



TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY
President's Briefing
for the Board of Regents
February 17-18, 2022

PLANNING, ASSESSMENT, AND ACCREDITATION

SACSCOC Reaffirmation

In the spring of 2021, Texas State University completed the requirements for reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and hosted a virtual SACSCOC On-Site Reaffirmation Review Committee. The On-Site Reaffirmation Review Committee report indicated that Texas State fulfilled all obligations.

At the SACSCOC Annual Meeting in December 2021, the SACSCOC Board of Trustees' decision to reaffirm Texas State's accreditation for 10 years was formally announced. The reaffirmation decision was granted with no additional requirements or monitoring reports. Due to the success of this reaffirmation, it is likely that Texas State will qualify to complete a differentiated (condensed) review at the time of reaffirmation in 10 years.

2017-2023 University Plan

The 2020-2021 Strategic Plan progress reports for divisions, colleges, and the university were finalized and published on the University Planning website. The 2020-21 Strategic Plan progress reports provide evidence of accomplishments achieved during the first year following the mid-cycle review.

2023-2029 University Plan

Preliminary steps are underway to guide the development of the 2023-2029 University Plan. Key phases of the development, responsibilities, and a timeline have been reviewed by the President's Cabinet. A university-wide survey seeking input on the current mission, values, and goals has been administered and feedback will be used to inform the upcoming plan. A task force to review the mission and values has also been appointed. A proposed mission, values, and conceptual goals will be available for review, revision, and approval when a new president takes office.

Data Management

Texas State has been reexamining its data management policy, committee structure, and leadership to ensure compliance with Texas Senate Bill (SB) 475, relating to state agency and local government information management and security. The Office of Institutional Research and the Information Security Office are leading efforts to ensure compliance with SB 475. University policy and procedure statement 04.02.05, Data Governance Program, has been updated to ensure compliance with SB 475, to define data management roles and responsibilities more clearly, and to establish a committee structure to accomplish data management duties.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

Challenges and Strategies

To grow enrollment, Texas State closely monitors high school graduate and community college data and adjusts its recruitment strategies. The data points below reveal that two groups of prospective students are shrinking -- those who can afford college and those who attend community college.

- Although the number of Texas high school graduates is projected to increase by 9.7 percent in the next five years from 379,463 in 2021 to 416,214 in 2026,¹ the number of Texas high school graduates from disadvantaged backgrounds is projected to increase 8.6 percentage points from 52.2 percent in 2021 to 60.8 percent in 2026.
- Community colleges have experienced an 11 percent decline in enrollment (-85,145 students) since 2019.

Accordingly, Texas State has made significant enhancements to financial aid and scholarships and continues to roll-out new degree programs in high-demand occupational sectors.

Financial Aid and Scholarships. In the last year, Texas State has used federal, state, and donor support and institutional funds to expand financial support for its students. For example:

- Texas State raised the annual gross income cap for the tuition-free Bobcat Promise Program from \$35,000 to \$50,000. The number of students who benefitted from this program increased by 16 percent from 1,639 in fall 2020 to 1,906 in fall 2021.
- Texas State awarded more than 35,000 students \$73 million in student assistance through the federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. In spring 2022, the university will award a final round of emergency grants totaling \$6.5 million.
- Texas State increased assured scholarships by \$10.5 million, from \$5.4 million to \$15.9 million. The number of incoming merit awards offered to freshmen, who accepted and enrolled, increased by 47 percent from 1,921 in fall 2020 to 2,824 in fall 2021.

The impact of these investments was almost immediate. Texas State's freshman enrollment and quality of the freshman class rebounded. Compared to fall 2020, freshman enrollment for fall 2021 increased 13.2 percent to 6,625, and freshmen ranked in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class increased by 11.8 percent (by 282).

¹ Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). [Knocking at the College Door. High School Graduates Profile.](#)

New Degree Programs. Texas State continues to evolve its degree programs to remain competitive and meet the workforce needs of Texas. For example, The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has authorized Texas State to offer a new Bachelor of Science degree program with a major in Mechanical Engineering. The degree program was previously approved by The Texas State University System Board of Regents at their May 2021 meeting. The Ingram School of Engineering will begin offering the new degree program in fall 2022, and it anticipates attracting 66 majors in its first year. By fall 2027, the number of majors is projected to grow to 477.

Spring 2022

Undergraduate. As of December 6, 2021, and compared to the same time in the previous year:

- the number of freshman applications received was 1,201, a 98 percent increase (594 applications);
- the number of freshman acceptances was 499, a 129 percent increase (279 acceptances);
- the number of spring transfer applications was 2,185, a six percent decrease (-136 applications); and
- the number of transfer acceptances was 1,508, a nine percent increase (128 acceptances).

As of December 13, 2021, freshman retention from fall 2021 to spring 2022 was 90 percent, compared to 88 percent for the fall 2020 freshman cohort.

