



**PROVOST'S  
ANNUAL REPORT**

*2018–2019*

**The University of Texas at**  
**★ TYLER**

*Academic Affairs*

# message from the **PROVOST**

Dear faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends:

It gives me great pleasure to share with you the many accomplishments of our faculty, staff and students. 2018–19 has been a banner year for us, graduating our first class of Doctor of Pharmacy students, Doctor of Nursing Practice students and University Academy high school seniors.

Earlier in the year, we celebrated a major milestone—being recognized by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education as a Doctoral University, and just last month, the Chronicle of Higher Education ranked UT Tyler as the 5th fastest growing doctoral university nationwide. In a testament to our strategic focus on student success, the University was recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board as one of four public institutions with noteworthy improvement in completions and number of degrees awarded, as part of the statewide 60x30TX initiative.

A number of our academic programs received national and statewide recognitions. That includes a top 20 ranking by U.S.

News & World Report for our graduate nursing program, top RN-BSN nursing program in Texas by the Organization of Registered Nurses, highest placement of graduates in Texas for our engineering programs; and being recognized as a STAR Finalist by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for our BAAS program.

Our faculty also received numerous recognitions, including the Enduring Lifetime Contribution Award from the American Accounting Association (Dr. Mary Fischer), the Regents Outstanding Teaching Award (Dr. Amy Hayes and Ms. Lauren Johnson) and the Fulbright Fellow (Dr. Ali Azghani and Dr. William Sorensen).

We launched several new initiatives during the year. Last fall, we welcomed the first cohort of our Presidential Fellows. In September, the first Career Success Conference was held as a day-long event featuring more than 200 speakers from among alumni and community leaders. The month of April was featured as the “Research Month,” including Undergraduate Research Lyceum, Grad 180 (graduate students presenting their thesis in 180 seconds), Celebration of Faculty Scholarship and the East Texas Research Conference. This past summer, we held a record-breaking number of successful Patriot Academic Camps covering various disciplines from jazz to psychology, and from nursing to pre-med.

We launched three new academic programs in Fall 2018 (Master of Occupational Therapy, Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Bachelor of Science in Communications Science & Disorders) and secured approvals to start three new programs in Fall 2019 (Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, Master of Science in Chemistry and Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering).

Our Soules College of Business received federal funding for the Small Business Development Center in Longview and for economic development in support of its Entrepreneurship and Innovation Institute. Approaching the 2018 mid-term elections, our faculty in Arts and Sciences started the Opinion Research Center with great success, involving students in political polling and receiving national and international coverage of their valuable surveys.

Our students continue to shine at every opportunity. Just as an example, our Model United Nations students from the political science program received the Outstanding Delegation Award for their representation of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the 2019 National Model United Nations Conference in New York.

Closing in on the semi centennial anniversary of the University, our faculty have shown that if we believe in our dream, we can build it together. We hope that you will continue to invest your trust in our dream and join us for the next leg of this exciting journey!

*Dr. Amir Mirmiran*

Provost and Sam Lindsey Chair Professor

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<a href="#">College of Arts &amp; Sciences</a>	4
<a href="#">Soules College of Business</a>	8
<a href="#">College of Education &amp; Psychology</a>	12
<a href="#">College of Engineering</a>	16
<a href="#">College of Nursing &amp; Health Sciences</a>	20
<a href="#">Fisch College of Pharmacy</a>	24
<a href="#">Graduate School</a>	28
<a href="#">Office of Research &amp; Scholarship</a>	30
<a href="#">Undergraduate &amp; Online Education</a>	34
<a href="#">Office of International Programs</a>	42
<a href="#">Muntz Library</a>	44
<a href="#">Assessment &amp; Institutional Effectiveness Office</a>	46



# college of arts & sciences

The arts and sciences are the heart and soul of a university. We are the crossroads for all higher education. As bearers of this important responsibility, the UT Tyler College of Arts and Sciences is dedicated to the education of every student, regardless of major. Our goal is to ensure that every UT Tyler student possesses strong and diverse skill sets that will prepare them for the unprecedented challenges and opportunities in the 21st century.

One of the most important responsibilities of CAS is to teach every major at the University, both through the core curriculum and many non-core foundation courses for other disciplines. One of the most important functions of CAS is manning the front line for student success, especially for our freshmen and other undergraduates. Though our graduate programs are important, our real strength is solidly at the undergraduate level. It is the College of Arts and Sciences that begins the critical education of every student at UT Tyler. Our great faculty, classrooms, equipment, and other facilities serve as that first impression for our students, regardless of major. We work hard to serve UT Tyler well as the educational vanguard.

**DR. NEIL GRAY**  
DEAN

## ANOTHER EXTRAORDINARY YEAR

The College of Arts and Sciences experienced another year of productivity, demonstrated by teaching excellence and scholarly output. The College added several new and energetic colleagues to the faculty roster while others received well-deserved promotion and tenure. The college remains relatively young. Nearly half of the current faculty were recruited over the last half decade either because of new lines being added or replacements for colleagues who moved on or retired. College faculty and staff continue to receive ROTA and ROEA recognition across several disciplines, publish in top tier professional journals, deliver presentations at national and international conferences; encourage selected students to collaborate with faculty in research activity and continue their studies at excellent professional schools.

The course enrollment in CAS has grown steadily for the last several decades. Enrollment figures from 2012 to 2018 show that the College added an additional 2,151 students to our classes in the fall. In the last year alone, our course enrollment grew by more than 500 students in the fall semester. Some of this growth has come with a concomitant decrease in full-time faculty.

Though the College of Arts and Sciences plays an important role in educating every student at UT Tyler, we are also proud of our own majors. In 2018–19, we had 1,524 majors across all our disciplines with 1,338 and 186 at the undergraduate and graduate level, respectively. CAS majors account for 16 percent of all UT Tyler majors, third behind nursing and business. We are doing even better at the undergraduate level where CAS accounts for 20 percent of all majors. The largest majors in the College are biology, criminal justice, english, chemistry and history.

## BUILDING UPON THE FOUNDATION OF SUCCESS

The University has historically produced graduates well-prepared for the rigors of medical school. To further enhance programming, UT Tyler will begin a new Pre-Med Academy in Fall 2019. The academy will help students succeed in getting admitted to and being well-prepared for top medical schools nationwide. The new program will also encourage East Texas high school students to consider careers in medicine.

In addition, we are implementing a Student Success Task Force to study the challenges associated with retention, graduation rates and other student success concerns. This group will work with faculty, students and the dean to develop and implement both tactical and strategic plans for improvement. Multiple approaches targeting core curriculum enrichment, student engagement and advising will be implemented. We understand that CAS has one of the most important responsibilities in student success and will continue to work hard at doing our part to help every student achieve success.

## RESEARCH & CREATIVE ACTIVITY

The College of Arts and Sciences faculty are extraordinary scholars, creators, teachers and mentors. Their student focus is evident in everything they do, including scholarly and creative work. The ability of our students to participate in research and then present or publish the results alongside their faculty mentor is important. Throughout the past year, the faculty published 87 articles in peer-review journals, 11 books and book chapters. They also gave 178 presentations at professional meetings and conferences, presented 53 exhibitions and performances and maintained more than \$2.5 million in active grants. Most of these efforts involved student contributors.

Our faculty's diverse contributions make understanding and improving the world around us is inspiring. Our faculty and students work on projects ranging from new ways to save endangered species, to building virus-like particles for the treatment of cancer, to analyzing important works of literature, to understanding culture and the societies that develop them, to creating beautiful and meaningful works of art and musical performances, and more.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Center for Opinion Research has had a great opening year thanks to faculty champions Dr. Mark Owens, Dr. Ken Wink and Dr. Kenneth Bryant. These professors bring a tremendous mix of talents to this effort and are developing what will be a force in the polling world and help continue the development of UT Tyler's reputation as a leader in community engagement.



The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry engaged students and the community with many chemical magic shows for regional schools and other events. These shows are geared towards children interested in science.

Dr. Lance Williams, Dr. Neil Ford and other faculty in the Department of Biology take their commitment to the environment seriously. They spent a great deal of time engaging with students and the community to educate, understand and better protect endangered species.

We were proud to host the U.S. Navy Band in Spring 2019. The concert was a part of the U.S. Navy ensemble's 2019 national tour and was presented by the UT Tyler School of Performing Arts. A proud moment: ten of our music majors also performed with the band. Dr. Jeff Emge put a great deal of work into this effort.

The second UT Tyler Jazz Camp was a great success thanks to the hard work of Dr. Sarah Roberts. The camp had more than 40 student participants, up from 12 the previous year. It held special guest lectures and performances from renowned musicians Wayne Bergeron and Barb Caitlin.

The first UT Tyler Pre-Med Academy Camp was held in Summer 2019. Due to the many activities including shadowing experiences in hospital and clinical environments, the camp was capped at 12 students. In addition to many talks by current physicians and current medical students and residents, the camp included hands-on experience in brain dissection, various clinical techniques, scientific research, and shadowing at UT Health East Texas and Azalea Orthopedic.

The Department of Art and Art History hosted a workshop for K-12 art teachers under the direction of Alexis Serio, professor of studio art. Teachers participated in demonstrations, lectures, studio work, critiques and an exhibition of the work created during the workshop.

## **FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS**

### *2019 UT System Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award*

Congratulations to Mrs. Lauren Johnson in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry for winning a 2019 ROTA Award. The awards recognize teaching and learning of the highest order as well as exemplary service to students.

## **BEST OF SHOW**

Professor Merrie Wright in the Department of Art and Art History won the Best of Show at the 2018 Third Coast National Biennial Juried Exhibition, K Space Contemporary for her sculpture, "Abstracted Landscape 002: After Wadsworth (This is Where I Live Series).

## **BEEKHUIS AWARD**

Susan Doty from the Department of Social Sciences was awarded the Beekhuis Award. The Albert Beekhuis Award was established by an endowment in 2002 from the Albert Beekhuis Foundation to the Council for Economic Education to be given annually to an affiliated center in the CEE Network for outstanding performance in working with teachers and exhibiting excellence in practice, program delivery and community outreach.

## **TEACHING EXCELLENCE**

Dr. James Newsom in the Department of Political Science and History won three awards for his outstanding commitment to teaching: The Randall Bracken Jones History Teacher of the Year Award from the Military Order of the Stars and Bars; the UT Tyler Jack and Dorothy Faye White Fellowship for Teaching Excellence; and an Outstanding Faculty Award from the UT Tyler Alpha Xi Chapter of Alpha Chi.



# Soules college of business

In July 2018, we moved into a new home for the Soules College of Business. The 140,000 square foot facility includes a 237-seat auditorium, a 135-seat classroom, two 90-seat classrooms, two 60-seat classrooms, a 32-seat classroom and a 40-seat executive classroom. Students and faculty learn and conduct research in several state-of-the-art laboratories and special purpose classrooms including: SAP enterprise resource planning, cybersecurity, data analytics, computer-integrated manufacturing, robotics, networking, programming, industrial materials, industrial metals and pneumatics.

Soules College of Business supported the inaugural UT Tyler Career Success Conference on September 6, 2018. More than 40 of the featured speakers were business alumni. Faculty and staff participated as moderators and in the organization of the event by hosting a speaker hospitality room. More than 6,000 students were able to meet and interact with nearly 200 guest speakers.

**DR. ROBERT "BOB" C. BEATTY**  
DEAN

## ATMAE ACCREDITATION & HRD EXTERNAL REVIEW

In April 2019, the Soules College of Business hosted an accreditation review team from the Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering (ATMAE). ATMAE is the nationally recognized professional association with more than 1,000 innovative members who share technology, management and applied engineering ideas, research and applications that impact the future positively. The purpose of the visit is to ensure the college is meeting and exceeding the highest professional standards of educational excellence. The team was impressed with the success of our students, our updated facilities and the quality of our faculty. A final decision from the ATMAE Accrediting Board regarding the College's reaccreditation effort is expected in late fall.

In April 2019, the Soules College of Business hosted an External Review Team in preparation for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) 2021 visit. The External Review Team evaluated both the Master of Science (MS) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program in Human Resource Development.

## PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

Soules College of Business leads the University with the highest graduate semester credit hours by college. The College has experienced growth in enrollment of the MBA program for its fifth consecutive year. In addition, the MBA in cybersecurity was recognized

as a Top Online Program for MBA in Cybersecurity by OnlineMBAPage.com.

