

Denton Suffrage Event Script

Chancellor Feyten:

Hello, everyone, and welcome to Texas Woman's University's centennial celebration of our state's ratification of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. I am Carine Feyton, TWU chancellor, and I am so pleased you could join us today for this special celebration.

Since 1901, TWU—the nation's largest university primarily for women—has been committed to transformational learning, discovery and service in an inclusive environment that embraces diversity. Today, we are pleased to talk about the pioneering women who tirelessly worked to ensure that all women received a voice in government with their right to vote.

TWU also has a unique connection to the suffrage movement. Mary Eleanor Brackenridge, who served as one of the first regents for the

College of Industrial Arts, which would eventually become Texas Woman's University, 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 here on campus is named for her as well.

Two other regents—Eliza “Birdie” Johnson and Helen Stoddard—for whom 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 TWU.

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 want to thank TWU Professor Phyllis Bridges for lending me her copy of this book.

Our presenter today is Dr. Nancy Baker Jones. Dr. Jones is president of the Ruthe Winegarten Memorial Foundation for Texas Women's History. This foundation fosters public knowledge through such projects as research fellowships, book publications, a radio series and a forthcoming documentary about the woman suffrage movement. She is the author of books, articles and essays and a fellow and board member of the Texas State Historical Association. Dr. Jones has taught women's history at St. Edwards University, and she earned her Ph.D. in American civilization from the University of Texas at Austin.

Please help me welcome Dr. Nancy Baker Jones.

Nancy Baker Jones:

Remarks and Presentation

Chancellor Feyten:

Thank you, Nancy, for that wonderful presentation. I'm happy we could come together today to celebrate those pioneering women whose work has proven to be invaluable.

I also 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 also will include an interactive, digital history exhibit that will showcase the contributions and leadership legacy of Texas women in 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 students about accomplished women leaders and inspire them to become leaders themselves. More details about the opening will be coming in the fall.

Thank you all for coming today, and I hope you have a wonderful afternoon.