

Transcript

For joining us right now, as he does every couple of months, as Doctor Walter Windler, President of West TX A and M University which is located in where Wesley.

Thanks. Texas.

Well, that's that's right. West, TX.

West, TX that's right. Yeah. There you go. Yeah.

Good morning, doctor Wendler.

Good morning, Tim. Good morning.

Every time I think of westech.

Good to be here.

Every time I think of West TX, I think of that Marty Robbins song. Remember that. You know what I'm talking about.

Here we go again. Yeah, I do. I can't. This is where I tune out and get on my phone.

I'm not going to sit.

Right. You know what I'm talking about.

Ohh yeah, yeah, yeah. But what's the name of it?

Doctor Winder, you know what I'm talking about.

I do, but I can't say the name of. And I'm not going to sing because.

Oh.

Guys will start screaming.

Yeah, you're probably right.

Ohh out of the West.

Out in the West, TX town of. Remember that. Yeah, yeah. Doctor. Not quite that far West.

You're the.

You're the. You're in the Amarillo area, right? All right.

Absolutely. That's where we. That's where we are. The Great City of Amarillo and the Texas Panhandle.

Yeah.

Handle how long have you been at West TX A and M university?

Well, I'm. I'm bucking the national odds. Been here 9. I'm in my 9th year and I've never held a job this long. As a matter of fact, if you looked at my resume, you'd say this guy can't keep a job. And there is some truth in that. But but the bottom line is I've been here nine years. And I've enjoyed every minute of it. A great place to be. It's a real American values up here and people, people you know, it's a good place. Be nine years.

Yeah. Now, now you are part of the Texas A and M university system in the state of Texas, right?

That's correct. There's 1010 universities and actually now I'm the longest serving CEO at any of the universities.

Have you made? Have you made it this long? Been a conservative?

So I. I you know, it's funny. I don't know exactly how I think it's by being honest about who I am and true to myself. And and true to my savior, there's something about that that works here in West, TX doesn't work everywhere else.

Right, right.

I'm not sure if it works all that well in Los Angeles or other places in New York, but it works here.

Right. How? How many? How many students do you guys have there?

About 9200.

Wow, OK.

So we're almost 10,000, so it's not a, it's not a small school. It's kind of it fits the definition of being mid sized.

Yeah.

You know from universities around the country, but it is completely. Atypical of I think of universities where in one of the. Parts of the state and in the United States as a matter of fact, in the 21st century, in the presidential elections in the 21st century. 048121620 and now 24. We have consistently in Randall County, where we're located, voted more

conservatively, where conservative equals Republican and you guys know that's not always the case.

Have.

But where conservative equals Republican, we're almost 83% on the Republican side of the ticket. We're very conservative and.

Right.

I'm not shy about telling people that because it's where we live, you know, it's just it's where we are and it's the people that that come to school here and.

Tell. Tell us about you. You got something called the Hill Institute. Is that?

OK, that is. That's a newly established. We've been doing fundraising, we've raised about \$23 million so far. Done anything? We're still working on a board of directors. And the next time I'm on, I'll be able to talk to you about this board and it will be it will. Take note because we have. Very, very prominent people on this board and what we're trying to do. Is promote conservative values. That, you know, people of this strain of thinking. Believe are important things like trust and family life, hard work, regard for others, personal responsibility, my goodness, if there's an issue that I think faces modern American higher education is we don't put enough emphasis on personal responsibility.

Mm.

I mean, too many people are looking too hard for people to blame for things that they don't like. We talk about patriotism here and how important that is. The public exercise of virtue. Open and free exercise of. I tell every student whenever I talk to a group of students. Do not check your faith. Whatever it is, I don't care what it is. Not check it at the campus gate. You bring that faith onto the campus and let that faith inform who you are intellectually. Again, I don't care what faith it is, but this denial that there is. Life a spiritual side. Metaphysical side. Something beyond what we can see. That affects how we think and anybody that says it doesn't is lying, which is why it affects how we think and what we think about. And I want people to bring that onto the campus and talk about it without shame or apology or anything else, be who you.

Hey, let me ask you this. Doctor. Doctor Windler, by the way, give your website if you would for the. Cool.

