

## DR. BLAIR BLACKBURN ELECTED NEW PRESIDENT OF EAST TEXAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



**D**r. J. Blair Blackburn, DBU Executive Vice President, has been named President of East Texas Baptist University. Dr. Blackburn will continue to provide leadership to DBU until this summer when he will officially begin his duties as ETBU president.

“Since his arrival at DBU in 1995, I have gotten to know his incredible work ethic and his heart for the Lord and Christian higher education,” stated Dr. Gary Cook, DBU President. “He has proved himself time and time again to be such a fine and capable administrator, overseeing the areas of enrollment, student affairs, administrative affairs, athletics, construction, and physical operations. I know of few other leaders who are as diligent and driven as Dr. Blackburn, and while we are sad to see him leave DBU, I know that the Lord has wonderful plans for him and for East Texas Baptist University.”

Dr. Blackburn began his tenure at DBU as a Presidential Intern and Assistant Vice President for Development in 1995. Since that time, he has held numerous positions at DBU, including Assistant Vice President for Enrollment and Administrative Affairs, Dean of the College of Adult Education, Vice President for Enrollment and Administrative Affairs, Senior Vice President for Enrollment and Administrative Affairs, Acting Director of Athletics, and Senior Vice President.

In 2002, he was named Executive Vice President at DBU, overseeing enrollment, administrative affairs, student affairs, and

athletic affairs. During his tenure, traditional-age student enrollment increased 93%. He also helped to lead DBU’s efforts to become a member of the NCAA in 2004, and since that time, he has worked to grow the DBU athletic department to include six club sports, thirteen programs at the Division II level, and a nationally ranked Division I baseball program. He also pioneered DBU’s Global Sports Mission Initiative, which provides opportunities for DBU student-athletes to travel internationally to serve others and compete in athletic events.

In addition, Dr. Blackburn has provided leadership for more than 30 building projects, including Spence Hall, the Tom and Alicia Landry Welcome Center, Patsy and Herman Smith Center, Henry Blackaby Hall, Patty and Bo Pilgrim Chapel, Joan and Andy Horner Hall, the Sadler Global Missions Center, the Colonial Village Apartment Complex, the Williamsburg Village Townhomes and Brownstones, Horner Ballpark, and the Sedwick Soccer Fieldhouse, as well as Jim and Sally Nation Hall and the Dr. William B. Dean Learning Center, both of which are currently under construction. He has also worked extensively with both city and state officials on various campus, roadways, utilities, and student funding matters.

A beloved member of the campus, Dr. Blackburn is well known among the student population for his energy and enthusiasm. He has helped to develop DBU’s Christ-centered Greek Life program, as well as new student programs such as the Foundations for Excellence Class, Spring Sing, the RecLife Department, the DBU RecTeam, the DiscipleNow Encounter Ministry, ResWeek, new men’s and women’s ministries, the Global Missions Program, and the living-learning communities for first-year female students named the Jewel House and first-year male students named the Stone House.

“Dr. Blair Blackburn is a man of faith, devoted to excellence in Christian higher education,” stated Dr. Gail Linam, former DBU Provost and current Academic Dean. “He possesses a rare combination of extraordinary abilities in campus design, student affairs, innovative academics, and community service. As well, Blair and Michelle Blackburn are a remarkable team, supporting and encouraging the University family and enriching special events.”

Dr. Blackburn and his wife, Michelle, are members of Parkway Hills Baptist Church in Plano, along with their daughter, Elizabeth Blair, and son, Parker. Their oldest son, Taylor, recently graduated from Baylor University.