

President Welty Reflections

Ten Years in sixty seconds (April 24, 2013, Honors Graduation Dinner)

There are aspects of great leadership that the world may never see.

Great leadership is not always a general leading the charge, sword dawn. There are times when leadership works from behind the scenes and allows the great work to emerge seemingly on its own.

President Welty allowed me the opportunity to pursue my long held dream when through Provost Mike Ortiz he invited me to lead a group of our colleagues in the creation of an Honors College—an enterprise underwritten by a person and family of remarkable generosity and foresight—Dr. Earl Smittcamp and family.

As the process went forward, I met frequently with both the Provost and President Welty to keep them informed of the character our creative process was taking. In all our meetings, President Welty listened, dialogued, and shared the pleasure in the prospect of what we could create. Yet, he *never once* set a constraint, a direction or a requirement. **We had a common goal and he allowed us the freedom to pursue *that goal* with all his support and encouragement.**

President Welty, I cannot honor you enough for **having allowed** us to create the best Honors College for our University our effort could conceive—**certainly the finest Honors College in the West.**

Summa Cum Laude to you, sir, for your dauntless support through all these years. We can only hope your successor will be a person of such academic vision as yourself.

Robert