Yes, I will I. It's it's WTAMUEDU is you type that into any browser and it's going to come up. It'll come up. And by the way, if you're interested in the Hill Institute and what we're doing

here. If there's, if you Type Hill in the search bar after you get to to wt, it'll pop right up. It's there and there's a lot of stuff on that website.

Talking to Doctor Walter Windler, he's president of West TX A and M university. Let me ask you this. There are a lot of kids about to graduate from college. Me from high school. Doctor Wendler right now, I mean, we're in March, April, may and then they'll be graduating and then they're looking forward to to school. To to continue their their education at a Institute of Higher Education, as they say, junior college. College, whatever the case may be. What are? Two things that you think as a parent. You should help your student look out for in terms of where they're going to go to college. Reason I ask this is. How many horror stories have I heard that we've all heard about kids from Christian homes and they, they're they're raised right and they have come from a good family, a good church, and they get through high school and then they they go off to a college or Univers. And like within a couple semesters, they're coming home questioning their. Faith are ridiculing their parents, are, you know, things that they you just go. What happened to my kid?

Right.

So. What you know, you want people to. Yeah, I've always said, you know, you want to be challenged in your faith and you want to. You want to have to live it out in a baby and not so easy environment sometimes, but at the same time you don't. Young, impressionable freshman sophomores to. To you know. Come home and and there and there all of a sudden questioning their their parents or or God or the Bible and that kind of thing. Go ahead, talk about that.

Well, you're right, Tim. Absolutely. And I think we. Know we're trying to be mindful of. That's why we tell people. Bring your faith onto the campus. Don't try to hide. And by the way, unfortunately, in many college classrooms, they get the feeling that their fake life. Is secondary to their intellectual life. Well, somebody should have told Paul that. Well, somebody should have told Isaac Newton. That your fake life is not secondary to any aspect of your intellectual. Those two things need to be integrated and I encourage students to hold on to both tightly every chance I get. And by the way, not all the faculty agree with me. You know, I had a couple of years ago. I cancelled the drag show on the campus and I I had a no confidence vote taken by the faculty. And and I. They didn't have any confidence in me. Well, fact the matter is I got a pretty good pay raise. Asked him the following year. Would you do that again? It worked for me last time I got a pay raise, but the bottom line is I think I think we need to be honest to who we are and.

Yes.

As parents should try to ferret that out. When they when they look for when they look for a college. Place to. Is this place going to be respectful of who I am and what I believe? Nobody anywhere has the right to be disrespectful of. Of. Personal beliefs. I mean, we have to. We have to be treat each other with dignity and. Matter of fact, I tell people on the campus all the time and people sometimes, you know, they roll their eyes when I say. But I want people at WT to live by the golden rule or the law of reciprocity, whatever. Whatever anybody chooses to call it, but treat other people the way you.

Hey man.

This is. This is not rocket science, and we don't do it.

Right.

We, we. We have people that treat each other as fools, and I don't like it. Sometimes I deserve. But I don't like it, but anyway that's.

You canceled out. You canceled. You said you canceled a drag queen show.

It.

Yes, Sir. Two years ago. It's being argued in the 5th Circuit Court right now, I don't talk about it much because the attorneys told me not to. But.

Right. Well, we're not gonna tell anybody.

As far as no I know.

I mean on this radio show, everything is confident. Worry about? You know. So so anyway.

Yeah, I knew that.

I knew that.

But anyway, we we did that.

Now I want to tell you one other thing, because it's very important to me. Go when you're looking for a university, ask about the costs of education, the impact of borrowing. What the starting salaries might be in the discipline that in the area that you study in. Make sure you understand how all these pieces fit together, which is another way of saying don't over borrow, and if you go to A to a college and you talk to somebody on the campus and ask them about those kind of questions, say, well, any college education is. Don't worry about the cost. Say say to them. You're not being. Genuine with me. You're being disingenuous. The fact of the matter is the cost of the education and the potential. Workforce benefits that you get from that education. When it's complete, they're incredibly important,

because if you're saddled with death, they're with debt after you graduate. Don't how long it's going to take to. It off. I read a statistic. You guys aren't going to believe this. But that 2 million people that receive Social Security checks have those checks garnished to pay for federally insured student loans.

Wow.

And if you're not looking at each other, kind of throwing your brow right now, you didn't hear what I just said.

Right, right.

