Opening Remarks – Core Values of Education and Enlightenment Can Lead to Lasting Change

In the face of these historic last few months, we felt compelled as a university community to dig deeper into the world we are confronting, a world that is both globally in turmoil and churning in our own backyard.

This is not one of those times that the pain is happening far away in isolated pockets that we can mull over for a few minutes and move on with our lives.

Not this time.

As it turns out, we are in complete solidarity with our colleagues in Delhi and Cape Town and Sao Paulo and countless other places in this never more clearly realized global community.

In just a few months, our students, our faculty and our staff have confronted the chaos of a global pandemic and civil unrest surrounding police violence past and present.

It hasn’t been easy.

It has required a new way of meeting the world, a new way of learning, a new way of facing ourselves and our futures.

I have watched how you responded, and I believe you are bravely meeting this test.

You have taught, faculty, in innovative ways, sometimes jumping into the deep end of the pool to reach your students.

You have served, staff, with attentiveness and skill from your remote home offices.

And you have hung in there, students, with determination and resiliency that inspires us all.

In the last several days, our UNT Dallas Responds series has explored themes facing us all.

Today, a panel of our scholars will tackle a topic that has intrigued human beings for as long as men and women have thirsted for knowledge and meaning in their lives.

Scholars can help us make sense of our time and place drawing on the lessons of our past.

It seems to me that you have never been more relevant.

That’s why I am looking forward to this discussion:

How Core Values of Education and Enlightenment Can Lead to Lasting Change.