A program partnership agreement was executed between the Executive MBA Healthcare Management Program and CHRISTUS Health®, a large health system comprised of nearly 350 services and facilities, including more than 60 hospitals and long-term care facilities, 175 clinics and outpatient centers.

The Executive MBA Healthcare Management Program graduated the inaugural cohort in December 2018. The second cohort began in January 2019 and represents professionals from various health systems including: UT Health Sciences Center Tyler, CHRISTUS Trinity Mother Frances Health System, UT Health East Texas, UT Health East Physicians, Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare, TAV Health, Methodist Health System, Baylor Scott & White Health and United Health Group.

## NEW VENTURES

A cooperative effort between the Office of Government and Community Affairs, Dr. Javier Kypuros of the College of Engineering, and Drs. Kerri Camp and Roger Lirely from the Soules College of Business was successful in securing a \$564,250 federal grant from the Economic Development Administration. The five-year grant, along with matching funds from the University, will provide support to the Soules College of Business Entrepreneurship and Innovation Institute's efforts to spur economic development and innovation in Smith County and the eight counties



EXECUTIVE MBA HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT GRADUATES - DECEMBER 15, 2018

that are contiguous to Smith County. Funds from the grant enabled the College to hire Mr. Richard King, a retired marketing executive and former director of the Michigan Small Business Development Southeast Region, to serve as the interim director of the Institute.

The Soules College of Business was selected to serve as the host college for the Longview Small Business Development Center (SBDC) beginning October 1, 2018. Mr. Day Shelmire, an entrepreneur, banker and consultant, was named Director of the SBDC in February 2019. A grand opening of the remodeled Longview SBDC facility located at 911 W. Loop 281, Suite 209 is planned for late summer 2019. The center provides free business consulting and facilitates capital infusion to start-ups and small businesses in a six-county region of East Texas.

## RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP

The Soules College of Business faculty published 58 journal articles, one book, four book chapters and seven conference proceedings. The faculty also presented 37 papers and completed an additional eight other scholarly outputs in peer-reviewed journals or conference proceedings. Ten Soules College of Business faculty members received grants in 2018–19. In total, the awards exceeded \$1.2 million. Seven faculty members, three staff members and two business alumni presented at the first annual East Texas Research Conference held May 9–10, 2019.

Dr. Nary Subramanian and Andrew Fobel, an undergraduate student in Computer Science, have a patent pending with the U.S. Patent Office for a search and retrieval system. This patent application is the result of a multi-year research effort that began when Mr. Fobel was a sophomore. Dr. Rob Schumaker, Associate Professor of computer science, and Dr. Michael Veronin, Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, have applied for a patent in health informatics.

## AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Mary Fischer, Professor of Accounting, received the Enduring Lifetime Contribution Award from the American Accounting Association's Government and Nonprofit Section at their annual meeting in San Francisco. This award is in recognition of Dr.

Fischer's exemplary career of service and lifetime of contributions to government and nonprofit accounting. Dr. Fischer's remarkable record of scholarship includes more than 50 publications in prominent national and international publications.



DR. MARY FISCHER

The Association of human resource development (AHRD) Esworthy Malcolm S. Knowles Dissertation of the Year Award is given to commend an outstanding doctoral dissertation that exemplifies scholarly work and contributes to the field of Human Resource Development. Dr. Sam Carrell was the First Runner-up for the 2018 Esworthy Malcolm S. Knowles Dissertation of the Year Award for 2019.

Ms. Kayla Shires, an undergraduate student in the management department, and Ms. Sheridan Smith, an undergraduate student in the Marketing Department, were recognized by the Soules College of Business as recipients of the 2019 Outstanding Student Service Award. The award is given to students who demonstrate exemplary service to the Soules College of Business.

Ms. Indira Karimova, an undergraduate student in the accounting department, received the Beta Alpha Psi Medal of Inspiration Award. Ms. Karimova, a survivor of human trafficking and spousal abuse, will be honored at the 2019 Beta Alpha Psi annual meeting this August in Chicago. Beta Alpha Psi is the international honor society that recognizes outstanding academic achievements for financial information students and professionals in the fields of accounting, finance, and information systems.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Dr. Vivek Pandey, Professor of Finance, has worked with the Tyler Area Amtrics for several years on creating mobility and independence for those with disabilities. The Tyler chapter works primarily on building wheelchair ramps and providing Amtrykes (therapeutic tricycles) to those in need. In June, they broke ground on the Southside Park Project in Tyler that will provide accessible playground equipment to those with disabilities.

Dr. Kerri Camp, Associate Professor of Marketing, is a founding member of the Sales and Technology Higher Education Board. The Sales and Technology Higher Education Board strives to advance the development of the sales technology curriculum and the development of student talent at the universities across the nation.

Dr. Krist Swimberghe, Associate Professor of Marketing, has joined the Category Management Association Higher Education Board. The Category Management Association Higher Education Board which works with universities to strengthen exposure of subject matter in existing classes and build new curriculum for undergraduate students in the consumer-packaged goods industry.

Mrs. Amy Clem, Lecturer of Management, was named the vice president of Legal and Legislative Affairs for the Rose City Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management. Mrs. Clem passed a rigorous qualifying exam this year to become SHRM-certified and is now recognized as an expert and leader in the HR field.





# college

of education & psychology

The University of Texas at Tyler College of Education and Psychology is one of the original colleges established in 1971 and consists of the Department of Psychology and Counseling and the School of Education. The College has been preparing outstanding educators and mental health professionals for Texas for more than 45 years.

**DR. ROSS SHERMAN**  
DEAN

## OUR UNIQUE VALUE PROPOSITION

### *Be an Architect of Human Potential*

In business, a unique value proposition (UVP) is what separates your organization from your competition. The College of Education and Psychology's unique value proposition is that we maximize human potential by inspiring personal and professional growth. The College's core purpose is to prepare competent, caring and qualified professionals in the fields of education, psychology and counseling and to advance the knowledge base in our respective disciplines.

Our commitment as an organization is to help each individual who interacts with the College to become an Architect of Human Potential, whether your aspiration is to be an educator or a mental health professional. Visit the College of Education and Psychology homepage for a special video.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR THE COLLEGE

### *Charting a Path to the Future*

It was Antoine de Saint-Exupery, the author of *The Little Prince*, who said, "A goal without a plan is just

a wish." The College of Education and Psychology begins each academic year with the goal of developing an articulated strategic plan for the College and the individual academic units. The College's Vision 2025 document identifies future aspirations. In addition, the Dean's Strategic Plan is updated annually by the leadership team, and each academic unit revises their departmental strategic plan. This past year, we aligned our College plan with the new 2018–2023 strategic plan.

## PROGRAM GROWTH

### *Blazing New Trails*

The College continues to experience tremendous growth in graduate programming. All graduate programs in the field of education are 100 percent online. Whether your aspirations are to be a school counselor, principal, reading specialist, educational diagnostician or superintendent, you can pursue your dream through UT Tyler's online programs. They provide students with an asynchronous learning environment that is superior, time efficient and cost effective. Through these programs, the University also extends its geographical reach to the entire state.

The Department of Psychology and Counseling received approval from the Texas Higher Education



Coordinating Board for a new Ph.D. in clinical psychology that will begin Fall 2019. The program will emphasize in rural and military mental health and address a critical need in East Texas.

In addition, The College of Education and Psychology received approval from the UT System Board of Regents for an online Ed.D. in School Improvement. This degree would focus on preparing educators to address the challenging issue of leading schools where students have not been successful academically. Currently, the proposal is being reviewed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. We are optimistic the program will be approved and begin operating in Summer 2020.

## ACCREDITATION

### Meeting Standards of Excellence

The Department of Psychology and Counseling's M.A. program in clinical mental health counseling is in its fifth year since receiving the prestigious CACREP accreditation. CACREP is the recognized standard for counselor preparation by the Institute of Medicine and the Veteran's Administration.

Since the College of Education and Psychology's inception in 1974, all educator preparation programs have been accredited annually by the Texas Education Agency. This past year, the educator preparation programs received a TEA audit to assure compliance with the requirements in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC).

Finally, our educational leadership program received affiliate membership into the prestigious University Council of Educational Administration (UCEA), which consists of top tier universities nationwide offering a doctoral program in educational administration. We hope to apply for full membership when our doctoral program is approved.

## SCHOLARLY PRODUCTIVITY

### Expanding the Knowledge Base

The College of Education and Psychology consists of a community of scholars charged with expanding the knowledge base within their respective disciplines. This is accomplished through the research and

scholarship our faculty pursue. This past year, faculty published three books, 25 chapters, 25 journal articles, 16 poster presentations and 59 presentations. Dr. John Lamb and Dr. Amy Hayes were recognized as the 2018-19 UT Tyler Crystal Quill Award winners for their scholarly accomplishments.

## EXTERNAL FUNDING

### Serving the Needs of East Texas

The College of Education and Psychology continues to be very productive in securing external grant funding. During 2018–19, the faculty within the College generated \$2.9 million in external funding to provide professional development for K-12 teachers as well as other initiatives.

One initiative involved the UT System K12/University Turnaround Partnership, which provided grant funding for the School of Education to work with improvement required schools in East Texas. The funds provided an opportunity for University faculty to work in the schools to provide prime staff development. Due to the that work, all of the schools have now met expectations.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzxi8MQOIMk>

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### CEP Centers

UT Tyler's vision is to be the educational and economic driver of East Texas. Improving the quality of life for East Texans through community outreach and service is a mission the College of Education and Psychology takes very seriously. The College has four centers designed to promote innovation, quality and service: K–16 Literacy Center, Ingenuity Center, East Texas Center for School Based Research & Instruction and the Memory Assessment and Research Center (MARC).

The K–16 Literacy Center under the direction of Dr. Kouider Mokhtari, Anderson-Vukeljia-Wright Endowed Professor, promotes literacy by developing research-based literacy programs in schools, providing staff development for teachers and delivering direct services to K–12 students. The efforts of the center are helping foster literacy throughout the East Texas region. [uttyler.edu/education/literacy-center/](http://uttyler.edu/education/literacy-center/)

The Ingenuity Center, the oldest of the College's centers, is directed by Dr. Michael Odell, Roosth Endowed Chair for STEM Education. The Ingenuity Center's primary mission is to increase the number of students who study and enter STEM fields. [ingenuitycenter.org](http://ingenuitycenter.org)

The East Texas Center for School Based Research & Instruction is a consortium of East Texas school districts designed to provide high quality professional development activities for teachers and administrators who promote K–12 student achievement and educational attainment. [uttyler.edu/educpsych/etcsbri/](http://uttyler.edu/educpsych/etcsbri/)

The Department of Psychology and Counseling's Memory Assessment and Research Center (MARC), under the direction of Dr. Michael Barnett, is working in conjunction with the Alzheimer Alliance to provide free dementia screening and counseling for East Texans. [uttyler.edu/psychology/marc.php](http://uttyler.edu/psychology/marc.php)

## UNIVERSITY ACADEMY

### A Laboratory for Educational Innovation

The UT Tyler University Academy (UTTUA) is a K–12 university charter public school. The charter was approved by the State Board of Education in 2012. The UTTUA opened locations at each of the UT Tyler Campuses in the same year:

- University Academy at Tyler (Grades K–12)
- University Academy at Longview (Grades K–12)
- University Academy at Palestine (Grades K–12 effective Fall 2019)

The UTTUA serves as a laboratory school for the College. Goals include:

1. developing innovations through research-based enhancements to current practices in education and,
2. strengthening teacher preparation and professional development by closely connecting the Lab School to our preservice and in-service training.

The UTTUA uses a project based instructional model with a STEM focus. Beginning in ninth grade, students take dual credit classes from UT Tyler. In the most recent performance data collected by the Texas Education Agency:

- Tyler Campus scored an 89/100 and tied for second in Smith County
- Longview Campus scored a 91/100 and placed second in Gregg County
- Palestine Campus scored 88/100 and placed in third Anderson County

“To me, an architect of human potential is someone that invests their time in others and wants to help people be the best version of themselves, and I think our professors do a great job exemplifying that. The professors here are incredible and truly care about us as individuals. They are always willing to go out of their way to help us succeed.”

