

Why is Dr. Rice-Spearman the right person for the job of TTUHSC President?

0:06

So if you think about Lori Rice-Spearman, specifically, I think in order to understand that you really need to understand Texas, and West Texas in particular, and understand the Health Sciences Center. There is a need in the state of Texas for a variety of different types of health professionals to be graduated from schools like ours in West Texas. In particular, there's a need for health care professionals of all types including health care researchers. Lori is from Odessa so she's a West Texan. And so she understands everything about the needs and the things going on here from the standpoint of our Health Sciences Center. Lori has been the Dean of the School of Health Professions for quite some time for a short period of time. She was also serving as our provost and so she has a unique ability and unique insight into interprofessional education, which is really the name of the game for the way that we're we're going to be practicing medicine moving forward. we're gonna have teams of people working together to make sure that we can maximize our patient care.

What is the most impressive thing you've seen from Dr. Rice-Spearman in the time you have worked with her?

1:15

Well, if you think about Lori and her, her strengths, one of her natural strengths is her interpersonal skills with everybody. Her administrative skills have been phenomenal, and her organizational skills. So her ability to work with people from different areas, which is interesting because if you think about folks and health professions in general, very often it's part of their DNA to work on teams to work as a team with other groups of folks. And so from that perspective over the years watching Lori, whenever she gets something going whenever she has a plan that she's developed, she makes sure that she follows through in that she's organized in a way to make that happen. But most importantly, most importantly, she's a people person. So Lori works extremely well with people from other divisions within School of Health Professions, as well as within different departments in different schools within the university, and she also works extremely well with people out in the community, because at the end of the day, the interaction with people in the community is is an extremely important part of the role of the president of the Health Sciences Center.

Describe Dr. Rice-Spearman's leadership throughout her time as Interim

2:29

Well, I guess either fortunately or unfortunately for Lori, she became the interim president shortly before everything with the coronavirus pandemic broke open. And I will tell you that the thing that struck me the most about her during this period of time, was her ability to constantly watch the big picture, while constantly working on the tactical things that we needed to get done, not only to help the Health Sciences Center and by that I mean the faculty, staff and students, but also help all of our patients help all of the communities where we serve them. And I will tell you that one of the things that's unique about the Health Sciences Center within our system is the fact that part of their constituency, if you will, involves all of the patients that

we see in all of these different communities and someone's ability to reach to them and to help them, especially in a time of need like we've had that we've had with the coronavirus becomes a critical part of the skill set that we would love to see in the president of the Health Sciences Center moving forward.