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### Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Honoring the Leadership and Legacy of Dr. Dan R. Jones

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## *Ribbon Cutting Ceremony*

Honoring the Leadership and Legacy of Dr. Dan R. Jones

Beloved Eleventh University President

October 26, 2019

**Welcome**

Dr. Mark Rudin  
*President, Texas A&M University-Commerce*

**Invocation**

Mr. Derryle Peace  
*Director of Alumni Relations*

**Program**

Mrs. Alicia Currin  
*Vice President for Business & Administration*

Dr. Mary Hendrix  
*Retired Vice President, Student Access & Success*

Dr. LaVelle Hendricks  
*Associate Professor of Counseling  
Director of College Student Affairs Program*

Mr. Brian Weaver  
*Assistant Professor of Art*

**Portrait Unveiling**

Dr. Ray Keck  
*President Emeritus, Texas A&M University-Commerce*

**Ribbon Cutting**

Mrs. Jalinna Jones  
Mrs. Allyson Jones  
Ms. Aislinn Jones

**Closing Remarks**

Mrs. Jalinna Jones

**Acknowledgements**

Foundry Artist

Mr. Hobbes Vincent  
*Schaefer Art Bronze Casting*

Portrait Artist

Mrs. Debora Lytle

## INTEGRITY ★ INNOVATION ★ IMAGINATION

Dr. Dan Richard Jones served as the eleventh president of Texas A&M University-Commerce from July 2008 to April 2016. In his inaugural presidential address, delivered at his investiture ceremony on February 6, 2009, President Jones declared, “It is incumbent upon us, as a community of educators and current citizens of the Village of Texas A&M University-Commerce, to go about the pursuit of our mission with a shared commitment to three principles: integrity, innovation, and imagination.”

Each of the three benches at his campus memorial represents one of these guiding principles, and the adjacent flower beds are in the shape of an “I” to not only enhance the site’s natural beauty but also to further symbolize these revered ideologies.

### THE STATUE

Located on the Integrity bench, a bronze statue represents a young Dan Jones, lifelong student and educator, in appreciation of his high regard for and study of literature and written prose. President Jones dedicated his entire career to transforming the lives of others through the power of knowledge and interpersonal connection.

### THE BOLLARD

In the center of the garden’s circle, the “three I’s” (Integrity, Innovation, Imagination) merge to represent the platform on which we all stand together to reach higher and extend further. “We accept the challenge of the past, we seek the opportunities of the present, and we pursue relentlessly the promise of the future,” President Jones avowed.

### 11,333

Discipline and persistence defined many aspects of President Jones’ life, and as a young adult, running became an integral part of his daily routine. In fact, for 11,333 consecutive days, he ran at least four miles per day – even on his last day of life. Whether for a few miles or a marathon, running reflected his fierce determination and high standard of excellence. These virtues reveal his personal leadership style as well as the expectation he held for the entire university community, all of whom he cherished and cheered.

### THE SHOES

The bronze encasing of President Jones’ actual running shoes represents his personal resolve to lead our university, one step at a time, in the effort to bring change to our region by extending the priceless gift of educational opportunity to every citizen.

### THE LEGACY

President Jones’ lifelong mission lives on in the fond memories we cherish and in the lives of those he reached. From his humble beginnings teaching English to migrant farm workers in South Texas, to leading one of the largest and fastest-growing universities in The Texas A&M University System, President Jones set a precedent that stands as a benchmark to inspire future generations. His kind heart, pleasant demeanor, and scholarly love of learning will live long in the history of our great university. To him, and for the legacy of excellence he leaves behind, we remain grateful.

*I am always uplifted by the return of students to campus. For in their eyes, I see a special mixture of... confusion...but also curiosity and openness that provides the basis for my hope for the future.*

*Let us go about the business of setting an educational table for them with joy in our hearts, for to them, we bequeath the desire for a better world.*

**- President Dan R. Jones**