**TAYLOR**, CEP Student of Psychology  
#BeAnArchitectOfHUMANPotential







# college of engineering

Established more than two decades ago, The University of Texas at Tyler College of Engineering has grown to more than 1,000 students. The College offers degree programs in civil engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering and construction management. With two campuses—the main Tyler campus and the Houston Engineering Center—the College is rather unique. Between the two, the College of Engineering provides students an ecosystem that includes both a more research-focused campus and a more industry-connected campus.

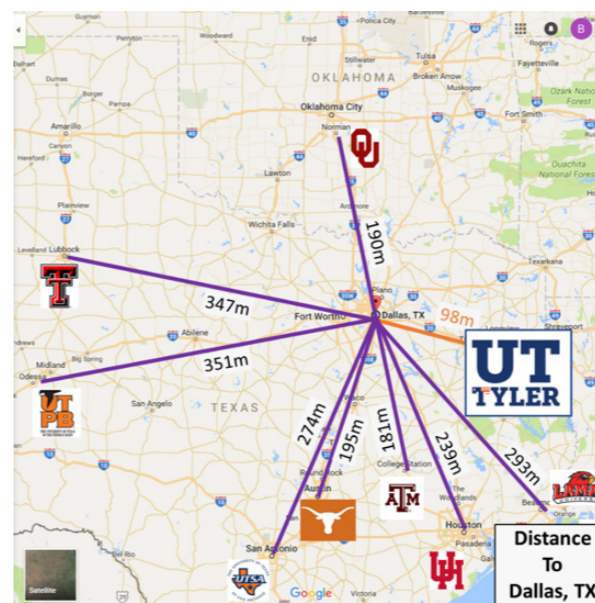
The UT Tyler College of Engineering, in partnership with the Houston Community College Engineering Center of Excellence, established the Houston Engineering Center (HEC) to provide students in Houston a unique pathway to attain an ABET accredited four-year, engineering degree. HEC is a minority-serving engineering campus with a substantial number of first-generation, college-going, adult learners. Our efforts to serve underrepresented populations have been recently recognized through the American Society for Engineering Education's Diversity Recognition Program. By receiving Bronze Level Recognition (the highest level awarded this cycle), COE was noted as being among the nation's leaders in inclusive excellence.

**DR. JAVIER KYPUROS**  
DEAN

## ADDITION OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

Perhaps the biggest news on the education front in the College of Engineering is the addition of chemical engineering as a B.S. program starting in Fall 2019. The new program, with focus areas in energy, biochemicals, environmental engineering; and materials and manufacturing, was approved by the UT System Board of Regents and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in 2018–19. The job outlook for chemical engineers in East Texas and neighboring areas, particularly the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex and Shreveport, is more than promising. Present market, emerging needs and future prospects all point to a high demand for chemical engineers. In particular, most of the existing chemical engineering programs in Texas are concentrated in and around Houston. There is no chemical engineering program within 175-mile radius of Dallas. There is no chemical engineering program east of Lubbock; west of Ruston, Louisiana; north of the Greater Houston area; and south of Norman, Oklahoma. The target audience is primarily students within this geographic area who are seeking a chemical engineering degree.

UT Tyler's College of Engineering is strongly positioned to meet this need because of its demonstrated track record in preparing students for career success and its strong historical and current focus on delivering quality engineering education.



## ACCREDITATION

The College offers four ABET-accredited undergraduate programs including civil engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering and construction management. The College's construction management degree is one of only a handful such ABET-accredited programs in the United States. Additionally, the College offers master's degrees in civil engineering, electrical engineering and mechanical engineering. The College expanded its graduate programs by offering our engineering students a 4+1 pathway from our bachelor's to our master's degrees.

## STUDENTS

The College of Engineering graduated 209 undergraduates in May 2019 including 95, 47 and 43 in mechanical, electrical and civil engineering. That was 21.4 percent of the overall graduates from UT Tyler, with mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and civil engineering ranking 2nd, 4th and 6th respectively, in terms of number of graduates.

As an example of engagement within our student organizations, the American Society of Civil Engineering's Student Chapter was awarded both a Letter of Significant Improvement and a Letter of Honorable Mention from the national ASCE organization. The Honorable Mention (given to only the top third of ASCE chapters) is national recognition for the student chapter's efforts in increasing participation and engagement, sponsoring impactful technical presentations and organizational meetings and volunteering in meaningful ways to accomplish service projects—all important aspects in educating and inspiring developing engineers.

## FACULTY RECOGNITIONS

Our faculty are dedicated and student-centered as evidenced by their many recognitions.

Dr. Tahsin Khajah and Dr. Shih-Feng Chou of the Department of Mechanical Engineering were recognized this year with the Crystal Quill Award for Outstanding Faculty in the College of Engineering.

Dr. Michael Gangone of the civil engineering department was one of two UT Tyler nominees for the UT System Regent's Outstanding Teaching Award.

Dr. Premandanda Indic earned recognition as a UT System Rising STAR awardee. The STARS (Science and Technology Acquisition and Retention) program provides funding to help purchase state-of-the-art research equipment and make necessary laboratory renovations to encourage faculty members to perform their research at a UT institution. Dr. Indic was awarded nearly \$300,000 through this competitive program. He intends to use these funds to increase his already excellent scholarly output in a cluster of research thrusts the area of processing of bio-generated signals to improve life span and quality across the human age spectrum.

## RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP

Our faculty have been active in securing research funding to add to the knowledge base in their disciplines.

As examples in this area this year, Dr. Premandanda Indic received a grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs to study actigraphy and its uses for improving veteran's health, and from the National Institutes of Health to research ways to use signal processing to improve sleep apnea outcomes. Dr. Mena Souliman was awarded a major grant to aid the City of Tyler in establishing bicycle lanes that are cost effective, safe, and efficient for enhancing overall community mobility. Dr. Shih-Feng Chou was earned a major award from the American Heart Association to further health outcomes in the area of anti-coagulation.

Overall, the College received more than \$1 million to support the scholarly and research visions of the faculty and to allow them to include more students within the College in fundamental research endeavors.

Beyond the individual and collaborative research projects that are undertaken by our active faculty, an important event this past year was the College's hosting of the American Society for Engineering Education's Gulf Southwest 2019 Conference this past spring. There were more than 100 attendees from more than 15 universities across Texas, Louisiana and New Mexico and other U.S. regions. Nearly 80 papers were presented in research areas spanning from

"Supplemental Instruction and Just in Time Tutoring" to "Crosslinking of Polymeric Films for Enhanced Mechanical Properties in Wound Dressing."

Two different workshops were held covering innovations in engineering education and the identification of the field's most pressing needs. We also hosted an expert panel discussion on the professional development of engineers.

In all, COE contributed 24 papers to this conference and eight student posters, winning 1st ("The Use of Polymeric Coatings for Anticoagulation on Implantable Medical Devices," Aaron Wilson, Alexandra Craig, Pierre Neuenschwander and Shih-Feng Chou), 2nd ("Development and Analysis of a Control Architecture for a Laboratory-Scale, Double Pipe Heat Exchanger," Samuel Ogletree, M. A. Rafe Biswas, Chung Hyun Goh, Kelvin Lim, Jared Reynolds, Andrew Hughes and Michael Mahaffey) and 3rd ("Modernization of Curriculum for the Undergraduate Digital Systems Course," Brolyne Onyango, Hector Ochoa and Mukul Shirvaikar) in the student paper category and 3rd ("Electrospinning of Polyester Fibers for Sustained Drug Delivery," Sarju Poudel and Shih-Feng Chou) and 5th ("Factors affecting pavement smoothness (A Study of California's Pavements)," Alisha Khanal and Mena Souliman) in the student poster competition.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This past year, under the leadership of new HEC Director Dr. Andres Garcia, the student organizations based at HEC organized and held the Alief ISD's district-wide Popsicle Bridge Competition. The HEC SHPE chapter collaborated with other HEC student organizations such as the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) student chapters to coordinate more than 100 engineering student volunteers. They hosted grade school students from more than 25 elementary, middle and high schools. More than 1,000 K-12 students competed. The Board of Trustees of the Alief ISD recognized the UT Tyler College of Engineering with a certificate for outstanding contributions to the school district.



The College of Engineering hosted an "Open House and Cardboard Canoe Extravaganza" on March 22, 2019 with more than 200 attendees from four area high schools (Robert E. Lee, University Academy, All Saint's and Chapel Hill) and two middle schools (University Academy and Hubbard) with more than 250 student attendees. Eight stations covered topics in mechanical engineering (fabrication, 3D printing, welding), electrical engineering (biomedical instrumentation, Van e Graaf generator), civil engineering (concrete in compression), construction management (auto-leveling) and college readiness.

Our ASCE Concrete Canoe Team mentored a team of high school students during the 2018-19 academic year. The ASCE student chapter gave up their competition slot in the Texas-Mexico Concrete Canoe Regional to allow a team from three local area high schools (Whitehouse, All Saint's and University Academy) to compete in their place. The chapter recruited 25 students and trained and mentored them throughout the year in their quest to participate in the competition. The high school students showed well, participating in the display, paper and oral presentation portions of the competition.





# college

of nursing & health sciences

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences underwent an exciting and productive 2018–19 academic year. The College saw continued growth in enrollment and graduation rates.

The overall enrollment in the CNHS in Spring 2019 reached 2,515 students which is a 2.7 percent growth and graduated 786 students which is a 22.4 percent increment. Faculty received federally funded research/training grants over several million dollars.

In addition, two new academic programs were successfully launched: Master of Occupational Therapy and Bachelor of Arts in Communication Sciences and Disorders. Faculty also were creatively engaged in community initiatives including the Project Rose for Sports Injury research and the INTUNE Mobile Clinic, which provides medical services for East Texas and training of family nurse practitioner students.

**DR. YONG “TAI” WANG**  
DEAN

## COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENTS

The graduate nursing program was ranked as one of the top 20 programs in the country by U.S. News & World Report.

In Spring 2019, the School of Nursing celebrated the first class of doctor of nursing practice graduates. The DNP graduates are prepared to become change agents who influence the future of healthcare. Students select either a clinical practice track or a leadership track, both of which train expert nurse leaders to address complex health issues in various settings.

In 2018–19, the number of Ph.D. in nursing graduates surpassed the 100 mark; 105 nurse scientists have graduated from UT Tyler’s PhD in nursing since 2011. Graduates of the MSN-FNP program, the post-master’s FNP certificate and the BSN program performed well above the national average on certification and licensure exams at 100 percent, 100 percent and 95 percent, respectively.

The Department of Health and Kinesiology has proposed new programs including an online Master of Science in Nutrition and a graduate certificate in global health. We will continue to work towards launching these programs to better serve potential students in these areas.

## ACCREDITATION

The master of occupational therapy program has been granted Candidacy status by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE). We are currently preparing our pre-accreditation review, which is due in November 2019. Our onsite evaluation is scheduled for June 2020.

## NEW INITIATIVES

The RN-BSN program began offering courses in a 7-week rotation to accommodate and provide additional flexibility to working professional nurses. A new concurrent ADN-BSN degree also was launched in summer 2019. This initiative offers an innovative option for students currently enrolled in an ADN program to simultaneously take BSN courses. Students will graduate with their ADN and BSN at the same time.

High School students spent four days in an overnight “Nurse Camp” on the Tyler campus. A companion day camp for middle school students also was held on the Longview campus.

## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

As emerging leaders in healthcare, students in the College are encouraged and supported to be active participants in advocacy and professional organizations. During this academic year, several students engaged at the local, state and national level to work on behalf of nursing:

- Cindy Mendez, PhD student, and Rasheem Wynn, BSN Student, attended the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Policy Summit in Washington DC and advocated for East Texas in meetings with Senate and House representatives and staff
- BSN student Rasheem Wynn was elected the Southern Nominations and Elections Committee Chair of the National Student Nursing Association (NSNA)
- Rachel Barbey, BSN student, was elected President of the Texas Student Nurses Association (TSNA).
- Allison Sheridan, BSN student, was elected TSNA Vice President. The top two positions are held by UT Tyler students.
- BSN student Jamie Aguilien participated in Nurses Day 2019 at the Texas State Capitol and advocated for full practice authority for Advanced Practice Nurses
- Six of the 12 Texas Nurses Association (TNA) Policy Fellows for 2019 were UT Tyler DNP students



STUDENTS RACHEL BARBEY AND ALLISON SHERIDAN AT TSNA

## RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. Carol Rizer, Dr. Sandra Petersen, Dr. Amy Roberts and their team have been awarded an Advanced Practice Nursing Education Workforce continuation HRSA grant (\$2.8 Million) to be administered over the next four years. This grant will provide tuition, books, and living expenses for UT Tyler family nurse practitioner (FNP) students and psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner (PMHNP) students who will be trained in rural and medically underserved population health. The grant will also provide support for the INTUNE Mobile Clinic, a partnership project between UT Tyler School of Nursing and Special Health Resources.

