

Fall 2016

# FSS *Essentials*



## FSS VISION:

*Outstanding Support  
and Service: Making a  
Difference at Texas State*

**Eric Algoe**  
*Vice President*

**Darryl Borgonah**  
*Associate VP, Financial Services*

**Russell Clark**  
*Director, EHS&RM*

**John McBride**  
*Assistant VP, Human Resources*

**Nancy Nusbaum**  
*Associate VP, FSS Planning*

**John Root**  
*Director, Auxiliary Services*

**Gordon Thyberg**  
*Assistant VP, Budgeting, Financial  
Planning & Analysis*

**Tom Shewan**  
*Associate VP, Facilities*

**Valarie Van Vlack**  
*Treasurer*

## LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



Every other September brings legislative hearings on the state budget and our opportunity to testify to various State House of Representative and Senate committees on a variety of higher education and budget related topics. Rather than write something new on this topic for our newsletter this fall, I thought it might be of more interest to instead share an excerpt with you from the Administrator's Statement that we turn in each year as a part of our budget request. This letter comes from the President as a key part of the Legislative Appropriation Request package that launches our efforts to secure new and continuing funding for the coming fiscal year.

Excerpt follows:

Texas State University continues to be a leader in helping Texas achieve the goals of The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's (THECB) 60x30TX campaign. We would like to thank the Texas Legislature for the generosity shown in funding higher education in the 84th Session which has been instrumental in our continued success. In particular, Texas State appreciates the availability of tuition revenue bonds (TRBs), the support of formula funding, the continuing availability of the TRIP program, and the increases to the Higher Education Fund (HEF). The TRBs have allowed us to proceed with the construction of much-needed buildings for Engineering and Science on our San Marcos Campus and for Health Professions on our Round Rock Campus that will help to further our growth in research and STEM education. The HEF increase will make it possible to address a significant number of deferred maintenance issues and will help us keep up with our rapidly growing enrollment.

Texas State University is the state's newest Emerging Research University and is now the 31st largest public university in the country and the fourth

*Continued on page 8...*

# DATES TO REMEMBER

## October

Breast Cancer Awareness  
Domestic Violence Awareness

- Oct 3
  - Child Health Day
- Oct 10
  - World Mental Health Day
  - Columbus Day
- Oct 17
  - First Day of Sukkot
  - Boss's Day
- Oct 23
  - Last Day of Sukkot
- Oct 24
  - United Nations Day
- Oct 29
  - Cat Day
- Oct 31
  - Halloween

## November

Diabetes Awareness  
Alzheimer's Awareness

- Nov 1
  - All Saints' Day
- Nov 2
  - All Souls' Day
- Nov 6
  - Daylight Saving Time Ends
- Nov 8
  - Election Day
- Nov 11
  - Veteran's Day
- Nov 24
  - Thanksgiving Day
- Nov 24-25
  - Texas State Thanksgiving Break
- Nov 26
  - Cake Day

## December

Human Rights Month

- Dec 1
  - World AIDS Day
- Dec 3
  - World Day of Persons with Disabilities
- Dec 5
  - International Volunteer Day
- Dec 6
  - St. Nicholas' Day
- Dec 7
  - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- Dec 10
  - Human Rights Day
- Dec 12
  - Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Dec 16-17
  - Commencement
- Dec 21
  - Winter Solstice
- Dec 19 - 21
  - Energy Conservation Days
- Dec 22-30
  - Winter Break
- Dec 24
  - Christmas Eve
- Dec 25
  - Christmas Day
- Dec 30
  - Bacon Day
- Dec 31
  - New Year's Eve

*Phuc Vuong Abrego*  
Buyer III, Facilities Management

*Karlie Beach*  
Buyer III, Facilities, Planning, Design, and Construction

*Janet Beltran*  
Parking Services Officer, Transportation Services

Janet comes to us from Savannah, Georgia, daughters Briana (16) and Bianca (13). Her husband Brian is a stay-at-home dad since retiring from the U.S. Army. Janet is a devoted wife and mother who lives by the "God, Family, and Country" motto. She is very versatile when it comes to work being prior military. She is happy to choose Texas as the place to put down roots.

*Ronald Ray Cooley*  
Treasury Analyst, Treasurer

*Laura Gonzalez*  
HR Representative, Human Resources

Laura's free time is spent outside riding her bicycle, running or hiking and snorkeling with the coolest river dog in San Marcos – Chase Friday! We are glad to welcome Laura as part of our team!

*John Alexander Kirchner*  
Buyer II, Procurement and Strategic Sourcing



*Jerry Kvick*  
Air Conditioning Mech II, Facilities Operations

Jerry is originally from Sweden, but prior to coming to Texas State worked for the Austin Independent School District. His wife's name is Rene and he loves to restore and drive all kinds of classic cars.



