LESA B. ROE - SOLE FINALIST, UNT SYSTEM CHANCELLOR

Selected as the sole finalist to become the University of North Texas System's third Chancellor, Lesa B. Roe is set to join the UNT System after a distinguished 30+ year career with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). An accomplished leader whom NASA's Acting Administrator and Chief Operating Officer Robert Lightfoot referred to as "mission focused and action-oriented," Ms. Roe comes to North Texas with rich experience in corporate-level strategic positioning and execution for a multi-billion dollar federal agency and a proven track record of achieving results, combined with a wealth of experience working with federal and state-level legislators.

The Chancellor is the chief executive officer of the UNT System and is responsible for all aspects of the System's operations, including management of 10,000+ employees and oversight of the three UNTS campuses – UNT in Denton, UNT Health Science Center in Fort Worth and UNT Dallas – as well as the UNT System administration. As sole finalist, Ms. Roe is set to replace Lee F. Jackson, becoming the first-ever woman to lead UNTS.

In her former position with NASA, Ms. Roe partnered with the Chief Operating Officer to lead strategy, execution, and operations nationally across all NASA field centers for a $19.6 billion annual federal agency and $31 billion in assets. Her leadership led to numerous breakthrough science, space, and aeronautics innovations and missions advancing our nation's leadership and international knowledge of aeronautics and space. Ms. Roe provided cross-functional corporate management and directed 10 field center installation managers, five primary product line managers, CIO, CFO, and general oversight of 17,000 employees. In addition, she directed program and project teams on product/mission delivery, acquisition strategy, partnership and international strategy and risk management. During her time as one of NASA's senior leaders, the agency was an employee-rated Best Place to Work for five years running.

Ms. Roe brings a passion for engaging students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) to the UNT System and has initiated and engaged in numerous student programs, both internal and external to NASA. Ms. Roe served on the White House Council on Women and Girls, which forwards national policy encouraging more girls and women in STEM fields.

Previously, Ms. Roe served as director of NASA's 100-year old Langley Research Center. As the center's first-ever female director, Roe was the senior management official of the center, overseeing facilities valued at more than $3.3 billion, and employing over 3,600 engineers and scientists. She was responsible for the center's technical implementation of aeronautical, space and science programs, as well as the overall management of the center's facilities, personnel and administration.

Prior to Langley, Ms. Roe served as manager of the International Space Station Research Program at Johnson Space Center in Houston, where she led the efforts of more than 900 engineers and scientists on the $450 million annual research program, delivering the first research to the space station.

In her more than 15 years of program and project management at Kennedy Space Center in Florida, Ms. Roe developed systems and flight tests for flight elements that are now in orbit as part of the space station. She also served as a manager and as a systems engineer on 38 space shuttle flights. Her engineering career began in the private sector, performing satellite communications analysis.

Ms. Roe holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Florida and a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Central Florida. She has served on numerous boards and advisory councils including: the Virginia Governor's Aerospace Advisory Council, American Astronautical Society, Virginia FIRST Robotics, and the Virginia Research and Technology Advisory Commission. Her many honors include: 2017

American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics AIAA Fellow, the 2015 Senior Executive Service Presidential Distinguished Rank Award and the 2006 Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award; NASA Exceptional Service Medal; University of Florida's Distinguished Career Achievement and Outstanding Leadership in Engineering Awards; the 2010 Women in Aerospace Leadership Award; the 2010 YWCA Women of Distinction in Science and Technology; and the Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce 2012 Bridge Builder Award. Ms. Roe and her husband, Ralph, NASA's chief engineer, have three children.

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