Campus News.

Click our member institutions' logos for the latest news



If you have an HR question or topic you'd like covered in the newsletter, please email [HR@untsystem.edu](mailto:HR@untsystem.edu).



Miss an issue of HR Highlights? [CLICK HERE](#) to catch up.