Project Rose: Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) injury is one of the leading sports injuries with about 250,000 cases each year in the United States. Dr. Neil Dong is collaborating with orthopedic surgeons, physical therapists and former professional football players at the Project Rose Research Institute for Sports Science. They work together to find better ways to prevent this type of injury and/or how to recover from such an injury.



DR. CATHY MILLER

Dr. Cathy Miller is using a \$450,000 grant from the United States Department of Justice to support victims of human trafficking. She has been working on this project, titled “Specialized Services and Mentoring for Child and Youth Victims of Sex Trafficking,” over the past two years through the Texas Coastal Border Region Human Trafficking Task Force, which she co-chairs. Her focus is on helping decrease the mental and physical health problems these victims and survivors have.

Dr. Sandra Petersen’s \$2.1 million True North Grant funded by HRSA successfully completed in June 2019. During the three year grant, Dr. Petersen and her team

worked with community not-for-profit organizations to develop four primary care clinics led by Family Nurse Practitioners to serve homeless and underserved populations in East Texas. The clinics continue to function and have helped serve the needs of some of the most vulnerable in East Texas.



Due to the excellent work of Dr. Carol Rizer and her team on their InTUNE grant, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded them a \$167,000 supplement which was being used to work with Special Health Resources of Texas to develop a mobile van in Figure 6 that FNP faculty and students will use to provide care to underserved rural East Texans. The funds were also used to develop a psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner (PMHNP) program. An extension grant of \$2.8 million over the next four years will help ensure the successful launch of this rural outreach.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Our students conducted several service activities during 2018–19. A sampling of activities includes: creating and donating dozens of “Chemo Care Kits” to local oncology practices; partnering with National Alliance on Mental illness (NAMI) to collect and donate personal care items to the Patriot Pantry; partnering with “Be the Match” to enroll potential bone marrow donors in a national registry; creating dozens of comfort bags for children who are removed from their homes by Child Protective Services and are awaiting placement; and sponsoring a fundraising event and used the money to provide necessities to the House of Hope in Longview.

The School of Nursing was recognized by CHRISTUS Health Communities Division as an inaugural outstanding community partner. Several faculty

members partnered with the Alzheimer Alliance to conduct Dementia Boot Camps at numerous locations throughout the year. The specialized program is designed to help care givers understand what it is like to live with Alzheimer’s Disease or other types of dementia. This program is in high demand and will continue to be offered to support the individuals and families living with dementia.

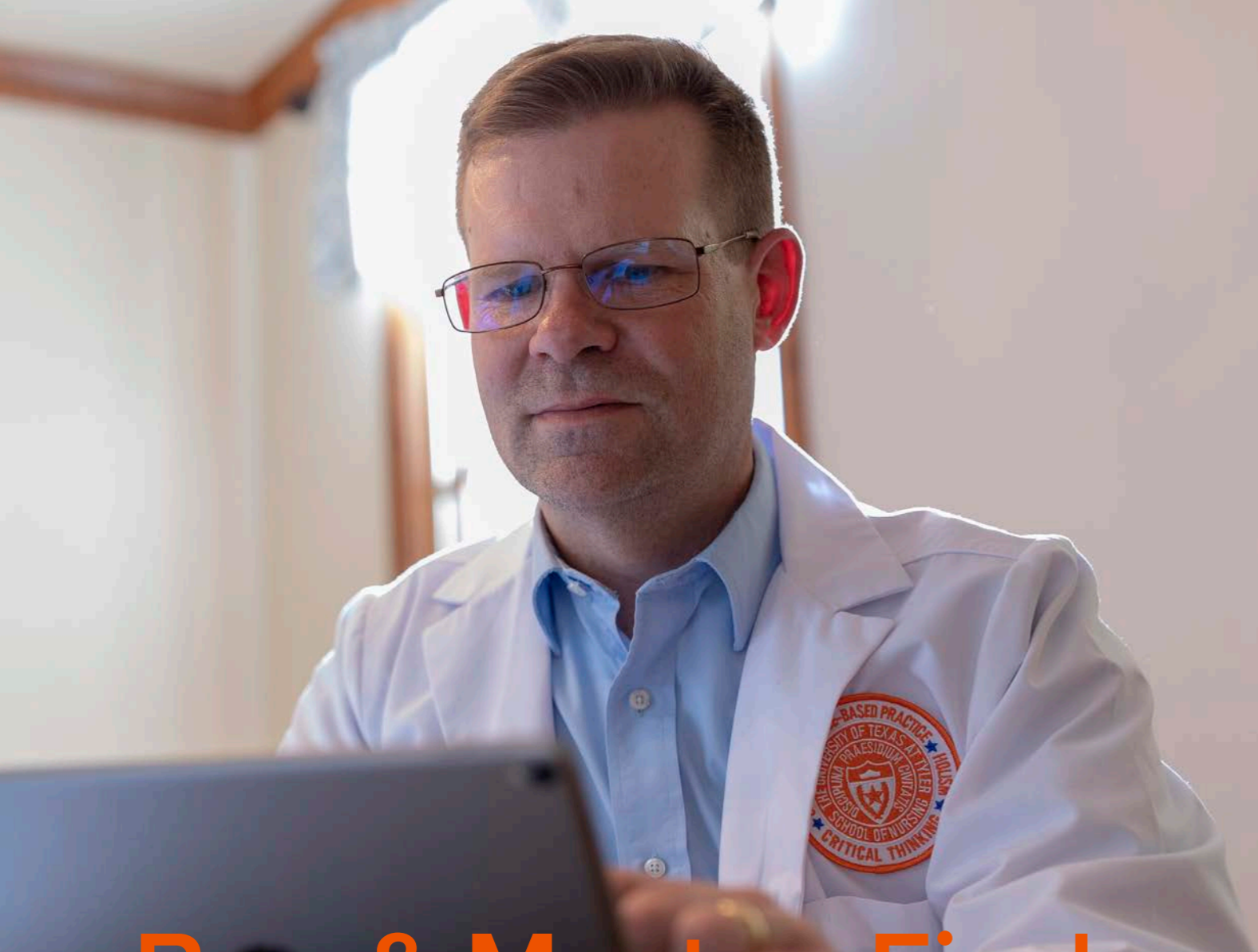
On October 5, 2018, the Department of Health and Kinesiology hosted the 8th Annual Physical Education Workshop in the Herrington Patriot Center, featuring Master PE Teacher, Benjamin Pirillo from Plano, Texas.

Forty-seven physical education teachers from the region participated, which is a 24 percent increase over 2017.

In spring/summer 2019, we began preparations for two community engagement initiatives; 1) FitSteps for Life Exercise Center, which will offer exercise prescriptions and supervised exercise opportunities to local cancer patients, and 2) the UT Tyler Running Performance Lab, which will offer fitness and performance testing for local endurance athletes on a for-fee basis. Both of these programs are planned to launch in late summer or early fall 2019.



PRESENTATIONS OF FACULTY AND STUDENTS AT 2019 ACSM MEETING.



# Ben & Maytee Fisch

college of pharmacy

In May 2019, the Ben and Maytee Fisch College of Pharmacy graduated its Pioneer Class of student pharmacists. Sixty-two new pharmacists were conferred the Doctor of Pharmacy degree during UT Tyler's Spring 2019 Commencement. Each student pharmacist successfully completed a rigorous three years of didactic, laboratory and experiential learning followed by a final year of advanced pharmacy practice experiences at hospitals and community pharmacies.

The Fisch College matriculated 71 new students into the Class of 2022. The academic ability of the incoming student pharmacists remains strong with average grade point of 3.27 with 32 percent having prior baccalaureate or graduate degrees. The ability to identify and recruit high-ability students is through the use of a holistic approach to student interviews. These interviews are short, scenario-based conversations designed to access non-cognitive qualities, including empathy, ethical decision making, creative thinking and communication skills. This process helps the Fisch College get to know the students better as individuals and identify students who are a good fit for our program.

**DR. LANE BRUNNER**  
DEAN

## ACCREDITATION

During the spring semester, the Accreditation Council of Pharmacy Education visited campus for a comprehensive onsite visit to evaluate whether or not the Fisch College would be granted the next level of accreditation. The accreditation visit went well, and the visiting team provided excellent insight into how to continue the success of the doctor of pharmacy program. In June, the Fisch College learned it reached a major milestone in accreditation as the Doctor of Pharmacy program was awarded the highest level of accreditation for a pharmacy program. After six years of development and graduation of the first class of student pharmacists, this level of accreditation comes at the earliest time at which a Doctor of Pharmacy program can be considered fully accredited.

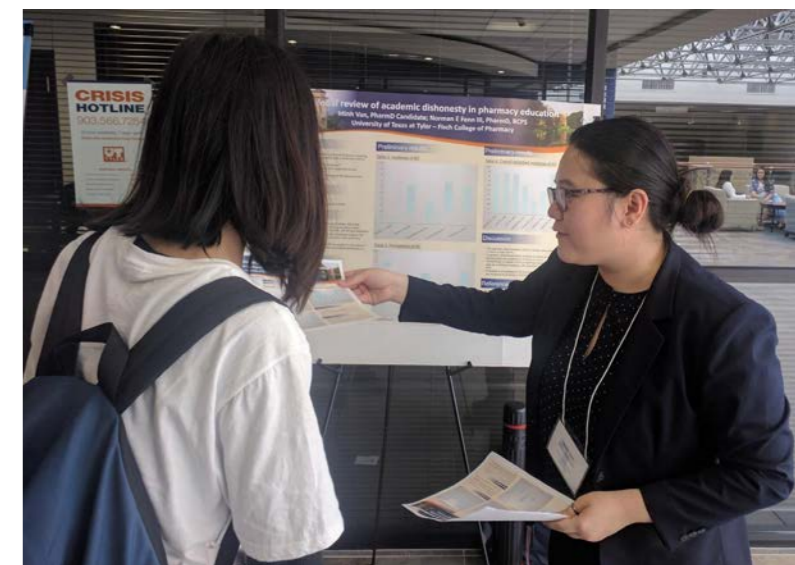
## STUDENTS

The Fisch College of Pharmacy welcomed the students of the Class of 2022 in fall 2018. The 71 students joined the College from a pool of 315 applicants. Just over 170 students were invited to campus for an intensive on-site interview that included a writing assessment, mathematical skills exam, eight multiple mini-interviews, along with a team-based learning simulation. In addition, family and friends were also invited to visit the College during the interview event where they met the faculty and staff and asked questions of the dean. Inviting family and friends allows for the students to share the experience with those people who often serve as outside support. More than 200 family and friends joined prospective students during the interview events. In total, these interview events provide an opportunity for conversations that are designed to access non-cognitive qualities, including empathy, ethical decision making, creative thinking, and communication skills. This process helps the Fisch College get to know the students better as individuals and identify students who are a good fit for our doctor of pharmacy program. Early in the fall semester, the Fisch College of Pharmacy held its white coat ceremony for the Class of 2022. The white coat ceremony signifies an important transition in a student pharmacist. The ceremony memorializes the evolution from a classroom and laboratory only pharmacy education to include experiences in patient care settings, such as a community drug store or a hospital pharmacy. This transition is critical to imbedding a strong sense of professionalism and duty to care

for patients and their families in student pharmacists who may have little prior experience in pharmacy. The white coat ceremony is also an opportunity for the Fisch College to engage with family and friends of new students.

## CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Fisch College of Pharmacy students participated in the College's co-curricular program designed to help students develop skills in education, patient advocacy, cultural sensitivity, leadership, innovation and entrepreneurship, and professionalism. Students documented 1255 activities during the academic year including attending professional conferences, providing community education through health fairs, immunization clinics, and diabetes screenings, participating in cultural sensitivity simulations, providing educational seminars to other healthcare professionals, and representing the college and profession of pharmacy in admission interviews, career fairs, and the biannual visit to the Texas State Legislature.



## RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP

In fall 2019, the Fisch College completed buildout of 4,600 square-foot of new, collaborative laboratory space. This research laboratory is designed to foster interdisciplinary research amongst faculty and students in the Fisch College and across the UT Tyler campus. The open design offers extensive bench surfaces where researchers can share equipment and other resources. This open approach to biomedical research

is a windfall for student researchers who can more openly share ideas and approaches to solving problems that challenge them each day.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

During the 2018–19 academic year, the Fisch College of Pharmacy continued its partnership with the Jacksonville Independent School District to improve health literacy in the schools and community. The focus is to help students and their families better understand basic health information and services and make appropriate health decisions. Through this partnership, the Fisch College of Pharmacy is working directly with West Side Elementary School to help address health literacy needs at the grade school level and working with the students' families to improve understanding of health information and how to make appropriate choices for a longer, healthier life.

The Fisch College of Pharmacy welcomed teachers and students from West Side Elementary School who visit the College to learn more about medications and what pharmacists do in the community. The third and fourth-grade students also engaged in medication safety activities where they interacted with student pharmacists in solving problems and learning about medicine.

Student pharmacists participated in the Regional Disaster Day Drill along with other healthcare students and practitioners from across the region. The event is a disaster simulation that allows students and practitioners to carry out protocols during a simulated disaster in East Texas. The event affords an opportunity to build interprofessional relationships while preparing to serve the community.

At the start of the fall 2018 semester, the Fisch College again partnered with the Tyler Museum of Art and Valerosa Designs and Gallery to install more than four dozen works of art from the East Texas art community in W.T. Brookshire Hall. This was the second pARTnership Exhibit which brought artists and the community to the UT Tyler campus throughout the year. Open for public viewing, the three floors of W.T. Brookshire Hall offered both fine art and folk art and created an opportunity for conversations amongst student pharmacists, faculty, staff, and the community.

Student pharmacists were active nationally as well representing the Fisch College of Pharmacy at meetings of the American Pharmacists Association, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, Student National Pharmaceutical Association, and the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. Activities included leadership workshops, research

presentations, medication counselling competitions, and patient advocacy training.

In collaboration with the East Texas Substance Abuse Coalition and the Tyler Police Department, Fisch College students and faculty actively participated Drug Enforcement Agency Drug Take Back events. This year, hundreds of pounds of unused and expired medications were collected and destroyed. In order to ensure safe disposal, student pharmacists and faculty helped identify the tablets, capsules and other dosage forms that were presented for removal.

In May of 2019, seven students and their faculty from the pharmacy technician program from Van High School toured the Fisch College of Pharmacy. The students participated in a sterile compounding activity which included preparation of a simulated hazardous medication using a closed-system transfer device.



NGOC NGUYEN, VALEDICTORIAN OF THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER'S COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Ngoc Nguyen (Class of 2019) and Dr. Jonathon Cho were selected for the 2018 American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Walmart Scholars program as a student-faculty pair from The University of Texas at Tyler. UT Tyler's student chapter of the American Pharmacists

Association APhA-ASP was honored by Merck & Company at the American Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting in Seattle for their outstanding contributions to the organization's nationwide Women's Health Campaign.

Kevin Burnham and Kevin Varughese, both second-year student pharmacists competed in the Annual Texas-Society of Health-Systems Pharmacy Clinical Skills Competition and placed second out of 24 teams during the organization's state convention in Frisco, Texas.

The Academy of Student Pharmacists of the American Pharmacists Association recognized Fisch College of Pharmacy students led by faculty member Dr. Elizabeth Cook for their work in advancing awareness of risks of human papilloma virus infection in young adults.



FISCH COLLEGE OF PHARMACY LED VAN HIGH SCHOOL'S PHARMACY TECHNICIAN STUDENTS IN LAB PRACTICE.



# Graduate school

In supporting the new strategic plan, The Graduate School launched numerous initiatives and expanded ongoing programs. The Graduate School emphasized its commitment to research and scholarship by expanding graduate student research opportunities. An average of 30 students per semester received support in the form of assistantships, thanks to funding provided by the Office of Academic Affairs. As a result, thesis production rose 18 percent, from 38 in 2016–17 to 45 in 2018–19.

To promote its commitment to high quality scholarship, The Graduate School implemented a new process in which random samples of doctoral manuscripts undergo a review by external experts. In a similar vein, the Graduate Council approved doctoral committee composition modifications to avoid both the fact and the appearance of conflict of interest. The council also formed a funding task force to propose solutions for increasing graduate student funding options, and the council modified the graduate faculty membership regulations to ensure that graduate programs are supported by qualified faculty.

The Graduate School saw continued increases in degrees conferred. Master's degrees climbed 8.16 percent from 943 to 1020, while doctoral degree conferral grew 30 percent from 23 to 30. As of spring 2019, graduate students represented 30 percent of the student population. Graduate semester credit hours were up eight percent over last year, from 52,657 to 56,943.

Grad School 180, the three-minute research competition held in April, showcased graduate students engaged in research and community involvement. In its second year, Grad School 180 had almost double the number of participants as last year. Over 40 participants representing a diverse mix of masters and doctoral programs competed for a chance at the top three awards, and this year we also introduced a People's Choice award. Local community business and industry leaders were invited to serve as guest judges for Grad School 180, and a local news outlet covered the event. The Grad School 180 finalist videos now reside online in Scholar Works to showcase the breadth of research and talent of our graduate students

<https://scholarworks.uttyler.edu/gradschool180/>.

To address community needs and enhance community engagement, the menu of graduate programs was increased to include the master of occupational therapy, master of science in chemistry and clinical psychology Ph.D. program. In addition, the educational doctorate in school improvement is before the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for approval, and University leaders are currently exploring the possibility of an interdisciplinary doctoral level program.

To encourage lifetime learning in the region, we launched a two-pronged application fee waiver initiative beginning in Fall 2019. Ninety-three application fee vouchers distributed by faculty and staff at various recruiting events were redeemed. The corresponding initiative that waives the application fee for current UT Tyler students and alumni resulted in an increase of 27 percent more applications from those groups (488–618).

To enhance graduate student engagement via workshops and professional development, the Graduate Student Professional Development Center expanded its offerings, partnering with Muntz Library, Career Success, Student Counseling Center and Student Money Management to offer graduate student specific workshops and events. The Center continually offers Home Away From Home Mixers, the Business Etiquette Lunch and Panel Discussions with local business leaders and community members, Graduate Student Association Week; and the Grad School 180 Research Competition.

Our efforts to connect to the wider community have been successful. We have over 500 subscribers to our YouTube channel with over 78,500 minutes of total video watch time and over 39,000 video views in the past year. Likewise, our Facebook video watch time the past year was over 14,600 minutes, with over 32,000 views. Our LinkedIn account has over 5,700 connections, and we have over 1,000 followers on Twitter and 425 Instagram followers.





# The Office of research & scholarship

The Office of Research and Scholarship (ORS) supports and advances The University of Texas Tyler's mission by providing research administration services including pre-award, post-award and compliance. The office envisions UT Tyler as the University where faculty, staff and students succeed through research and scholarship opportunities supported by the services provided.

Staff provide expert guidance and support for sponsored research and programs across the grant cycle including identifying sources of funding, assisting with proposal development, negotiating contracts, setting up and monitoring budgets and ensuring compliance. In addition, ORS staff assist UT Tyler, faculty and staff in the protection of intellectual property and technology transfer.

## RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP

The Office of Research and Scholarship supports research and scholarship at UT Tyler by administering the Internal Grants Program and Faculty Development Leave Program, providing pre-award, post-award and compliance support services to faculty and staff involved in externally-funded research and sponsored programs; and assisting with intellectual property protection and technology transfer. The ORS also supports and collaborates with several UT Tyler committees, programs and centers to support research and scholarship at the university and surrounding East Texas region.

## SPONSORED RESEARCH & PROGRAMS

- Submitted grant proposals: The Office of Research and Scholarship assisted faculty and staff in submitting 70 proposals to external funding sources in AY 2018–19 including:
  - National Institutes for Health: 14 proposals
  - National Science Foundation: 14 proposals
  - Texas state agencies: 9 proposals
  - Private foundations: 13 proposals
  - Other agencies and institutions of higher education: 20 proposals
- Active awards: The ORS assisted faculty and staff in managing 83 active awards during AY 2018-19.
- Research expenditures: AY 2018–19 research expenditures through July 2019 was \$1,045,806.

## INTERNAL GRANTS PROGRAM

The Internal Grants Program supports faculty and staff research and programs that advance the University's research productivity, scholarly output and creative endeavors. Grants are awarded through a competitive process held in the spring in six categories.

Thirty-four applications to the program seeking a total of \$300,277.92 were submitted in response to the request for proposals for the 2019–20 academic year. Fifteen awards were made totaling \$187,147.00. Funding will be made available to the awardees beginning September 1, 2019.

Funding for internal grants that will begin in AY 2019–20 is expected to pay substantial dividends in coming years by leading to an increase in the number of and success rate of grant proposals submitted to external sponsors.

## Student Success

The Office of Research and Scholarship administers the Internal Grant Program that provides research opportunities for students. The ORS also supports faculty efforts to acquire extramural funding for research and programs that enrich student education and success. In AY 2018–2019 internally- and externally-funded research and sponsored programs helped support 75 students attending UT Tyler.

## Research Council

The UT Tyler Research Council, chaired by Dr. Michael McGinnis, met in May to review applications to and select the 15 Internal Grants Program awardees for 2019–20.

## Institutional Review Board (IRB)

The Institutional Review Board, chaired by Dr. Gloria Duke, held several meetings during 2018–2019. The IRB Policy Handbook was updated to include recommendations from the committee and to meet the new (2018) requirements of the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects ('Common Rule'). A new IRB application to cover all types of reviews was developed and adopted. A taskforce was formed to study IRB automation systems available that could be used at UT Tyler. Four major systems: Cayuse, Axiom, IRBManager & IRBNET, were evaluated. 120 new IRB protocols were processed (through June). The IRB committee chose a new chair, Dr. David Pearson, who will begin his duties in Fall 2019.

## Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC)

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, chaired by Dr. Brent Bill, reviewed protocols or annual reports for six ongoing research projects and one new research protocol in AY 2018–2019. Several repairs and improvements were made to the vivarium where many



of the research animals are housed. The committee joined the paperless campaign by transitioning to CITI online training modules, scanning and organizing existing paper files, and designing and implementing DocuSign templates for their forms.

### ***STARs & Rising STARs Awards***

The ORS supports advancement of research at UT Tyler by assisting in the preparation and submittal of packages seeking UT System funding in the form of STARs and Rising STARs awards to attract talented faculty and scholars to UT Tyler and then support their research and scholarship pursuits. One STARs award was received in AY 2018–19, and one STARs award package was submitted to UT System for the upcoming year. UT Tyler STARs awardees are very productive both in terms of scholarly work and external grants.

### ***Intellectual Property & Technology Transfer***

To comply with the new Bayh-Dole regulations, the UT System Office of General Counsel developed an Intellectual Property Policy Agreement that each new employee must sign during orientation. The agreement was designed to accomplish two

things. First all employees must assign all inventions resulting from federally funded research to the Board of Regents. Second, all employees must promptly disclose all such inventions to the relevant UT System Institution's Office of Technology Commercialization. The policy was implemented in March 2019 and the Office of Research and Scholarship is the assigned final recipient and holder of the forms completed by new employees to UT Tyler. More than 200 forms have been processed by ORS since implementation. The ORS is also responsible for conducting this process with current employees supported by federal funding.

Earlier this year, in response to advanced and persistent threats posed by foreign states to access proprietary information in support of their national interests and to the detriment of U.S. institutions, researchers and sponsors, Chancellor Milliken directed most institutions within the UT System to provide initial plans outlining how to address these threats. UT Tyler submitted a plan in April 2019 outlining minimum required management and technical controls needed at UT Tyler. The plan is currently under review by the UT System Administration to determine how best to support our efforts to protect our intellectual assets and maintain a competitive advantage in the future.