Graduate. As of December 6, 2021, and compared to the same time in the previous year:

- the number of doctoral applications received was 20, a 23.1 percent decrease (-6 applications);
- the number of doctoral acceptances was 12, a 42.9 percent decrease (-6 acceptances);
- the number of master's applications received was 1,087, a 14.9 percent increase (141 applications); and
- the number of master's acceptances was 591, a 4.7 percent decrease (-29 acceptances).

The decline in doctoral applications and acceptances for spring 2022 is due to the fact that during the previous academic year, many students deferred their application/admission from fall 2020 to spring 2021 because COVID-19 impacted their plans for graduate study (e.g., travel restrictions, visa restrictions, and financial difficulties), resulting in larger than usual numbers for a spring semester. The spring 2022 numbers, however, are comparable to pre-pandemic numbers.

The substantial increase in master's applications is largely due to a disproportionately greater increase in applications received by the College of Science and Engineering, particularly in computer science. The increase in master's applications, however, is not met with a similar increase in master's acceptances due primarily to cohort limits. For example, while computer science has accepted more students than in the previous year, there is a limit to the number of students that the program can accommodate.

Fall 2022

Undergraduate. As of December 6, 2021, and compared to the same time in the previous year:

- the number of freshman applications received was 21,076, a 16 percent increase (2,958 applications);
- the number of freshman acceptances was 11,666, a 35 percent increase (3,083 acceptances);
- the number of transfer applications was 428, a 38 percent decrease (-258 applications); and
- the number of transfer acceptances was 158, a 37 percent decrease (-94 acceptances).

The reduction in transfer applications was expected given that enrollment in public two-year Texas institutions of higher education decreased by 36,695 students from 422,549 students in 2019 to 385,854 students in 2020 (a decline of 8.7 percent). Despite the drop in transfer applications, Texas State is a popular destination. Via Apply Texas Applications, as of December 13, 2021, Texas State has received more than 21,000 applications for fall 2022, making it third in Texas in the largest number of undergraduate applications received behind The University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University.

Graduate.

Graduate applications are not provided in the February 2022 President's Briefing given that degree-specific application deadlines for fall 2022 vary throughout spring 2022. Graduate application data for fall 2022 will be provided in the May 2022 President's Briefing,

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Status of Construction and Renovation Projects

This status report is organized by the phase in which each project falls in the development cycle. The phases include:

- Planning and Programming – The process of identifying space needs and general magnitude of project cost.
- Design – The process of developing detailed blueprints and cost estimates.
- Construction – The entire process of building the project.
- Project Completion – The construction is complete, the bills are all paid, the building has been turned over for use, and The Texas State University System (TSUS) has officially approved project close-out.

Note. When multiple projects are underway in one building, all projects are presented together for ease of understanding regardless of their phase in the development cycle.

Projects in the Planning and Programming Phase

The feasibility study for **Bobcat Stadium South End Zone Complex** has been completed. The project size is 34,458 Gross Square Feet (GSF), and the Total Project Cost (TPC) is \$17 million. Currently, the project feasibility study is being revised to include more breakout team rooms in

the existing building, to relocate the athletic performance center to open into the end zone, to connect the west and east concourse-level balconies, and to create an alumni pavilion and deck on the roof of the building. A preliminary budget and phasing plan are being developed. This project is on the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and will be initiated pending successful fundraising.

The **Music Building** will be located on the San Marcos Campus near the Performing Arts Center and the Theatre Center to address the pressing needs of the School of Music. The new building will include classrooms, offices, and rehearsal spaces. A draft program of design was prepared in 2010 and updated in June 2019 with a project size of 110,128 GSF. The draft program is being adjusted and fundraising materials are being prepared and updated. This project is on the CIP and will be initiated pending successful fundraising.

The **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Building** will be located on the San Marcos Campus and will include classrooms, labs, and offices to support the Department of Mathematics and the Department of Computer Science. The draft program of design has been completed with a projected size of 154,000 GSF and an estimated TPC of \$137.4 million. The program document is currently being reduced to accommodate funding approved by the 87th Texas Legislature. This project is on the CIP.

Esperanza Hall will be the fourth academic building on the Round Rock Campus and will include classrooms, labs, and offices to support four departments in the College of Health Professions, the College's Advising Center, and the Dean's Office. The draft program of design was completed. The program document is currently being modified to accommodate funding of \$52.4 million approved by the 87th Texas Legislature. This project is on the CIP.

Projects in the Design Phase

The TPC for the planned **Hilltop Housing Complex** on the San Marcos Campus was originally \$96.7 million based on 1,006 beds but has now grown to approximately \$116 million due to the nearly three-year delay in proceeding with construction. Barnes Gromatzky Kosarek Architects is the architect, and Vaughn Construction is the Construction Manager at Risk (CMR). Demolition of Hornsby and Burluson Halls and utility upgrades have been completed. The design development document was approved during the May 2019 Board of Regents meeting, and the architect has completed 100 percent of the construction documents.

Projects in the Construction Phase

The construction of the **Infrastructure Research Laboratory** began in July 2021. Located at the Science, Technology, and Advanced Research (STAR) Park, this laboratory will provide the College of Science and Engineering with state-of-the-art capabilities and innovative technology for advanced testing of beams, girders, and other concrete components under high stress and tension as well as provide research space for the civil engineering degree program. The TPC is \$14.1 million. Alamo Architects provided design services for the project, and Bartlett Cocke is the General Contractor. The basement foundation has been poured, and the laboratory strong floor is being prepared for placement. The project is approximately 33 percent complete.

