



SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

March 8, 2019

Mr. President,

The University of Texas Board of Regents announced today that I am the sole finalist to become the next President of the University of Texas at El Paso effective September 1, 2019. Under Texas law, my name will be public for three weeks before the Regents take a final vote on my appointment.

Upon a favorable final vote by the Regents, I will resign my position as Secretary of the Air Force effective May 31, 2019. This should allow sufficient time for a smooth transition and ensure effective advocacy during upcoming Congressional hearings.

It has been a privilege to serve alongside our Airmen over the past two years and I am proud of the progress that we have made restoring our nation's defense. We have improved the readiness of the force; we have cut years out of acquisition schedules and gotten better prices through competition; we have repealed hundreds of superfluous regulations; and we have strengthened our ability to deter and dominate in space.

The University of Texas at El Paso is in the top 5% of research universities in the country. Located in the fourth largest manufacturing region in North America, it has achieved this high research ranking while continuing to be one of the best universities in America at promoting social mobility for students. It is a university that changes lives with a deep commitment to both access and excellence.

American higher education needs strong leaders to meet the challenges of the 21st century. As you know, I left a university presidency to become Secretary of the Air Force and our family home is in New Mexico, a few hundred miles north of El Paso on the Rio Grande. If approved by the Regents, I look forward to returning to the west to help lead this fine institution.

I very much appreciate the opportunity to have served. I remain a strong advocate for our nation's defense and an Airman for life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather Wilson", is written over a horizontal line.

Heather Wilson