# MEET OUR NEW TEAM

*Lynn Lindsay IV*  
Environ Health & Safety Specialist, EHSRM

Texas State alumni, Lynn is from San Antonio and resides in New Braunfels with his wife Kristi and their three children, Ethan (12), Jadon (10), and Ainsly (8). He is very family oriented spending much time on soccer and baseball fields on the weekends. His hobbies are woodwork, landscape, guitar, and doing light maintenance on the family vehicles.



*Melissa R Lopez*  
Parking Services Officer, Transportation Services

Melissa Lopez is a Parking Services Officer at the LBJ Student Center. She comes to us from the Pre-Release Prison Kyle Unit and is a San Marcos native.

*Manuel Lopez Marez*  
Plumber II, Facilities Operations



*Thomas F Shewan*  
Assoc VP, Facilities

Mr. Shewan comes to Texas State from his position as the Director of Maintenance at Florida State University (FSU). Tom holds a Bachelors of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering as well as a Master Degree in Business Administration.

# SPOTLIGHT ON UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE

The staff of University Bookstore strives to be an integral part of Texas State University. Their mission is to enhance the quality of life, broaden the learning experience, and promote lifelong learning through responsiveness, innovation and the resources they provide.

Leading the textbook department and in charge of course materials is assistant manager, Douglas Tatsch. Assisting Douglas is Fran McKeever who deals with textbook adoptions for the academic departments and Laurie Holbrook who manages floor set up, sales and financial aid. Casey Tabor takes care of custom publishing, Print on Demand and copyright research while Amy Wilkerson provides assistance on the sales floor for set up, stocking, buy back and returns. They have the help of approximately 12 student employees.

The assistant manager of business services is Ama Adusei. Ama deals with sales reconciliation and deposits, business systems, financial reporting and accounts receivables. Ama is assisted in vault operations by Anna Trujillo and oversees the accounts payable clerk, Michele Okowit. This department has the help of 4 student employees.

John White is the bookstore operations assistant manager. John is in charge of the cashiers at the front of the house and the warehouse at the back of the house. Working for John in the warehouse is Truitt Hill who supervises shipping and receiving of textbooks, Jesse McBroom who handles online order fulfillment and Joseph Bodin who takes care of general merchandise shipping and receiving. The bookstore

has 2 student employees in the warehouse and 10 student employees who work as cashiers.

Leading the general merchandise department, as well as bookstore partnerships and marketing is assistant manager, Lauren Williams. Lauren is aided by bookstore supervisor, Rebecca Contreras who runs the day to day operation of the Fan Shop at Bobcat Stadium, as well as offsite events, like graduation sales and book signings. Rocio DeLaRosa oversees the buying of apparel and gifts, as well as athletic licensing guidelines. Reggie Andah is the buyer for art & office supplies as well as small electronics. Lauren relies on systems specialist, Shaun Whitworth to create website and social media content and to monitor and install system equipment and upgrades. The general merchandise department employs about 15 students.

Carrie Costilla is University Bookstore's administrative assistant, and she has the help of two student receptionists.

Paula Flores works as the bookstore custodian and keeps the store neat and tidy.



University Bookstore is engaged in providing customers with value in products, services and educational resources that reflect the University's mission of achieving excellence in teaching, research and outreach, which is accomplished by employees working as part of a team in a supportive learning environment.

## FSS DIVERSITY

Communication is the process of sending and receiving messages. The sender and receiver must share in the process for successful communications.

Lately, it seems everyone is sending but no one is receiving, listening. It should be noted that almost all conflict involves communication problems. Stephen Covey stated that most people do not listen with the intent to understand, they listen with the intent to reply.

Social media is diluting the process. Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are making sharing easy. Complete sentences are a thing of the past. Short, incomplete thoughts are overwhelming the process and turning off receivers. How many acronyms and emoji do we use? It is so easy to share information, whether it is correct or not. Misinformation spreads without check. Worse, valid information is disregarded. No one can distinguish between the truth and a fabrication. Emotional discourse is fueling the dysfunctional process. It is no wonder that so many feel alienated, where

the extreme feel empowered and righteous and everyone else frustrated and confused.

Making matters worse is the speed of the transmission. So eager are many to be the first to relay information. No more is there time to digest or evaluate information, to gather our thoughts, critical thinking.

One way to help combat the communications breakdown is knowledge. Education widens the breadth of an individual's knowledge. Knowledge opens the mind to new ideas. Knowledge reduces ignorance. Tolerance, understanding and empathy are more common. The ability to listen becomes more integral to the individual; understand what is being said not just who says it.