The construction of **Live Oak Hall** began in May 2021. This is a one-story, 10,291 square foot structure that will provide much needed space for film, journalism, and mass communication. Teaching spaces include a sound stage, video editing lab, sound recording/mix classroom, and a state-of-the-art television studio. The TPC is \$10 million. The Lawrence Group Architects is the architect, and Vaugh Construction is the CMR. The building is erected, and wall finishes are being installed. The project is approximately 45 percent complete.

Projects Completed

The following completed projects took place on the San Marcos Campus:

- The **LBJ Student Center Expansion Project**, with a TPC of \$31.2 million and a total size of 36,866 GSF, is now complete. The final report will be presented at the February 2022 meeting of the Board of Regents.
- The **Roy F. Mitte Space Reconfiguration Project**, with a TPC of \$6.5 million, is now complete. The final report will be presented at the February 2022 meeting of the Board of Regents.
- The **University Events Center Expansion Project**, with a TPC of \$62.5 million, is now complete. The final report is under review and is anticipated to be presented at the February 2022 meeting of the Board of Regents.
- The **Pecan Building**, with a TPC of \$9 million, reached substantial completion in October 2021. The final report is being prepared.
- The **Round Rock Campus Services Building**, with a TPC of \$6.2 million, reached substantial completion in May 2021. The final report is being prepared.

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In the first quarter of fiscal year 2022, the university added nearly \$9 million in philanthropic gifts, with 10 gifts valued at \$100,000 or more, including:

- a \$3 million planned gift for scholarships to support study abroad;
- notification of an estate settlement which included a \$2.9 million endowed gift to benefit scholarships for students pursuing a teaching certificate in the College of Education; and
- a gift from H-E-B to support the establishment of a new Inclusive Postsecondary Education program for students with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

On October 26, 2021, the university held the sixth annual Step Up for State -- 1,899 minutes dedicated to giving. Projects from across the university were selected that aligned with university priorities and engaged donors in supporting the newly launched NEXT IS NOW fundraising campaign. In total, 1,985 donors contributed over \$650,000. Several matching grants from lead donors helped to make this a record year, including a \$125,000 challenge gift from an alumni couple.

In 2022, University Advancement began outreach for the public phase of the fundraising campaign. This includes a focus on four key priority areas:

- a new Music Building;
- student engagement programming through the new Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the Stelos Scholars program;

- an expansion of the Bobcat Stadium South End Zone Complex; and
- corporate engagement with Texas State to partner on research and workforce pipeline initiatives.

To bolster support for the new Music Building, University Advancement, in partnership with the College of Fine Arts and Communication, will host events in Dallas, Austin, and New York City that will highlight the talented students in Texas State’s nationally recognized School of Music. Additional events and outreach campaigns are being planned for 2022 to feature the other areas.

SPONSORED PROGRAM AWARDS - RESEARCH AND INSTRUCTIONAL

Several key measures indicate that Texas State is poised to make significant progress in 2022 toward achieving National Research University Fund (NRUF) eligibility and Research 1 university status.

- For fiscal year 2021, restricted research expenditures (RRE) were \$34 million (third highest RRE recorded at Texas State) and total research and development (TRD) expenditures were \$72.5 million (highest TRD recorded).
- For the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2021, RRE were \$13.2 million (highest recorded RRE for a fourth quarter) and TRD expenditures were \$26.7 million.
- For the first quarter of fiscal year 2022, RRE were \$7,863,142 (34.4 percent higher than the first quarter of fiscal year 2021, and highest recorded RRE for a first quarter), and TRD expenditures were \$16,343,484 (15.8 percent higher than the first quarter of fiscal year 2021, and highest recorded TRD for a first quarter).

New sponsored program awards obtained during the first quarter of fiscal year 2022 include ones in both the Instructional Awards and the Research Awards categories. The Instructional Awards category consists of awards that cannot be classified as research according to definitions provided by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The Research Awards category impacts both RRE and TRD expenditures for the university. Both research-related metrics contribute to determining NRUF eligibility and the Core Research Support Funding allocated by the Texas Legislature to Emerging Research Universities.

Below are the Research and Instructional Awards over \$100,000 which were received during the first quarter of fiscal year 2022.

Recipient/Unit	Funding	Project Title and Purpose
Dr. Leslie L. Huling LBJ Institute for STEM	\$2,600,000 Year 3 of 3, Total Award \$8,666,912 National Aeronautics and Space Administration	HSI - NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Stem EPDC will provide STEM engagement for students and educators nationwide.