## **FACULTY DEVELOPMENT**

The Office of Research and Scholarship supports faculty development by administering the Faculty Development Leave Program and bringing expert consultants to the UT Tyler campus to present workshops designed to foster an increase in research and scholarship activities.

### ***Professional Development***

A grant writing workshop, entitled Funding Your Research: How to Develop and Write Grant Proposals, presented by Lucy Deckard, president of Academic Research Funding Strategies, LLC was hosted by ORS on October 25, 2018. Faculty and research administrative staff from UT Tyler, Texas A&M Commerce and Stephen F. Austin State University attended the half-day workshop. Attendants also received a jump drive containing a copy of the slide presentation and handouts including additional resources, annotated excerpts from successful proposals, and articles related to successful grant writing.

## ***Community Engagement***

The University of Texas at Tyler, in collaboration with UT Health Science Center at Tyler, Texas College and Jarvis Christian College, hosted the first East Texas Research Conference, themed: "Making East Texas Communities Stronger." The conference planning committee led by ORS consisted of faculty and staff from the four host institutions. More than 250 people attended the conference at which 48 papers and 85 posters were presented by faculty staff, and students from regional colleges and universities and representatives from community organizations.





## Undergraduate & Online education

The Undergraduate and Online Education unit of Academic Affairs is comprised of numerous, diverse areas that collaboratively work to advance UT Tyler's vision of becoming the primary educational and economic driver of East Texas. Undergraduate and Online Education houses the following organizational units or areas: Academic Success, the Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences (BAAS) degree, the Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning, Dual Credit, the Honors Program, the Longview University Center, the Office of Digital Learning and UT Tyler Affinity-Building Academic Experiences. Undergraduate and Online Education also strives to advance undergraduate and online education experiences for students and faculty, deepen the research related to student success and faculty development; and foster meaningful community engagement.

The 2018–19 academic year saw the transformation of University College to the newly created unit of Undergraduate and Online Education. Dr. Colleen Swain was appointed associate provost for Undergraduate and Online Education in June 2018. There were also personnel changes in the Office of Digital Learning, the BAAS program, the Greater Texas Foundation grant and Longview University Center.

Approaching student success from a holistic approach requires that policies, procedures and routines from every unit and division are examined to ensure that students can finish their degree in a timely fashion. The Associate Provost for Undergraduate and Online Education engaged in weekly conversations with the Vice President for Student Success and the Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management and Interim Registrar to discuss student issues, barriers and carefully study data so that collaborative solutions could be established. Examples of the effectiveness of this work include the advancement of the Patriot Strong teams, changing normal operating processes related to admissions and records processing, and work with the Presidential Fellows.

Undergraduate and Online Education launched an internal grant to enable faculty teaching any undergraduate course to adopt Open Educational Resources (OER) materials and then adapt those resources to that particular course. We funded adoption proposals for three courses. In addition, Undergraduate and Online Education and the Robert Muntz Library crafted a survey to determine the use of OER and Affordable Learning Resources on the UT Tyler campus. These efforts combined with the creation of OER textbooks associated with the OnCourse grant enable UT Tyler to decrease the cost of instruction for our students.

Ensuring that students from community colleges have clear pathways to transfer to UT Tyler and earn their undergraduate degree with limited loss of credits is another important component for student success. During this year, we continued to update our Patriots Pathways documents and renewed our articulation agreement MOU with TJC. We also launched new MOU articulation agreements with Jacksonville College and Kilgore College. The Associate Provost is actively working with colleagues at other community colleges to ensure that students seeking to come to UT Tyler can do this in a cost and time effective way.

The unit also works with the division of Student Success to advance academic summer camps. During summer 2018, there were three academic camps. With a clear focus and commitment from the colleges, Undergraduate and Online Education provided seed money to departments so they could launch additional summer camps. For summer 2019, there were a total of eight academic summer camps serving 139 campers.

Another aspect of student success is ensuring that faculty professional development is prioritized. The Associate Provost spent a significant amount of time listening to various groups and gathering information to develop a systematic and systemic faculty professional development program at UT Tyler. These efforts have been greatly facilitated by the valuable contributions of faculty and staff who are members on the Faculty Development Advisory Committee as well as input from faculty and instructors at large, the Faculty Senate, specifically the Executive Committee of Faculty Senate, the Council of Academic Deans, and Chairs Council. Through this collaborative effort, a new faculty induction program was designed and established. This induction program begins with the New Faculty Orientation program facilitated by the Center for Excellence & Teaching & Learning.

Then, there are extended and ongoing professional development opportunities for new faculty each month over their next three years. The goal is that every new faculty member has sustained support individualized to his or her needs. This continuous effort is overseen by the Associate Provost. She works with the chairs and new faculty members to ensure that a solid plan is developed that allows the faculty member to excel and be well positioned for his or her third-year review.

Another project facilitated by the Associate Provost is a series of book clubs and presentations led by faculty to engage in purposeful discussions about teaching. Finally, the Associate Provost garners the expertise of the faculty to create and disseminate a Student Success Tip that is sent to faculty every two weeks of the fall and spring semesters.

In summation, the committed faculty and staff within the Undergraduate and Online Education unit of Academic Affairs work together to propel learning and teaching experiences for students and faculty to new levels through activities that occur on campus and in conjunction with partners within East Texas. We also

work to expand the influential boundaries of UT Tyler through events and initiatives that enable people from across age spans to look to UT Tyler for answers and insight. The unit is committed to assisting UT Tyler reach our vision to be the primary economic and education driver of East Texas.

A major accomplishment for Academic Support was UT Tyler's Supplemental Instruction Program being awarded accreditation by the International Center for Supplemental Instruction (ICSI Accreditation). This accreditation distinguished the UT Tyler SI program as meeting international standards of excellence for program facilitation and training.

Academic Support staff also worked with 140 students in the PASSages and Mentoring and Advising Patriots for Success (MAPS) programs. These programs are designed to assist first-time, full-time students who have indicators pointing toward a need for initial academic support or who struggled academically in their first semester.

## ADVISING

Academic advising has shown to be a critical factor in an undergraduate student's path toward a timely graduation. This year, we engaged in multiple changes to enhance the effectiveness of advising at UT Tyler. This occurred through varied methods aimed at enhancing better communication among all advisors,

including faculty advisers and with our students. We also worked to improve our professional development opportunities for advisors and amended some of our processes to improve the services we provide to students. For example, this year professional staff advisers had the opportunity to attend one of the UT System Advising Institutes as well as state and national NACADA conferences.

## ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Some of the student success initiatives facilitated by Academic Success span multiple areas and involve a variety of stakeholders at UT Tyler. To assist with these initiatives, the Student Success Liaisons Committee was created. This committed group of dedicated faculty and staff, comprised of associate deans from colleges with undergraduate students and representatives from Faculty Senate, Student Success, and University Advancement, carefully study data related to our students' success as well as highlight areas where there are issues in our procedures and systems that need to be changed. This group has been a catalyst for changes in multiple policies and procedures that were deemed as barriers to student success.

The Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences (BAAS) degree is a degree completion program that serves our non-traditional students who have full-time jobs and already hold an AA or AAS degree. The newly redesigned BAAS degree program is housed across

four colleges and allows students to take coursework in the professional core and select one of five specialized thematic concentrations. During the 2018–19 year, the BAAS Advisory Committee continued to refine the curriculum, determine an initial course rotation and develop a common assessment assignment created to measure the effectiveness of the professional core courses. The BAAS program was also selected as one of four finalists for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Star Finalist award.

## THE CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING & LEARNING

In 2018–19, the center for excellence in teaching and learning offered 27 unique, faculty-driven workshops attended by a total of 508 teaching instructors with 245 unique attendees. Topics included brain-targeted teaching, facilitating classroom discussions, making online teaching more effective, academic integrity, student engagement, and open educational resources. There were four keynote speakers: Dr. Robert Duke, Dr. Jean Mandernach, Dr. Tricia Gallant and Dr. Jay Howard. The center also funded Team-Based Learning facilitator certificates for 19 faculty and staff members who attended five face-to-face modules. In addition, the center sponsored the annual New Faculty Orientation at the beginning of the academic year. For the Fall 2018 New Faculty Orientation, CETL hosted a two-day orientation for 30 new faculty members.

The center hosts five faculty liaisons who facilitate four faculty-learning communities (FLCs). The FLCs are comprised of interdisciplinary groups of faculty and staff who come together to engage in active, collaborative activities which enhance teaching, research, and scholarship. The discussion topics and activities of the FLCs are shaped by the participants and facilitated by liaisons for the areas of Academic Innovation (Dr. Danielle Bailey); Global Awareness and Diversity (Dr. Colin Snider) Service Learning (Dr. Rochell McWhorter and Dr. Jessica Rueter) and Student Research (Dr. Amy Hayes).

CETL conducts an annual competition for the Academic Teaching and Learning Innovation Awards. These awards are granted to instructional faculty to 1) support the continuous improvement of instructors on campus, (2)

support the implementation of teaching innovations, and (3) enhance student learning. In 2019, the CETL received eight proposals from faculty and six were selected for funding. As part of their award, the six faculty members presented their innovative teaching examples at the Academic Innovation Showcase held in April 2019.

## OFFICE OF DIGITAL LEARNING

During the 2018–19 academic year, the Office of Digital Learning staff implemented advances in Canvas, assisted with course redesigns and course creations, and collaboratively worked to find technology supported solutions to challenges in teaching and learning environments at UT Tyler. The following provides a brief overview of these initiatives undertaken by staff in the Office of Digital Learning.

The office also led an initiative to identify a sole provider for online proctoring solutions with a team comprised of faculty representatives from all six college and the Student Government Association. The fantastic work of this committee, with input from faculty and students, drove the process as well as the final selection of UT Tyler's online proctoring provider. In addition, the input and recommendations from this committee informed UT System's RFP initiative related to online education and proctoring.

## DUAL CREDIT & CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PROGRAM

The 2018–19 academic year saw a complete redesign of our dual credit and concurrent enrollment program. As we studied our old program, significant improvements needed to be made in terms of communication with schools, parents, and students, MOU agreements, and quality of the academic program. This took significant time in reaching out to departments to understand their needs and issues associated with dual credit and concurrent enrollment as well as visiting with our partner high schools. This listening tour enabled us to determine where changes were needed and how to implement these changes to help advance the academic progress of high school students taking dual credit and concurrent enrollment courses at UT Tyler.



We enacted the following changes to enhance communication and develop stronger connections with our partner high schools and the region. In order to ensure that high school students, parents and high school personnel understood the different aspects of dual credit and concurrent enrollment programs, we created a Canvas course for students and their parents to complete prior to starting a dual credit and/or concurrent enrollment course with us. We created a parallel Canvas course for administrators, counselors and teachers to ensure they were fully informed about logistics as well as policies and procedures associated with dual credit and concurrent enrollment. We also began a bimonthly check-in with schools to ensure needs are being addressed and all partners are working proactively to support the high school students.

Another important part of communicating with schools, students and their parents is providing clear information regarding what courses apply to various majors. Therefore, a dual credit and concurrent enrollment inventory was established to show the prerequisites for each course as well as what majors accept and do not accept the course.

We also have a dedicated staff member serving as the advisor to our dual credit and concurrent enrollment students and they will have a degree plan on file beginning in the 2019-2020 academic year. This enables students to see the value of these dual credit courses as well as ensuring clear communication on how to make progress in earning their baccalaureate degree from UT Tyler. Our MOUs with schools were also reworded to provide clear expectations for both parties.

In order to assist our region's stakeholders better respond to dual credit and concurrent enrollment issues, we hosted a High School Counselors Conference in February to deepen understanding for students, parents, and high school administrators, counselors and teachers. All of these changes have been very well received by our dual credit/concurrent enrollment stakeholders.

The Honors Program experienced continued success enacting the mission to provide transformative learning experiences for UT Tyler's undergraduate students. The Honors Program also oversees the Archer Fellowship and the freshman book. These programs impact well over a thousand students, faculty, staff and community members, both in and out of the classroom.

## HONORS PROGRAM

During the 2018–19 year, the Honors Program celebrated its tenth anniversary and grew to a record 160 students in the program. The Honors Program includes students from all of the six colleges at UT Tyler and maintains the highest academic standards, as the average GPA of students in the program is 3.78/4.0, representing a slight increase over last year.