People that. Drawn Social Security, paying off student loans? That's not that's not college.

Right.

That's not, that's not. Something's broken and we need to be and I'm honest to a fault, I mean.

Yeah.

I I say how I see. That's one of the benefits of being an old codger like I am. I'm going to tell people what I really believe because I'm sincere about it.

Bro. You know.

Yeah. Hey, right, right. Right. Pritchard. Right, right. Had a question for Doctor Windler?

I do and drive winner. Let me say, let me say. We could use, oh, another thousand doctor Wendler's in every college and University of America. I've never actually heard of.

University of President talk the way you're talking today and it is so refreshing and so hopeful and so thank you for being on with us today.

My pleasure.

Truly. This is this is this is. I want to ask you about the Hill Institute because your folks sent along the the working draft document of The Hill Institute and I think you need to. Us a little. That and I'm looking down here you've got. There's sections in here on the values that the Hill Institute is in favor of, and you talk about patriotism and compatriotism and private and civic virtue. Have a chapter in here on on hard work and on rugged individualism. That's the one. This one doctor got me the most rugged individualism. Noble pursuit so. Talk about. Talk about the Hill Institute and what do you mean when you talk about rugged individualism? It's it sounds amazing.

Well, it is to me. And I'm I'm I'm I want to encourage people to stand on their own. I want to. I want people to pursue ideas, not ideology, and unfortunately, in American higher education I saw it on the news last night. I saw it on the news arresting people, you know, at a campus somewhere on the East Coast, you know that demonstrating pro Hamas ideas and being very sort of. Strident about it. The second letter is this not an. That's an ideology and we need to be talking about ideas. And I just think that that people that have ideas. Need to be willing to stand up for them? The freedom and personal responsibility. Are absolutely. Essential in the in the functioning of a Republican form of government. And those two things, freedom and responsibility, we disconnect them all the time. Watch these fools on TV and sometimes on the. Not you guys, of course, but sometimes on the radio. Take it, take, you know, exercise complete freedom and whatever they say.

Thank you.

They accept no responsibility for the the impact of that free expression. And anarchy reigns. When that goes on, it doesn't work. It's impossible to have a personal responsibility, and I see ultimately, that becoming rugged individualism, which, by the way, in this part of Texas. Where we produce. Singularly, of any region in the United States, the most food, fuel, and fiber of any place. It takes rugged individuals to do that. Have to have an entrepreneurial spirit. I. I say. People you have to have faith in God. I mean, who else is going to poke a hole in? Ground and hope that oil comes out. I mean, you've got to know what you're. You've got to get good geologists and all that, but you also have to have faith that what you do and has some value. The same thing with with putting cows out in the pasture, or Spears out on a pasture. You've got to have a lot of faith to. That and you have to be willing to take a risk.

Yeah.

Or planting cotton or whatever it is you do. And I think those values quite frankly. Are important. In any part of the United States, I felt I'm.

From New York.

Originally about 40 miles out on the north.

No.

Long Island. And I tell people, if you give me a week on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, I'll find 100 students with parents who can write a check to pay for the whole thing that would want to come to a place like WT. And I'll tell you, it's because we adhere to values the same values that American Family Radio, by and large. Years to and that is, if things

like you just read the list, you just read that list and those values are important. And to me, the rugged individual in this individualism is the most important.

Yeah.

Be worried about membership in a group. You know, stand on your own. Your free will. CS Lewis said. For me, it's one of my favorite CS Lewis quotes, and I've got a number of them. But he said you have never met a mortal. Because we're all made in God's image. All of. And when you meet someone, you need to recognize that part of that person is made in the image of God. It's hard to find that part. Some people sometimes where you've got a really, really kind of excavate to get it, but it's there. Lewis was correct. We're made in God's image and. Think we need to. Proclaim that I talk about. I write about it. I say it to faculty and students and the beauty of this part of the world is I'm going to say 60 or 70% generally agree with that. You know, they they get it and I'm going to say that. Places on the East Coast, like where I'm from. I don't know that that happens.

Well, sure, doctor.

To the same to the same extent you know same well.

We got a run, but thank you so much for your time and your comments and we appreciate your work there at West TX A and M University and we look forward to visiting with you again sometime real soon.

Thank you. I appreciate the opportunity.

Absolutely. Thank you.