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comes to community problems and issues," he said. "The challenges that play out in Weakley County are also playing out in Henry County, McNairy County, Dyer County. ... We've got a lot of intellectual capacity here, and if our engineers can help with a problem in the community, or the people in our grants office can partner with the community in writing a public health grant or something that will benefit K-12 (schools), we want to be at the table for that. ... We've got to figure out how we (the university and the local communities) can tackle our problems together."

Some of Carver's top goals for the university include improving student retention and graduation rates and maintaining the high-quality educational standards for which UT Martin is known.

"We want to recruit the region's best and brightest, but also make sure that once



Dustyn Watson, a recent UT Martin graduate, is pictured explaining a procedure involving cattle to a group of visiting high school students.

we get them here they are matriculating on time and getting the best advising and the best instruction possible," he said. "We want to be effective and efficient in our delivery of a college degree, and we want to be a best in class for that. When you look at public regionals, we want to be a place that's doing that right. Whether that's improving our retention rate from freshman to sophomore year or improving our six-year graduation rate, those are goals that we're

going to stretch to really be an example for that."

Carver's wife, Hollianne, and their two sons – Jack Thomas and Britton – also live in Martin now, and their daughter, Carson, joined the incoming freshman class at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, this semester. While Carver has many strong qualities, the support of a loving family is foremost among them.

"It's a team effort. I believe in him. I believe in what he does, and when you love somebody you want to support them," said Hollianne. "We almost feel like it's a calling to be in the roles we're in. To be a chancellor, for Keith, has not necessarily been a goal of his. It hasn't been a resume-jumping process of taking one role to get to another. We really do feel like it's where we've been led to be."

Hollianne is a native of Lexington, Tenn., and for the Carvers, the move to Martin earlier this year felt like com-

ing home.

"For me and Hollianne, returning to our heritage at UT Martin and our family connections in West Tennessee is our homecoming 2017," said Keith. "We look forward to continuing to build strong alliances with the students, faculty, staff and the region, and we are glad to be home with old friends and are ready to make new ones."

The Carvers are members of the Martin Church of Christ congregation, and their sons expect to continue in school and community sports this year. Chancellor Carver is active on social media, and his efforts on behalf of UT Martin can be followed on Twitter and Instagram (@KC4UTM) and Facebook (UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver).

EDITORIAL NOTE: Historical information on UT Martin has been taken from Robert Carroll's book "The University of Tennessee at Martin: The First One Hundred Years," which remains the foremost source of information on this period in university history.





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