

# Downtown Arlington increases business with new restaurants

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Hundreds of students and others from the UTA community flooded downtown Arlington on Friday, getting to know local businesses and enjoying free entertainment. The annual Night on the Town, an event promoting growth in the downtown community, symbolized the affect UTA has had on the downtown area.

Downtown Arlington has added several new restaurants, including Mellow Mushroom and Fuzzy's Tacos, over the past several years while UTA's enrollment has grown to more than 30,000 students.

As Alumni Association president Neer Patel would put it, UTA has undergone "a face lift."

UTA has added new living, entertainment and business locations around campus this year.

With the College Park Center having opened in February, it not only serves for student events but also lures visitors to the city of Arlington's downtown life, said Tony Rutigliano, Downtown Arlington Management Corporation president and CEO.

"The College Park District has been a positive impact on the downtown growth. It's another entertainment amenity for downtown to help further continue development," Rutigliano said. "That alone is our mini American Airlines Center."

Undeclared sophomore Logan Crook said the growth of the College Park District is awesome.

"It is inviting to everyone, attracting not only people in college but the city," Crook said.

The opening of College Park Center's dining spots not only serves students but also surrounding residents. These hot spots are expected to also draw business flow to the city, Rutigliano said.

"It's another wonderful mix to the downtown restaurants attracting new concepts, such as Smiling Moose Deli and Digg's Tacos, are really cool editions," Rutigliano said.

Amy Schultz, College Town, UTA communications and community relations vice president, said with the development of new resident halls, business investment is inspired.

"I think that UTA has been a terrific partner with the city of Arlington in revitalizing the downtown area," Schultz said. "The whole community is really benefiting from this... Everybody is benefiting from the growth of the university in terms of economic revitalization and in terms of opportunities for entertainment and education."

UTA has gone from being a commuter school to having more and more students live on campus,

Rutigliano said. He said with UTA's growing number of students living in or around campus, businesses are prospering.

"Growth in student population has been spectacular. Seems business has prospered in large part because of college students playing a major role in development," Rutigliano said.

Patel said he was having lunch Friday and was amazed to see so many students on campus.

"Fridays were dead. I saw a thriving campus," Patel said.

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