<p>Dr. Weston Hugh Nowlin Department of Biology</p>	<p>\$2,484,858 Year 2 of 3, Total Award \$7,451,124 United States Army Corps of Engineers</p>	<p>Predicting Ecological Futures in Texas Watersheds will conduct research to obtain a large multi-river basin field-based dataset that determines environmental drivers for the distribution and abundance of species at multiple spatiotemporal scales and across hydrogeomorphic conditions in Texas rivers.</p>
<p>Mrs. Theadora Dinelle Whalen Texas Justice Court Training Center</p>	<p>\$2,115,147 Justices of the Peace and Constables Association</p>	<p>Justice Court In-Service Training Program Fiscal Year 2022 will provide training to Justices of the Peace.</p>
<p>Dr. Kathy Erin Martinez-Prather Texas School Safety Center</p>	<p>\$1,570,795 United States Food and Drug Administration</p>	<p>FDA Tobacco Prevention and Control Program will implement the FDA's State Tobacco Retail Compliance Inspection program.</p>
<p>Dr. Kathy Erin Martinez-Prather Texas School Safety Center</p>	<p>\$1,279,134 Texas Department of State Health Services</p>	<p>Tobacco (TOB) Program Fiscal Year 2022 will reduce the access of youth and young adults under the age of 21 to tobacco, e-cigarettes, and other nicotine products and assist with compliance and enforcement of state law.</p>
<p>Dr. Weston Hugh Nowlin Department of Biology</p>	<p>\$996,134 United States Army Corps of Engineers</p>	<p>Examining Changes to Hyporheic Exchange Flow and Nutrient Dynamics and Their Interaction with Microbial, Algal, and Macroinvertebrate Communities in Response to Drying and Re-wetting in Texas Rivers will use field studies and experiments in stream mesocosms to examine ecological and temporal dynamics of nutrient uptake and retention, microbial diversity and function, and algal growth in response to drying and rewetting.</p>

<p>Dr. Paula S. Williamson Department of Biology</p>	<p>\$988,687 Year 1 of 5; Total Award \$4,953,370 United States Department of Education</p>	<p>Generation STEM - Promoting Hispanic and Low-Income Students Success through Individualized Support, Transfer Navigation, and STEM Career Preparation will strive to generate STEM student success at Texas State for Hispanic and Low-Income students who will become our next scientific and technical professionals.</p>
<p>Dr. Anne Ngu Department of Computer Science</p>	<p>\$910,249 National Science Foundation</p>	<p>Collaborative Research: SCH: Personalized Watch-based Fall Risk Analysis/Detection with Cross Modal Learning will advance the state-of-the-art in small sample learning for time-series data which are pervasive in the health domain. In particular, the application of multi-tasks and cross-modal learning will overcome the small and unbalanced training data set in fall detection.</p>
<p>Dr. Kathy Erin Martinez-Prather Texas School Safety Center</p>	<p>\$910,000 Texas Department of State Health Services</p>	<p>Tobacco (TOB-COV) Program Fiscal Year 2022 will comply with Federal laws for inspections that provide a valid probability sample of tobacco sales outlets accessible to minors.</p>
<p>Dr. John P. Blair Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) Center</p>	<p>\$699,074 Year 3 of 3, Total Award \$2,481,744 Federal Bureau of Investigation</p>	<p>ALERRT Active Shooter Training will support Active Shooter training for state, local, tribal, campus law enforcement, and federal agencies.</p>
<p>Dr. Michael R. Forstner Department of Biology</p>	<p>\$640,775 Texas Department of Transportation</p>	<p>Endangered Species Act Assessment, Monitoring and Avoidance will assist Texas Department of Transportation in meeting regulatory compliance in all projects work within Houston toad habitat.</p>

<p>Mrs. Jenna J. Walker The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment</p>	<p>\$640,000 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality</p>	<p>Texas Stream Team Fiscal Year 2022 Program will support a network of partner organization and citizen scientist who seek to increase the publics' knowledge of water quality and NPS pollution across the state through water quality monitoring, data collection, analysis, and related educational programs.</p>
<p>Mr. Paul Joseph Harper Small Business Development Center</p>	<p>\$592,288 Small Business Development Center (UTSA)</p>	<p>Small Business Development Centers Fiscal Year 2022 will fund Texas State's Small Business Development Center activities for fiscal year 2022.</p>
<p>Ms. Elizabeth Castaneda Institutional Inclusive Excellence-Student Initiatives</p>	<p>\$458,225 Year 1 of 5; Total Award \$1,775,200 United States Department of Education</p>	<p>Talent Search - Austin will increase secondary school graduation rates of its participants in Austin and increase the percentage of low-income and first-generation college students who successfully pursue post-secondary education.</p>
<p>Dr. Yuan Lu Xiphophorus Genetic Stock Center</p>	<p>\$451,447 National Institutes of Health</p>	<p>Identification and Characterization of an Endogenous EGFR Regulatory Locus in Xiphophorus Genome will take advantage of a fish model system where the fish contain a mutant gene, yet do not develop tumors, which will enhance the understanding of gene regulation and may lead to therapies of gene regulation in clinical applications.</p>
<p>Dr. Yiochi Miyahara Department of Physics</p>	<p>\$419,999 National Science Foundation</p>	<p>Development of a Scanning Single-Election Box Electrometer Microscope will develop a novel scanning probe microscope for pioneering extremely overly sensitive measurements of electric potential/charge with sub nanometer spatial resolution.</p>