The Honors Program advanced the academic programming to students in the 2018–19 academic year. Three new Honors courses were added to the curriculum: POLS 2306: Honors Texas Politics, ECON 2302: Honors Principles of Microeconomics, and BIOL 1330: Honors Biology in Popular Culture. In addition, HNRS 4368: Honors Field Experiences was offered for the first time in spring 2019. We are also pleased to note that Honors in the Major—Nursing accepted its first cohort of 10 students in the fall 2018 term.

Participating in research is a critical component of UT Tyler's Honors Program. Seven of our Honors students presented original research at the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in Boston during the fall 2018. Two of those students, Arthur Oenning Fagundes and Savannah Seely, won National Collegiate Honors Council awards for best research poster in the Business/Engineering/Science and Health Sciences categories, respectively.

The organization recognizes only ten students at each annual conference, and UT Tyler Honors was matched only by Washington State University in winning multiple awards. In addition, the Honors Program, along with the Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning, designed and hosted the fourth annual Lyceum, a celebration of student research at UT Tyler. This was our biggest Lyceum showing to date with 158 students, undergraduate and graduate, participating in the research showcase with 101 research projects. There were over 400 students, faculty, staff and community members who attended the Lyceum. UT Tyler faculty were extremely active in the Lyceum with 60 faculty members serving as judges.

This was a big year for UT Tyler's Honors Program as we hosted the Great Plains Honors Conference (GPHC) annual meeting which brought over 400 honors students, faculty and staff to our campus for a two-day research conference. Twenty-nine of our Honors Program students presented original research at the GPHC.

Student engagement is also an important component of the Honor Program experience. This year was a banner year in terms of the participation by students and the community in Honors events. The Kappa class of UT Tyler Honors students participated in our first-year student retreat, held this year at Camp Tyler. Honors Coordinator Katie Stone led the group through a workshop on their results from the Clifton Strengths assessment. Our seventh annual Global Quiz Night was a huge success with a crowd of over 300 participants and volunteers. Honors students and the UT Tyler community participated in four other Honors Colloquia, including a talk on whale songs by Dr. John Ryan, senior research specialist at Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI); a talk from treasure hunter Coy Lothrop; the Distinguished Lecture series with Dan Rather, in partnership with the Cowan Center; and Austin-based labor organizer and political activist Cristina Tzintzun. In addition, experiential learning was implemented or initiated in HNRS 1351, HNRS 1352, HNRS 2351, HNRS 4368, ECON 2302, MATH 1342, and POLS 2306. Finally, in May 2019, the Honors Program conducted its first independent travel study to Italy and Greece. Thirty-six Honors Program students, staff, and faculty visited sites in support of the HNRS 4368 course offered for the first time in the spring 2019 semester.

Although the Honors Program is focused on elevating the academic experience for students, Honors students engage in important work in the community. The Honors Program hosted our third annual Sophomore Day of Service, which saw over 20 Honors students design and implement "Honor Your Health," an information fair promoting healthy eating and living among

college students. This year we also saw the Tyler community attendance at Honors Program public talks increase significantly, with over 250 attending Tara Westover's author talk and over 200 attending John Ryan's talk on whale songs. Honors students, through the student group Logos, have adopted a section of highway on University Blvd. near campus. Honors students, faculty, and staff keep the highway clean by performing trash pick-ups four times a year. In addition, our own, Dr. Paul Streufert represented the Honors Program at a statewide meeting of Honors Deans and Directors convened by the Council for Public University Presidents and Chancellors (CPUPC).

## THE ARCHER CENTER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The Archer Fellowship program allows highly motivated and accomplished students to participate in varied internship opportunities in Washington, D.C. and attend classes focusing on policy, history and advocacy. For the 2018–2019 academic year, six UT Tyler students participated in the program. Our undergraduate Archer Fellows were Kayla Bright (CAS-mass communication/political science), James Jackson (CAS-political science), Caleb Morrison (CAS-political science), and Aryn Walker (CAS-political science). Our graduate Archer Fellows were Graduate students: Natalie Cooper (MBA-SCOB) and Rocky Sonemangkhara (MBA/Nursing Administration-SCOB/CNHS).



## FRESHMAN BOOK

The Freshman Book Committee hosted bestselling author Tara Westover for a talk about her memoir *Educated*. More than 250 were in attendance at this event, which also included a reception and book signing before the talk. The 2019 committee (Dr. Sheldon Davis, Dr. Kouider Mokhtari, Mr. Josh Neaves, Dr. Wycliffe Njororai, Dr. Emily Scheinfeld, Mrs. Katie Stone, and Dr. Paul Streufert) chose Lucy Jones's *The Big Ones: How Natural Disasters Have Shaped Us (and What We Can Do About Them)* for next year's Freshman Book experience.



TARA WESTOVER

## LONGVIEW UNIVERSITY CENTER

The Longview University Center (LUC) had a year of transition with Dr. Van Patterson leaving his role as Director to assume a vice presidency position at Galveston College and Mr. David Jones serving as Interim Director for most of the 2018–19 academic year. Mrs. Sherry Howard joined the Longview University Center on June 1, 2019, as the new Director.

Regardless of the LUC leadership changes, our academic programs of nursing and industrial technology were active. The nursing students and faculty manned the First Aid Station for the Longview New Journal 903 Concert & Festival in downtown Longview. The LUC Nursing students also participated in the Longview Christmas parade.

The LUC faculty, staff, and students also work to engage with the Longview, Gregg county, and surrounding communities to benefit East Texas. For instance, the LUC has multiple representatives attend the CHRISTUS Good Shepherd Gold Rush Gala, an

annual fundraiser to support a needed service or project for the Good Shepherd Medical Center. In addition, multiple community events were held at the LUC. Examples include: Literacy Texas and the East Texas Literacy Council held the East Texas Literacy Symposium at the LUC this February to provide free literacy related professional development for volunteers and staff of nonprofit, community-based, and faith-based organization. Mr. John Merkel, President of Rose Retirement, held multiple Retirement Tax Seminars during the spring and summer and the East Texas Human Needs Network (ETHNN) held a training day this July. The Small Business Development Council held SBA Lender Training for local bankers this summer and is planning on additional events with the E12 for this upcoming fall.

In terms of helping Longview, Gregg County and surrounding communities address a critical health issue, the UT Tyler School of Nursing is partnering with the Longview Fire Department, ENA East Texas Chapter, Longview Regional Medical Center, CHRISTUS Good Shephard, and the City of Longview to host multiple Stop the Bleed courses. This is a national awareness campaign that encourages bystanders to become trained and equipped to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives. This free course is for non-healthcare professionals to learn how to identify and stop uncontrolled bleeding. The Stop the Bleed program started in the summer and will continue throughout the fall.

One extremely exciting new initiative at the LUC was the first annual nursing camp hosted by our LUC Nursing faculty this summer. Twenty-two middle and junior high school students participated five-day camping experience where they explored various nursing related activities. Campers learned about hand hygiene, nutrition, drug safety awareness, disaster preparedness, babysitting safety, health assessments, skills lab, and an overview of nursing as a career. The zombie apocalypse and inflatable walk-through colon were just a few of the campers' favorites from the week.

The LUC also hosted the Office of Community Engagement's SAT Preparation sessions during May. This provided local high school students with four free Saturday sessions to prepare to excel on the SAT.



# Office of International Programs

The Office of International Programs (OIP) proudly supports the UT Tyler mission of strengthening student success through various initiatives.

## STUDY ABROAD

A growing interest in study abroad has led to a faculty-led study abroad student participation increase from 37 students in 2017–2018 to 73 students in 2018–2019, an increase of 36 students or 97 percent. A total of seven faculty-led study abroad programs were offered this summer. The programs took place in Taiwan, England & France, Italy & Greece, Costa Rica, and two different programs to Belize. The number of countries visited during summer through study abroad programs increased from three countries to seven countries or 133 percent. A total of three UT Tyler students participated in a semester long study abroad program to New Zealand, Sweden, and United Kingdom, an increase from zero to three students compared to last year. Summer faculty-led programs have proven to be the preferred study abroad experience for UT Tyler students. The following is a description of the summer 2019 UT Tyler faculty-led study abroad programs:

- Dr. Beth Mastel-Smith, led the Nursing program to Taiwan. Students learned traditional Chinese medicine, nursing education, transcultural and mental health nursing, the Silent mentor Program, Taiwan Health/Nursing delivery system, and toured the local health facilities.
- Dr. Mathew Stith, Misty Holmes, and Emily Scheinfeld led the History program to England/France. Students engaged in World War II contextual readings, discussions, and lectures. Visits to historical sites and monuments where students were able to gain a strong understanding and appreciation of the consequences of World War II.
- Dr. Paul Streufert, Katherine Stone, Dr. Randy LeBlanc, and Katherine Anders led a group of students through Italy and Greece as part of the Honors Program. Students explored the early ideas of the philosophers and governments and gave context to the monuments visited.
- Dr. Gregory Utley Spanish immersion program to Costa Rica where students cultivated the Spanish American culture. Students had a first-hand insight into their health care facilities and learned about daily life, family structures and racial distribution.
- Dr. Thomas Guderjan's Maya Research Program in Belize introduced UT Tyler students to the different methods and techniques used in the field of archaeology. They surveyed and excavated at the site of Blue Creek, an ancient Maya civilization site. During the program, students learned data collection techniques and were introduced to prehistoric Maya methodologies.
- Dr. Wes Hickey and Dr. Yanira Oliveras Ortiz led two education programs to Belize. Students explored the educational challenges faced by rural schools in Belize.



Through these valuable study abroad programs, students are able to experience broadening world views which will prepare them for a global society. Study abroad enhances their career opportunities due to their new outlook on culture and willingness to learn. The personal development and self-discovery students experience catapults them to the next level academically and personally.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

A total of 43 different countries were represented on campus this academic year. International students participated in orientation to help them understand their visa regulations but also to inform them of the visa benefits during their study in the U.S. Orientation also allows students to understand a new culture and to assist in their transition to UT Tyler and the U.S. Throughout the semester, optional practical training (OPT) workshops were provided to students. OIP will continue to foster relationships with international students by continuing to provide effective New International Orientations for incoming international students. Workshops and support organizations such as a “buddy program” will be implemented to help international students prepare and transition into college and U.S. life.

## INTENSIVE ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE (IELI)

IELI hosted students from Colombia, Spain, Mexico, China, Vietnam, South Korea, India, France, and Kazakhstan. A total of 32 students participated in IELI, including a group of students from Qijing University and Shanghai Civil Aviation College from China.



## PASSPORT SERVICES

UT Tyler continues to provide passport services to the University and the East Texas community. This past academic year, 1,259 passport applications were successfully executed, an increase of 28 percent. OIP will continue to serve as a passport facility and assist East Texas and surrounding cities.

## A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

To accomplish the goals of OIP and to continue supporting the mission of the University, OIP will continue to strengthen our programs. To achieve this, cross-training in all areas for the current staff will be implemented. This will provide an opportunity to strengthen our services to students. Cross-training will expand on OIP's knowledge base and skills to perform multiple tasks. While study abroad continues to see a steady growth, OIP will ensure more faculty-led programs are offered to provide students more study abroad opportunities. We will expand on our social media platforms to reach a broader student population. Cultural programming for UT Tyler students and the community will continue to grow as we establish new programs and collaborations with other UT Tyler departments.



# Robert R. Muntz *library*

The UT Tyler Robert R. Muntz Library recently updated its mission and vision to align with the University's new strategic plan, which involves supporting student success, student engagement, research and scholarship; and community engagement.

## MISSION

The Robert R. Muntz Library advances the University Strategic Plan's four pillars. To accomplish this, the library will excel in collecting and providing access to quality educational and scholarly resources; offering excellent and timely services and events; making available current technologies; and creating an inspiring and welcoming environment.

## VISION

We aspire to be the University's intellectual gateway, supporting the discovery, exchange and advancement of ideas.

