Dr. Tedd L. Mitchell was named the fifth chancellor of the Texas Tech University System on Oct. 25, 2018.

As chancellor, Dr. Mitchell is the chief executive officer of a $2 billion, four-university higher education enterprise consisting of Texas Tech University, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Angelo State University and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso. Collectively, the TTU System enrolls approximately 55,000 students, operates on more than 15 campuses statewide and internationally, and has an endowment valued over $1.3 billion.

Dr. Mitchell works collaboratively with the Board of Regents, system administration and each university president to enhance the TTU System’s profile and support shared missions of advancing higher education, health care, research and community outreach. Additionally, Dr. Mitchell guides the TTU System’s engagement with state elected officials in Austin and federal leaders in Washington, D.C., to further enhance funding and support.

Historic milestones were achieved, under Dr. Mitchell’s leadership, after receiving legislative funding and approval in the 86th Texas Legislature to establish a new Texas Tech University veterinary school in Amarillo, and a new dental school at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso. This will be the state’s first veterinary school in more than a century and first dental school in over 50 years. The addition of these two schools makes the TTU System one of only nine in the nation to offer programs for undergraduate, medical, law, nursing, pharmacy, dental and veterinary education, among other academic areas.

Dr. Mitchell first joined the TTU System when he was named the eighth president of TTUHSC on May 17, 2010. He held a dual appointment as chancellor and president for approximately one year until deciding to close his tenure, effective Nov. 1, 2019, after nearly a decade at the helm of TTUHSC. He is the longest-tenured president during the 50-year history of TTUHSC and successfully led the university to a period of historic milestones, record growth in enrollment, academic excellence and physical campus expansion. TTUHSC now graduates more health care professionals than any other health-related institution in Texas.
During Dr. Mitchell’s tenure as president, TTUHSC and its leadership spearheaded the university’s first fundraising campaign, which is closing in on its $100 million goal. Dr. Mitchell’s vision as president also saw the largest physical campus expansion for TTUHSC in new construction since the university’s inception. In addition, a recent initiative Dr. Mitchell and his administration pioneered was developing and installing a values-based culture for the university faculty, staff, students, patients and community members.

Also as president, Dr. Mitchell launched initiatives for interprofessional concentration around the university’s five schools – Biomedical Sciences, Health Professions, Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy – and promoted programs to support novel research and creative endeavors such as the Department of Public Health, which will soon become the School of Public Health. Under his guidance, TTUHSC successfully helped establish the TTU System’s fourth university, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso, in 2013.

Prior to arriving at TTUHSC, Dr. Mitchell served as president and chief executive officer of the Cooper Clinic in Dallas, an internationally-recognized center of excellence in preventive and sports medicine.

Dr. Mitchell earned a Bachelor of Science at Stephen F. Austin State University in 1983. He is an Ashbel Smith Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Texas Medical Branch, where he received his Doctor of Medicine in 1987. In 2012, Dr. Mitchell was honored as a distinguished alumnus of the Department of Internal Medicine. He is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and the American College of Sports Medicine. From 1988 to 1996, he served as a captain in the U.S. Army Reserves (Medical Corps).

His research interest is focused on the effects of activity and lifestyle on health. Dr. Mitchell has authored or co-authored dozens of scientific papers, abstracts and book chapters. He also is a frequent lecturer, both nationally and internationally, on the physiology of exercise and the effects of exercise on aging, fitness and overall quality of life. In 2002, Dr. Mitchell was appointed by President George W. Bush to the President’s Council for Physical Fitness and Sports and served until 2009.

As health editor and a weekly columnist for USA Weekend from 1998 to 2010, Dr. Mitchell published more than 600 articles. He received the 2006 Clarion Award and the 2008 Walter C. Alvarez Award for Excellence in Medical Communication from the American Medical Writers Association. His writing led to collaborative efforts with other health experts, culminating in the publication of the books Fit to Lead, Move Yourself and Fit to Lead II.

Dr. Mitchell is married to Dr. Janet Tornelli-Mitchell. They met while in medical school and practiced together for nearly two decades. The Mitchells have three children: Katherine, an assistant district attorney in Dallas, Charlie, a petroleum engineer in Dallas and a Texas Tech University alumnus, and Chris, a Texas Tech University alumnus, living in Philadelphia pursuing a master’s degree at Villanova University.