<p>Dr. Michael Hunter Martindale ALERRT Center</p>	<p>\$418,296 Federal Emergency Management Agency</p>	<p>Fire as a Weapon (FAAW) In-person and e-Learning Training Opportunities will develop a state-of-the-art e-learning program to train fire and law enforcement personnel on responding to FAAW events.</p>
<p>Dr. Eric J. Paulson Department of Curriculum and Instruction</p>	<p>\$400,000 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board</p>	<p>Postsecondary Educator Micro-Credentials: Best Practices for Teaching and Learning will develop and implement focused, specialized training to college instructors in a variety of pedagogical areas and provide micro-credentials to participants to recognize their successful completion of that training.</p>
<p>Mr. Rafael Cordero, Jr. Institutional Inclusive Excellence-Student Initiatives</p>	<p>\$363,342 Year 5 of 5; Total Award \$2,022,315 United States Department of Education</p>	<p>Texas State's Upward Bound Program - San Marcos Fiscal Year 2022 will provide opportunities for participants to succeed in their pre-college performance and in their higher education pursuits, with the goal of increasing the rate at which participants complete secondary education.</p>
<p>Ms. Carolina A. Benavides Institutional Inclusive Excellence-Student Initiatives</p>	<p>\$355,040 Year 1 of 5; Total Award \$1,775,200 United States Department of Education</p>	<p>Talent Search - San Marcos will increase secondary school graduation rates of its participants in San Marcos and increase the percentage of low-income and first-generation college students who successfully pursue post-secondary education.</p>
<p>Mrs. Rachael Weldon-Caron Institutional Inclusive Excellence-Student Initiatives</p>	<p>\$338,972 Year 2 of 5; Total Award \$1,694,860 United States Department of Education</p>	<p>Student Support Services Fiscal Year 2022 will affect student retention and graduation for low-income and first-generation students and students with disabilities.</p>

<p>Dr. Michael R. Forstner Department of Biology</p>	<p>\$300,000 Texas Department of Transportation</p>	<p>Houston Toad Research will: 1) support and maintain a captive colony, 2) track the outcomes of the releases, and 3) monitor predator exclusion cages, the development of Houston toad tadpoles, and genetic tracking to assess the outcome of the head starting efforts.</p>
<p>Mr. Rafael Cordero Jr. Institutional Inclusive Excellence-Student Initiatives</p>	<p>\$297,601 Year 5 of 5, Total Award \$1,46,832 United States Department of Education</p>	<p>Upward Bound-Del Valle Fiscal Year 2022 will prepare disadvantaged youths for the challenges and rewards of pursuing a postsecondary education.</p>
<p>Ms. Cynthia Ann Mendieta Institutional Inclusive Excellence-Student Initiatives</p>	<p>\$277,375 Year 1 of 5; Total Award \$1,386,875 United States Department of Education</p>	<p>Talent Search - Del Valle will increase secondary school graduation rates of its participants in Del Valle and the percentage of low-income and first-generation college students who successfully pursue post-secondary education.</p>
<p>Dr. Rebecca Noah Lancaster Institutional Inclusive Excellence-Student Initiatives</p>	<p>\$277,375 Year 1 of 5; Total Award \$1,386,875 United States Department of Education</p>	<p>Talent Search - Seguin will increase secondary school graduation rates of its participants in Seguin and the percentage of low-income and first-generation college students who successfully pursue post-secondary education.</p>
<p>Dr. Jesus Jimenez Ingram School of Engineering</p>	<p>\$275,063 Texas Workforce Commission</p>	<p>Phase 3 - Quality Assurance of New and Existing Products to Support Texas State will enable technical experts at the Texas Workforce Commission Work Quest and Texas State to collaborate in the implementation, testing and validation of quality assurance controls applied to the purchases through the Works Wonders Programs.</p>
<p>Mrs. Rachael Weldon-Caron Institutional Inclusive Excellence-Student Initiatives</p>	<p>\$261,888 Year 1 of 5; Total Award \$1,309,440 Texas Department of State Health Services</p>	<p>Student Support Services (STEM) Fiscal Year 2022 will impact student retention and graduation for low-income and first-generation students and students with disabilities.</p>