## STUDENT SUCCESS & ENGAGEMENT

In August, staff introduced students to the library with four holes of instructional putt putt golf, the Muntz Masters, which highlighted resources and services. The library again held its most popular event, the Night Against Procrastination (NAP), in partnership with the PASS Tutoring Center and the Writing Center. NAP hosted 405 students in March and 331 students in the October session. Muntz took its services on the road with several sessions of Librarians on the Loose—drop-in visits across campus to promote library services and resources. To better serve distance students, an upgrade in Canvas allowed direct access to library resource guides directly from the LMS, resulting in a 17 percent increase in utilization. The library promoted and facilitated the adoption of open educational resources (OER) to save students money and enhance retention and graduation. To date, over 80 faculty members have adopted OER. To offer some moral support and comfort during finals, the library served hot beverages and hosted Therapets, a local pet therapy group, who brought Brutus the boxer, Cuddles the cockatoo and several other friends to comfort the students.

## RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP

The library and the Graduate School continue to partner to provide Scholar Works at UT Tyler, an online repository which includes student theses and dissertations, faculty scholarship and digital collections from the University Archives. Materials in Scholar Works are discoverable to researchers worldwide, with UT Tyler scholarship read by 3,385 institutions across 175 countries, totaling in over 36,000 downloads between September 2018–June 2019. The library promulgated an initiative in the strategic plan to promote open access publication through funding \$5,000 in publication fees to open access journals. The library participated extensively in Research Month activities in April, hosting at least one event every day of the month, culminating in the Celebration of Research & Scholarship. This luncheon event, in collaboration with the Office of Research and Scholarship, recognized faculty and staff publications and creative works from the previous year.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The library continues to reach out to the community. We recently held a book club for senior citizens residing at local assisted living facilities in partnership with the Office of Community Engagement. Three more will follow this year, including a discussion with incoming freshmen regarding the Common Read book chosen for them, *The Big One: How Natural Disasters Have Shaped us (and What We Can Do About Them)*. The People Library, held in October, featured an author, politician, entertainer, news anchor and trauma survivor who shared their stories as the “books.” The library continues to collaborate with Smith Area Libraries Together (SALT) and plans a read-in for local day-care students in July.

## LOOKING AHEAD

- The library has a new executive director who started in April 2019. Rebecca McKay Johnson was previously associate director at UTMB and served in several capacities during her 12 years at Texas A&M.
- We are currently recruiting a liaison librarian to serve pharmacy and graduate nursing and health science programs.
- The fourth-floor computer lab, LIB 422, will have 26 new computers for Fall 2019 available for student use and faculty/staff training.
- The University community will have access to a newly renovated small conference room on the second floor.
- We will offer multiple professional development workshops through CETL in the fall.
- The Celebration of Scholarship will occur again during Research Month, April 2020.

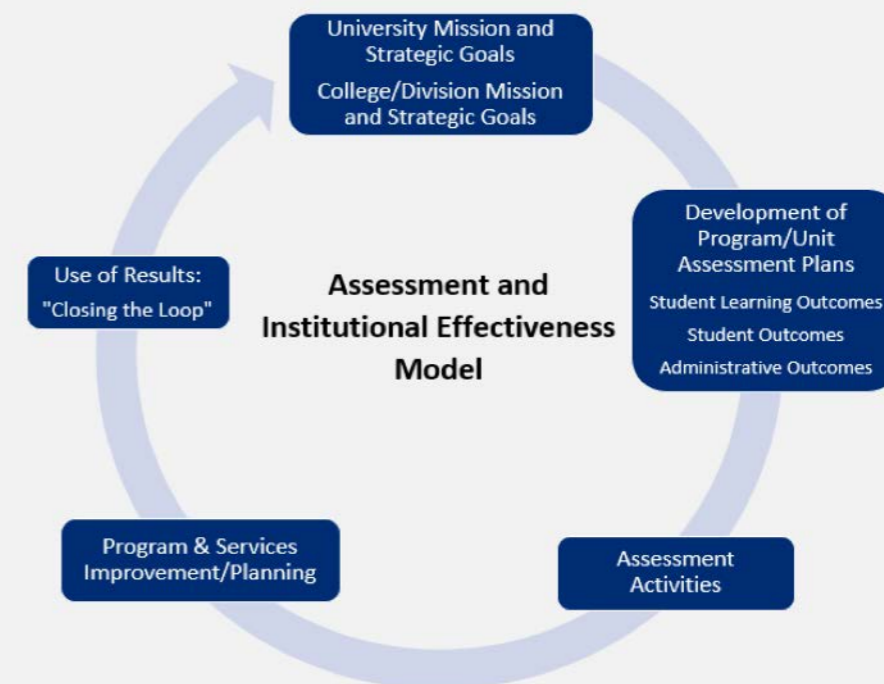




# Assessment & Institutional effectiveness office

The Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness (AIE) Office promotes assessment as a formal process at the program or unit level for purposeful self-reflection with documentation of evidence-based continuous improvement. While the primary purpose is for program or department planning, the process and reports provide accountability for constituents outside UT Tyler.

Assessment plans were updated based on data collected from the previous assessment cycle. During the 2018–19 academic year, 84 educational program assessment plans and 55 non-academic assessment plans were reviewed. The annual reviews were conducted in collaboration with faculty, staff and administrators using standardized internal review rubrics that provide guidance on essential elements recognized in higher education assessment and institutional effectiveness practices.



## UT TYLER ASSESSMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE

The UT Tyler Assessment and Planning Committee membership represents each academic college, each administrative division and the Faculty Senate. The committee met twice as a group during 2018–19 and individually throughout the year. Members reviewed and recommended improvements for the annual review process, assessment review rubric updates and professional development planning.

College Assessment Coordinators worked with the college leadership teams and faculty to help develop assessment plans for new programs, updated existing program assessment plans, provided discipline-specific assessment resources and completed program assessment plan reviews.

The AIE Office and College Assessment Coordinators met monthly to promote a systematic assessment planning and review process, to share ideas on effective practices; and to lead or participate in professional development planning.

## EXTERNAL REVIEWS

External reviews are integral assessment and planning strategies to ensure mission-centered quality and effectiveness. In 2018–19, the AIE Office met with the

Graduate Council to update the UT Tyler Graduate Program External Review Handbook and the UT Tyler Doctoral Program External Review Handbook. The AIE Office assisted four external program reviews. Additionally, the office updated the UT Tyler Academic and Student Support Services External Review Handbook and assisted in one Student Success unit external review.

## ASSESSMENT & ACCREDITATION SOFTWARE SUPPORT

The AIE Office is the campus administrator for Compliance Assist and Nuventive software platforms. UT Tyler uses Compliance Assist software for the upcoming SACSCOC reaffirmation report. Nuventive Improve (TracDat) is used for all unit and program assessment plans. AIE Office staff assisted campus users in the use of the software platforms and created how-to video guides posted on the AIE website.

## SURVEY SOFTWARE SUPPORT

The AIE Office serves as the campus administrator for Qualtrics survey software. The Senior Assessment Coordinator earned the Research Core Expert Qualtrics Certification in 2019 and provides individualized Qualtrics training and guidance.



The AIE Office collaborated with the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) and the Graduate Admissions Office to host Qualtrics trainings. Faculty, staff, and graduate students attended Qualtrics Bootcamps and/or individualized Survey Project Workshops.

## ACCREDITATION SUPPORT

### *Compliance Certificate*

The AIE Office supports UT Tyler in the decennial regional accreditation (SACSCOC) reaffirmation process. AIE staff provides resource information and technical support for the Reaffirmation Steering Committee to prepare response narratives and gather supporting documentation. The UT Tyler Compliance Certificate will be submitted to SACSCOC in September 2020 to document our compliance with 14 Principles of Accreditation.

### *Quality Enhancement Plan*

As part of the accreditation reaffirmation, UT Tyler developed a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The purpose of the QEP is to enhance student learning outcomes and/or student success. The QEP should support the UT Tyler Mission and Strategic Plan and

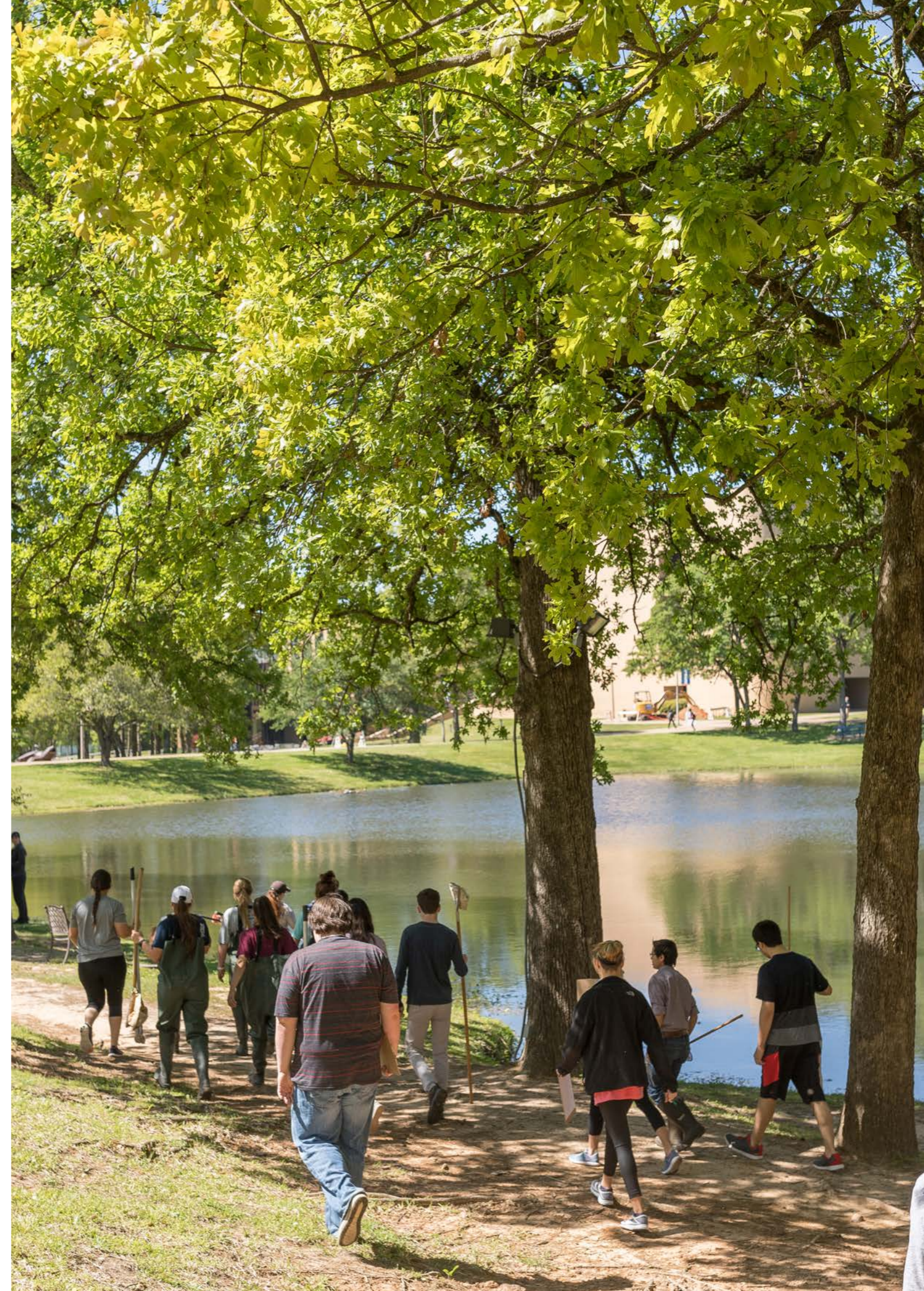
rooted within ongoing institution-wide planning and evaluation processes. Real World Problem Solving has been approved as the next UT Tyler QEP topic and supports the UT Tyler Mission, Vision and Strategic Plan.

The AIE Office contributed assessment information from institution-wide evaluation as well as reports from a recognized national association survey for the topic selection process. Support evidence for Real World Problem Solving included the UT Tyler QEP Topic Selection Survey, UT Tyler results from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), and the National Association of College and Employers (NACE) Survey.

### *QEP Implementation Committee & QEP College Teams*

A UT Tyler QEP Implementation Committee was created with members from each college and administrative division. Additional members represent the Regional Alumni Advisory Council, students and Faculty Senate. QEP College Leadership Teams have been identified to guide QEP planning and for their colleges beginning in the 2019 fall semester.

The AIE Office will lead assessment in collaboration with each QEP College Leadership Team and coordinate a campus visit by a QEP external reviewer as part of the assessment planning in the 2020 spring semester.





Published September 25, 2019