



Editorial Comment

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You are not here merely to make a living. You are here to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, and with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world. You impoverish yourself if you forget this errand.

—Woodrow Wilson

El Paso is at the end of a long journey, and yet also at the beginning. Many here have spent the last 10 years fighting for a 4 year medical school on the border. This past July marked the entrance of the first medical students to our new school and on August 1st the White Coat Ceremony was held, initiating this inaugural class into the “practice of medicine.”

The White Coat Ceremony was well attended by faculty, families and dignitaries alike. I was also present to witness this momentous event. Watching the mixture of excitement and apprehension on the faces of the 40 students who mounted the stage, I was reminded of my own White Coat Ceremony that was just as important, yet half as historic. At that ceremony, 14 years ago, I remember donning my white coat and looking out at the assembled faculty with admiration. I dreamed of eventually having even a fraction of the skills and acumen that I was sure they possessed. Now I am almost amazed to see the current students looking out at me, at us, with similar hopes and aspirations. We are now their heroes, their role models.

In these recent days, with violence on the border and insecurity about the future of health care, it is easy to embrace a culture of fear and cynicism. We, as the El Paso medical community, must accept that we have a new role to play. Reach back in your own histories for how you came to be in this career, in this place, at this time and remember the ideals you had at the begin-

ning. This is what needs to be taught first and taught last.

And so we begin.....

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