

Chancellor Feyten:

Good evening, everyone, and welcome to the Texas Woman's University centennial celebration of our state's ratification of the 19th Amendment that gave women the right to vote. I am Carine Feyten, chancellor and president at Texas Woman's, and I am so pleased you could join us tonight for this special celebration.

Before we get started, I wanted to recognize some guests we have joining us this evening. From our Institute for Women's Leadership Advisory Council, we are joined by Mayor Betsy Price – who will say a few words shortly – the Honorable Lee Gabriel, Rienke Radler, and Sue Bancroft.

I would also like to recognize Judith Tankel, District Director for Representative Colin Allred, and Michael Flusche, North Texas Deputy Director for Senator Ted Cruz. Thank you both for joining us this evening!

Last but not least, I want to recognize my newest Chancellor's Endowed Scholar, Celia Nowlin.

Since 1901, Texas Woman's—the nation's largest university primarily for women—has been committed to transformational learning, discovery, and service in an inclusive environment

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that embraces diversity. Tonight, I am pleased to talk a bit about a few pioneering women who worked against significant odds to ensure that women have a voice in government. I often say that if you're not at the table you may be on the menu. It's really hard to imagine how a disenfranchised group could ever gain a place at the table, but the stories I am about to share can give us some insights.

Texas Woman's has a few noteworthy connections to the suffrage movement. Mary Eleanor Brackenridge served as one of the first regents for the College of Industrial Arts, which would eventually become Texas Woman's University. She reorganized the Texas Woman's Suffrage Association in 1913 and served as its president. A pioneer for women's rights, Brackenridge worked as a bank director and as a leader in the woman's club movement in Texas. Our Student Union on our Denton campus is named for her.

Two other regents—Eliza "Birdie" Johnson and Helen Stoddard—for whom our Stoddard Hall is named—were also part of the woman's club movement and helped women organize and move into the public space as advocates for bigger issues. All three women were local suffragists who championed women's education and became instrumental in founding and governing Texas Woman's University.

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You can read more about Brackenridge and the suffrage movement in the book, *Citizens at Last: The Woman Suffrage Movement in Texas*, which features an introduction and essay by TWU Professor Emerita A. Elizabeth Taylor. I also want to thank TWU Professor, Dr. Phyllis Bridges, for lending me her copy of this book. I found so many fascinating stories about women's suffrage in this book. It's truly a complex story of politics and power and of psychology, sociology, and human relationships. It is full of nuances too as even full ratification of the 19th Amendment meant different things for indigenous women, immigrant women, and women of color.

As part of our month-long celebration of the ratification of the 19th amendment, last week, TWU hosted an event featuring Dr. Nancy Baker Jones, historian and author focused on the suffrage movement. Dr. Jones gave a wonderful talk about the movement in Texas – including some of the women I just mentioned. If you are interested in hearing her talk, we will be playing it later tonight in the museum theatre.

Now I would like to invite the Honorable Betsy Price, mayor of Fort Worth, to give some remarks. Please help me welcome Mayor Price.

Mayor Price:

Remarks

Chancellor Feyten:

Thank you, Mayor Price, for those great remarks and for your support of TWU. I would now like to invite Dr. Diana Vela, associate executive director of exhibits and education for the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame to give a few remarks as well. Please help me welcome Dr. Diana Vela.

Diana Vela:

Remarks

Chancellor Feyten:

Thank you, Diana, for those words and for hosting our celebration here tonight. This is truly a spectacular museum, and I'm happy we could come together tonight to celebrate the many achievements of women in history.

I have one more piece of information to share. I am excited to announce that in early spring, we will be opening the new location for the Institute for Women's Leadership on the second floor of our Old Main Building. The new location will include an interactive, digital history exhibit that will showcase the contributions and leadership legacy of Texas women in

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politics and public policy. It will be one of the first such exhibits in Texas and among the first in the U.S. The goals of the exhibit will be to teach our youth—and those still young in heart—about accomplished women leaders, to inspire them to become leaders themselves. More details about the opening will be forthcoming.

Thank you all for coming tonight. We are going to cut into the cake and make a toast. Afterward, please head out into the museum looking for those artifacts Diana mentioned. This is your chance to explore this incredible facility just among friends. We also will start playing Dr. Jones talk about suffrage in a few minutes.