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Letter to B. H. McVicker, M. D.

University of Texas at Tyler

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September 5, 1979

The Honorable B. H. McVicker, M.D.
609 South Raquet
Lufkin, Texas 75901

Dear Dr. McVicker:

The first letter which I write on The University of Texas at Tyler stationery is written to you as an individual for whom I have great admiration and respect both personally and professionally. Moreover, it is written to an individual who has provided exceptional leadership as an original member of the Board of Regents and one who served as a regent throughout the existence of Tyler State College/Texas Eastern University until the institution became The University of Texas at Tyler on September 1, 1979.

Dr. McVicker, your contributions to this institution are immeasurable, and I am confident the history of The University of Texas at Tyler will so indicate. In this regard, I emphasize especially my appreciation for your leadership in the area of academic excellence as you served as chairman of the Board of Regents and chairman of the Academic and Personnel Committee. The fundamental goal of academic excellence that you and I discussed thoroughly during our first visit—which you will recall was in July 1972 at Lufkin's Holiday Inn—was very important for me. As I have mentioned before, this visit during which we shared our visions of developing a university program grounded on quality and excellence was the deciding factor that convinced me I should accept the presidency of this institution upon the offer being extended. Throughout our work together your sensitivity to the goal of quality education has been of profound significance to our institution, and the foundation provided by this attention to quality will serve The University of Texas at Tyler well throughout the years ahead.

Of course, I also take this opportunity to thank you for your outstanding leadership in every dimension of the university organization as you have sought to make this institution an outstanding university within the higher education system of Texas. Indeed, your persistence in this regard has provided the impetus for us to become recognized for quality throughout our state and beyond. This thrust, I am confident, will continue into the future.
Finally, I thank you personally for your friendship, encouragement and support as we have labored together for the achievement of positive goals. Furthermore, I stress that I look forward to working with you for the best interest of The University of Texas at Tyler as you remain vitally involved in the program of U.T. Tyler and of The University of Texas System as a whole.

With continuing kindest regards and best wishes, I remain

Cordially yours,

James H. Stewart, Jr.
President

JHS:aa