<p>Dr. Jason Philip Martina Department of Biology</p>	<p>\$250,570 Year 1 of 2; Total Award \$749,428 National Aeronautics and Space Administration</p>	<p>Integrating Systems Models and Remote Sensing to Explore Aquatic Ecosystem Vulnerability to Global Change in Lake Huron will use remote sensing and linked landscape hydrology-wetland ecosystem-biophysical lake models to understand how the complex hydrology at the land-water interface affects coastal ecosystem function, and nutrient exchange with open waters, influencing entire system vulnerability.</p>
<p>Dr. Cathy Thomas Department of Curriculum and Instruction</p>	<p>\$249,983 Year 3 of 5, Total Award \$1,075,428 United States Department of Education</p>	<p>Project PAIR-IT: Partnering Assessment and Intervention Responsiveness in Interdisciplinary Teams will prepare twenty scholars to become fully licensed in their respective fields in order to serve children with disabilities with high-intensity needs.</p>
<p>Dr. Stanley A. McClellan Office of Research and Sponsored Programs-JETS</p>	<p>\$208,162 Year 3 of 3, Total Award \$687,275 Jacobs Technology, Inc.</p>	<p>Jacob's "JETS" Task Order will research the fundamentals questions regarding the nature of carbon-based compounds in astromaterials.</p>
<p>Dr. Vangelis Metis Department of Computer Science</p>	<p>\$202,264 United States Department of Education</p>	<p>Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need - Computer and Information Science will support five doctoral students of superior ability who demonstrate financial need towards their doctoral studies in Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity and four Graduate Assistance in Areas National fellows.</p>

<p>Dr. Kenneth D. Mix Department of Agricultural Sciences</p>	<p>\$200,000 United States Department of Agriculture</p>	<p>The Small Producer Initiative's Cover Cropping Research on Regenerative Soil Solutions, Education, Extension and Demonstration will increase outreach and knowledge of urban and small farm agriculture through conservation practice review, demonstration, and education.</p>
<p>Dr. Krishna P. Kisi Department of Engineering Technology</p>	<p>\$200,000 United States Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration</p>	<p>Infectious Diseases Training, Including COVID-19 will provide three hours of infectious disease, including COVID-19 training to 700 workers and employees covered under the OSH Act.</p>
<p>Dr. Sandra Beatriz Vanegas School of Social Work</p>	<p>\$199,999 United States Department of Health and Human Services</p>	<p>HSI: Efficacy of the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Screening and Parent Engagement Intervention will examine the efficiency of a culturally informed parent-mediated intervention that has been developed specifically for families of young children at risk for ASD who reside in low-resource household.</p>
<p>Dr. Martin Burtscher Department of Computer Science</p>	<p>\$195,459 Year 1 of 3; Total Award \$598,261 United Department of Energy</p>	<p>Automatic Generation of Algorithms for High-Speed Reliable Lossy Compression will design the Lossy Compression framework to make it easy for anyone to synthesize customized algorithms that are tailored to their data maximize the quality-of interest preservation.</p>

<p>Dr. Omar S. Lopez Department of Organization, Workforce, and Leadership Studies</p>	<p>\$165,165 Year 2 of 2; Total Award \$336,677 National Science Foundation</p>	<p>Developing Expertise in Data Envelopment Analysis to Guide Investigations of Best Practice at HSIs Efficiently Graduating Hispanics with STEM will develop expertise in building optimization models using data envelopment analysis with data from the integrated Postsecondary Education Data System at the National Center for Education.</p>
<p>Dr. Alice R. Olmstead Department of Physics</p>	<p>\$159,913 Year 3 of 3, Total Award \$464,671 National Science Foundation</p>	<p>Furthering the Work of STEM Undergraduate Transformation: Modeling Instructional Change Teams is a two-phased research study designed to diagnose changes in instructional approaches that are created by teams of teachers that are more likely to be sustainable and enable a sense of ownership over the changes.</p>
<p>Dr. Stanley A. McClellan Office of Research and Sponsored Programs-JETS</p>	<p>\$157,747 Jacobs Technology, Inc.</p>	<p>Jacob's "JETS" Task Order will develop and implement strategies for monitoring bioburden and reducing bio-contamination in curation cleanrooms at NASA Johnson Space Center.</p>
<p>Mrs. Theadora Dinelle Whalen Texas Justice Court Training Center</p>	<p>\$154,463 Texas Department of Transportation Research and Technology</p>	<p>Texas Justice Court Traffic Safety Initiative Fiscal Year 2022 will reduce driving while intoxicated offenses by providing judicial education and support to Texas justices of the peace and court personnel.</p>
<p>Dr. Krishna P. Kisi Department of Engineering Technology</p>	<p>\$151,343 United States Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration</p>	<p>Susan Harwood Targeted Topic Training Grant - Fall Prevention/Protection will provide fall prevention/protection training to 650 workers and employers covered under OSH Act.</p>

