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\*\*LBJ public affairs dean to deliver commencement address.

**News**  
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DALLAS—Elspeth Davies Rostow, dean of the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin and executive committee member of the College Board, will focus on policy issues in her commencement address at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas June 4.

Graduating in commencement exercises will be 204 students from Southwestern Medical School and 40 from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

While this year's graduates are the "fortunate recipients of low-cost, high-quality education" in Texas, Rostow predicts tomorrow's health-care practitioners may face greater economic and academic obstacles unless policies are implemented to eliminate them. One area of particular concern is early education.

"We don't have the quality of science teaching we need. We must start teaching science during childhood. And we must not only acknowledge, but we must address in terms of policy the decline of teaching in elementary and high schools," says Rostow.

By introducing better teaching methods, educators can make science exciting and attractive to youngsters, "otherwise, you lose a lot of young minds at the early stages. There are many ways of exciting a young child that may eventually lead to a career. Nobel Prize winners often say how early they were interested in science, and this must be encouraged in the schools.

"We would have a larger pool to draw medical candidates from if we did a better job of teaching and advising students," says Rostow, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Barnard College who holds M.A. degrees from Radcliffe College and Cambridge University. Her teaching career includes appointments at Barnard College, Sarah Lawrence College, The Salzburg Seminar in Austria, University of Zurich, Cambridge University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, American University and Georgetown University.

As educational costs increase, fewer students will be able to afford higher education. Says Rostow: "If the economy continues its wayward course, it will affect education generally. The cost will go up. I've seen it all through The UT System." So, given the economic forecast, preparation is essential in recruiting the best students for medical schools.

Noting the popularity of health care fields in the last 20 years, Rostow says the LBJ School has hosted seminars on numerous health-related issues. "Many of the proposals I have heard debated on questions of health care are of a concern to many more than just M.D.'s." Such policy issues include the relationship between patient care and patient need, undocumented workers in Texas who are too terrified to seek proper medical help and maternal child care.

Another area of great concern, she continues, is medical research.

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A partnership between the public and private sectors to fund research and development is "of vital importance" in this day of urbanization and declining federal support, says Rostow, an appointee to President Carter's Commission for a National Agenda for the '80s and former member of Carter's Advisory Committee for Trade Negotiations.

"The present administration didn't put medical research as a priority issue because it was too concerned with cutting taxation and reducing federal spending," observes Rostow, adding Proposition 13 has contributed to the nation-wide outcry against taxation. "So it is not a period of wide-eyed acceptance of science as a positive good."

Thus, private sources must be found for research to flourish, says Rostow.

While Texas is slightly better than the national average in funding research and development, she says researchers must indicate these concerns are high priority to get attention at the state and national level.

A surge in productivity might help to relax purse strings.

"When you get back to the levels of productivity, you affect the public and private sectors and perhaps change the mood into that of earlier periods of public acceptance. If we move in that direction, it might result in more disposable funds from corporations and change the attitude of donors. Many exciting things are about to happen, and it would be a tragedy in the extreme if they weren't allowed to happen."

Rostow predicts that today's crop of medical practitioners will likely face skepticism and mistrust among the public. She says improved technology combined with escalating medical costs lead to patient frustration and dehumanized care. "Hospital and physician costs for what is thought to be a simple procedure is a deterrent to enthusiasm, although not necessarily trust. And there is a decline in the awesome capacity of physicians.

"Once you institutionalize medicine, the house call vanishes and you approach a roster of doctors with no concepts of what the old family doctor is. One reason for trust in the past was the bonding between patient and doctor--you could turn to the doctor for anything," says Rostow.

Commencement ceremonies will begin at 8 p.m. with a musical prelude by the Texas Brass Ensemble. Following the commencement address, Award of Ho Din, the highest honor given a senior medical student, will be presented by James W. Keay, trustee of Southwestern Medical Foundation.

The invocation and benediction will be by the Reverend Monsignor William T. Thompson. Dallas County Medical Society President Dr. B. David Vanderpool will administer the Physician's Oath.

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