Letter from James H. Stewart Jr. to Dr. Chester A. Newland

5-30-1975

University of Texas at Tyler, "Letter from James H. Stewart Jr. to Dr. Chester A. Newland" (1975). Inauguration Documents. Paper 37.
http://hdl.handle.net/10950/1948
Although information relative to the date for my presidential inauguration ceremony at Texas Eastern University has been communicated to you, I want to confirm that the inauguration will be on Saturday, March 27, 1976. Further, I certainly wish to tell you again how very pleased I am that you have agreed to deliver the keynote address on this occasion. Your presence and address will make this event the special occasion that it should be and I am deeply grateful for your willingness to be with all of us who share in the joy of this ceremony.

As you know, I do not consider this inauguration to be an event for me personally, but an event honoring and highlighting the institution and all those who share in the accomplishments and achievements of its brief but full history and who have an interest in the accomplishments and achievements which are on the horizons of the future. Even though the inauguration will be focused on the institution and all involved in its significant work, I must tell you how happy Colleen, Bryan and Wade were when I informed them last night that you had accepted our invitation to be the speaker on this occasion. And I must also tell you that in considering who should deliver the address for an inauguration in which I am so interested, there was really only one choice -- Chet Newland.

As plans for the inauguration progress, you will be hearing from Dr. Gerald L. Morris who is cochairing the inaugural committee with our board chairman, C. Quentin Abernathy of Gladewater, Texas. Gerald is a very capable individual and will provide excellent leadership for this committee. Certainly, I will look forward to working with you as necessary in developing your travel plans and coordinating other details on which it may be desirable for us to work personally.

An explanation of my reference to our institution being Texas Eastern University while I am writing on Tyler State College letterhead is in order.
The reason for this discrepancy is that Governor Dolph Briscoe signed a bill changing our name from Tyler State College to Texas Eastern University only four days ago and my conservative nature will not allow me to dispose of all our old stationery. Actually, this is only part of the reason since our timing was not precise enough to have the new letterhead available at the exact moment the Governor signed our name change bill.

Perhaps I should also relate to you why we are conducting an inauguration during what will be my fourth year of service as president of Texas Eastern. This is true primarily because we have been so very busy getting a new institution underway that an inaugural ceremony took lower priority than it might at an older established institution. Another basic reason for the delay in the inaugural activity is that we desired to wait until some of our new buildings were complete or near completion in order that they might be available for viewing by our visitors and guests. We also feel that the bicentennial year celebration can lend some unique touches to our inaugural ceremonies.

Again, Chet, please accept my sincere appreciation for your willingness to bring the keynote address at our inauguration next year. I am deeply grateful to you and look forward to having you with us on this special occasion.

Continuing kindest regards and best wishes.

Cordially yours,

James H. Stewart, Jr.
President

JHS:rc

xc: The Honorable C. Quentin Abernathy, Chairman
Texas Eastern University Board of Regents
✓Dr. Gerald L. Morris, Interim Vice President
for Academic Affairs