<p>Dr. Feng Wang Ingram School of Engineering</p>	<p>\$141,740 Year 1 to 3; Total Award \$449,720 Texas Department of Transportation</p>	<p>Improve Data Quality for Automated Pavement Distress Data Collection will develop quality assurance capability and guidance on automated pavement distress data for TxDOT.</p>
<p>Dr. Stanley A. McClellan Office of Research and Sponsored Programs-JETS</p>	<p>\$131,560 Jacobs Technology, Inc.</p>	<p>Jacob's "JETS" Task Order will allow users to work closely with customers to capture and manage simulation and software requirements, design, develop software, perform integration and software testing with visuals and human-in-the loop mockups.</p>
<p>Mr. Paul Joseph Harper Small Business Development Center</p>	<p>\$130,000 Small Business Development Center (UTSA)</p>	<p>Small Business Development Centers Fiscal Year 2022 will fund the Texas State's Small Business Development Center activities for fiscal year 2022.</p>
<p>Dr. Stanley A. McClellan Office of Research and Sponsored Programs-JETS</p>	<p>\$125,632 Jacobs Technology, Inc.</p>	<p>Jacob's "JETS" Task Order will provide GIS Spatial analysis, data visualization and product development for the International Space Station and Artemis programs.</p>
<p>Dr. Zhijie Dong Ingram School of Engineering</p>	<p>\$111,922 Year 1 of 2; Total Award \$220,819 Texas Department of Transportation Research and Technology</p>	<p>Determine Evacuation Planning Design for Disaster Resilience will take advantage of social media data to analyze the movement behavior of diverse types of evacuees in detail and combines multiple data sources to identify the evacuation origin and destination distribution of vulnerable populations in the Texas communities.</p>
<p>Dr. Anthony S. Torres Department of Engineering Technology</p>	<p>\$101,796 Year 4 of 4; Total Award \$465,000 Texas Department of Transportation Research and Technology</p>	<p>Use of Rapid Setting Hydraulic Cement for Structural App Fiscal Year 2022 will advance the state of the art and state of the practice regarding the use of rapid setting concrete as a structural building material.</p>

<p>Dr. Martin Burtscher Department of Computer Science</p>	<p>\$101,509 Year 2 of 2, Total Award \$302,480 National Science Foundation</p>	<p>Collaborative Research: Practical and Rigorous Correctness Checking and Correctness Preservation for Irregular Parallel Programs will isolate important patterns and code features into small test programs to drive the development and testing of the verification tool, help formally specify the correctness criteria for each test program, and produce broken programs and specifications for testing.</p>
<p>Dr. Theresa Westbrook Department of Mathematics</p>	<p>\$100,000 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board</p>	<p>2021 College Readiness Model will examine students who are not passing certain classes and students who need an algebraic corequisite pair of classes but who have low Texas School Initiative College Readiness Classification and Diagnostic Test Scores.</p>

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Wittliff Gala

The Wittliff Collections Festival Gala at Austin City Limits Live was held on December 2, 2021, at the Moody Theater. The private fundraising gala featured a 50th anniversary performance by the legendary Ray Benson, as well as a live and silent auction with rare treasures from the “Lonesome Dove” miniseries, photographs from the collections, and many other auction items. Musician Steve Earle performed an acoustic 90-minute set for guests and the public following the formal portion of the event. Gracious sponsors, including H-E-B, University Federal Credit Union, Frost Bank, and Shiner Beers, helped make the event an overwhelming success. The Gala raised approximately \$375,000 for the collections.

Classroom Updates

Over the 2021 winter break, audio/visual equipment in multiple classrooms was updated to create the best possible learning experience by providing both students and professors with the latest technological tools in the classroom.

Campus Chatbot

After many months of research, a university-wide chatbot system has been selected. The chatbot, driven by artificial intelligence, will be a crucial aid to constituents in answering questions without waiting in call queues or executing time consuming searches for information. Instead of writing an email and waiting for a response or calling an office to have their question answered, users will be able to ask the Bobcat Virtual Assistant (BVA). The BVA will ease some of the support burden from multiple areas on the Texas State campuses traditionally stretched thin during peak times. The BVA will allow staff to focus on more complex questions and advanced support needs. The university-wide implementation of the chatbot is anticipated for this spring.

Campus Digital Signage

Information Technology led a project to create a centralized, single system for digital signs on the Texas State campuses. The new solution created an easy to manage system and provides continuity across the signs on the campuses. Currently, over 60 signs are operational and displaying centrally managed content, with more scheduled to go live in 2022. The signs are placed in the most popular buildings on both campuses, including the LBJ Student Center, Albert B. Alkek Library, Evans Liberal Arts, Willow Hall, and the Avery Building. An additional benefit of the Bobcat Digital Sign system is the ability for the signs to display emergency notifications across both campuses at the same time.

Accessibility Report included in Daily Link Checker Report

Website managers receive a daily report containing a list of webpages with potential issues, such as link errors and stale content. These reports have been integrated with the accessibility reporting tool to provide a single report for website managers. The new report displays accessibility issues with the site, such as contrast and alternative text issues. The integration of the accessibility report into the daily link checker helps further Information Technology's efforts to ensure equal and open access for all website visitors.

UNIVERSITY SPECIFIC ITEMS

University

NEXT IS NOW, the largest fundraising campaign in Texas State history, was publicly launched in October 2021. The campaign is on track to raise \$250 million to advance initiatives focused on student success and achieving Research 1 status. Since 2014, the NEXT IS NOW campaign had been in a silent phase, generating \$172 million from more than 40,000 donors and increasing the university's endowment from \$165 million to \$300 million.

Texas State's economic impact for fiscal year 2020 resulted in more than \$2 billion in total economic activity for the state of Texas and the creation of nearly 16,000 jobs. The study was conducted by Dr. William T. Chittenden, Texas State's Presidential Fellow for academic year 2020-21 and associate professor of finance in the McCoy College of Business Administration.

Chittenden examined jobs and economic activity created because of spending by the university, faculty, staff and students in Hays County, the Central Texas region (defined as Hays County plus the counties of Bastrop, Bexar, Burnet, Caldwell, Comal, Guadalupe, Travis, and Williamson), and the entire state of Texas.

Texas State was recognized as one of the Top 100 Colleges and Universities for Hispanics for 2021 by *Hispanic Outlook* magazine. The rankings were compiled using 2019-20 data from the United States Department of Education and published in the October 2021 issue of *Hispanic Outlook*, a top information news source and the sole Hispanic educational magazine for the higher education community.

Texas State was named one of America's Best Online Learning Schools 2022 by *Newsweek* magazine. The university was ranked seventh out of 150 universities on the *Newsweek* list.

Texas State was named one of the nation's top "Green Colleges" with a strong commitment to the environment and sustainability by the Princeton Review. *The Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges, 2022 Edition* profiles 420 colleges the company chose out of the 835 schools it surveyed for this project. Apart from the top 50, Princeton Review does not rank the universities in numerical order. The school profiles present information on each school's use of renewable energy, its recycling and conservation programs, and the availability of environmental studies in academic offerings and career guidance for green jobs.

Texas State presented Dr. Sally Wittliff, co-founder of The Wittliff Collections, with the university's first Patron of the Arts and Humanities Award at the Wittliff Festival held in Austin, Texas. The award was created to recognize distinguished individuals whose support, contributions, and vision have amplified the arts and humanities. With the donation of their lifelong collection of original manuscripts and books, Drs. Bill and Sally Wittliff founded the Southwestern Writers Collection at Texas State in 1986, then contained in one room of the university's library. Today, The Wittliff Collections include more than 500 special collections in literature, music, photography, and film housed on the top floor of the Albert B. Alkek Library on the San Marcos Campus.

The Alumni Association named Mr. Bob R. Covey and Ms. Stacy Chessher-Fowler as the 2021 recipients of the association's Distinguished Alumni Award. Additionally, the Alumni Association named one Young Alumni Rising Star Award recipient -- Mr. Andrae Turner. First given to President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1959, the Distinguished Alumni Award is the Alumni Association's most prestigious honor. Award recipients are graduates who have distinguished themselves in their chosen occupations and whose leadership serves as an example for the university community.

President Trauth recently received two honors. The Texas State Alumni Association awarded President Trauth with the 2021 Outstanding Leadership Award in recognition of her outstanding leadership to Texas State University through integrity, compassion, resiliency, and innovation. Additionally, the San Marcos Area Chamber of Commerce awarded President Trauth with the 2021 Citizen of the Year Award in recognition of her unwavering commitment and dedication to the San Marcos Community.

College, Schools, and Departments

The Division of Dance in the Department of Theatre and Dance was ranked number 18 in the nation for Best Dance Bachelor's Degree Schools by College Factual in 2022. In 2021, the Division of Dance was ranked number one in the Southwest region, number one for Best Value, number one for non-traditional students, and number two in quality.

Faculty

Dell Technologies partnered with the university on a case study of Dell's Data Science Workstations (DSWs) for high-speed computing. As the university research initiatives venture deeper into areas of big data, machine learning, artificial intelligence, computing power, and processing speed become a limiting factor. To remedy that computing bottleneck, Dell provided Dr. Damian Valles, an assistant professor in the Ingram School of Engineering, and Dr. Larry Fulton, a professor in the School of Health Administration, with DSWs incorporating high performance computing technologies equipped with advanced graphic processing units for evaluation.

Award-winning author Ms. Kali Fajardo-Anstine was named the Texas State Endowed Chair in Creative Writing for 2022-23. Fajardo-Anstine is the author of the widely acclaimed story collection *Sabrina & Corina* (One World, 2019), which won an American Book Award, the 2020 Reading the West Award and the 2020 Fred R. Brown Literary Award. It was a finalist for the National Book Award, the PEN/Bingham Prize, Story Prize, Saroyan International Prize and the Clark Fiction Prize. *Sabrina & Corina* was also named as one of the best books of the year by the American Library Association and the New York Public Library.

Dr. Lauren Fuess, an assistant professor in the Department of Biology, was one of eight researchers nationally selected for the Gulf Research Program's Environmental Protection and Stewardship track of the 2021 Early-Career Research Fellowship from the Gulf Research Program of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. During the two-year program, fellows will pursue research that advances understanding of the changing ecosystem of the Gulf of Mexico and its United States coastal zones.

The American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP) awarded Dr. Rodney Rohde, Regents' Professor and chair of the Clinical Laboratory Science Program, the ASCP Career Ambassador Honor. Career Ambassadors and Pathology Ambassadors are a volunteer network of laboratory professional, pathologist and resident members that promote careers in the medical laboratory in their communities. Through hands-on activities and engaging presentations, ambassadors help young people and others understand and appreciate the medical laboratory's role in patient care and inspire them to pursue a career in the medical laboratory and pathology while cultivating relationships in their community.

Major Construction Spring 2022

- 1. Live Oak Hall
- 2. Infrastructure Research Laboratory at STAR Park