We have a responsibility to help model successful communication. The importance of effective communication for employees and managers cannot be overemphasized. Good listening skills greatly impact efficiency and effectiveness. Communication is everything in business.

**Do you want to learn the secrets that have helped people lose 10, 20 or even 30 pounds or more? Explore this incredible weight loss program fellow Bobcats are experiencing by signing up now!**

Real Appeal is an online weight loss program available at no cost to \*HealthSelect participants. This step-by-step, personalized program is inspiring Bobcat employees to make positive, lasting changes for a healthier body and life.

*“Since starting the program I look forward to my weekly coaching sessions. Every week is a different topic (e.g. how to read labels, how to shop at the grocery store, eating out). Those are some of the weekly videos we watch. It makes me stop to think about what I want for myself and my family. As an online group, we all get to chime in on what we’ve done or not done with our coach and the group. We encourage each other and try to give each other little tips on what works for us.” - Sylvia Cruz*

After signing up and attending your first coaching session, you’ll get the Real Appeal Success Kit delivered right to your door, filled with everything you need to jump start your weight loss.

The kit includes everything you need to succeed and keep those numbers on the scale moving in the right direction:

The kit includes everything you need to succeed and keep those numbers on the scale moving in the right direction:

- **Two Real Success Guides:** that lay the program out for you step-by-step.
- **Easy-to-Use Cooking Tools:** measuring cups/ spoons, digital food scale, and “Perfect” Portion Plate
- **Real Foods Nutrition Guide:** with delicious recipes, 5-minute meals, and healthy fast food picks.
- **Real Appeal Water Bottle, Resistance Bands, Tape Measure and Pedometer**
- **Real Movie Guide:** includes walking programs and simple activity tips
- **Personal One-Shot Blender:** for making shakes and snacks on the go
- **Six Real Exercise DVDs:** cardio, strength, flexibility, and abs programs for all fitness levels!
- **Electronic Body Weight Scale**

The changes begin as soon as you start.

Enroll today using your smartphone, tablet, or computer following this link: [www.healthselect.realappeal.com](http://www.healthselect.realappeal.com).

\*Available at no cost to eligible HealthSelect of Texas employees, spouses and dependents 18 and older with a BMI of 23 or higher. This program is not available to Medicare primary participants.

## MEET OUR NEW TEAM

...Continued from page 2

*Kimberly Brooke Stringham*  
Systems Analyst II, Treasurer

Kim is our new full-time Systems Analyst. She comes to us from Salt Lake City, UT where she worked at the University of Utah doing PCI compliance. She’s married to her wonderful husband Kevin and currently has three fur babies, Italian Greyhounds: Scusi, Mia and Poppi. She also has four grown step children who live in Utah. She loves travel, musical theatre, singing, running, gardening, and the list goes on! Welcome to Texas and Texas State Kim!

*Mariela Villanueva-Beltran*  
Administrative Asst II, Student Business Services & Bursars

*Zane W White*  
Parking Services Officer, Transportation Services

Zane White is a Parking Services Officer. He is originally from Bryson, Texas. Zane worked for a variety of places including six years with the U.S. Army before coming to Texas State. He is married to Katrina. He enjoys reading, video games, hiking, diving, and going to the gym or shooting range. He has been to seven different countries.

*Amy Lynne Wilkerson*  
Inventory Control Clerk I, Bookstore

Amy Wilkerson is from Seguin, TX and joined the bookstore team in May as a sales assistant in the textbook department. Amy enjoys swimming and outdoor activities with her two sons who are 16 years old and 3 years old.



*Anna Del Pilar Trujillo*  
Accounting Clerk II, Bookstore

Anna Trujillo holds an M.A. in Legal Studies from Texas State. She met her husband, Chris, while at the university and they will celebrate their one year anniversary in November. Anna is employed as an Accounting Clerk II in the Bookstore vault.



# AND THE WINNERS ARE...

## JULY 2016 FSS QUARTERLY TEAM



FACILITIES PLANNING DESIGN CONSTRUCTION PROJECT  
MANAGER'S MANUAL TEAM: Michael Petty, Scott Rouse, Patsy Holtman, Pascuala Roque, Elizabeth Mendez, Danielle Elrod, Frederick Maddox, VPFSS Eric Algoe.

## 2016 CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARDS



Joe Sanchez, Vanessa Salazar, Scott Rouse, VPFSS Eric Algoe, Tammy Coyle, Colleen Cook, David Bisett, Johnny Rayos. Not Pictured: John Garrett.

## APRIL 2016 FSS QUARTERLY TEAM



FACILITIES PLANNING DESIGN CONSTRUCTION PROCUREMENT  
TEAM: Michael Petty, Pascuala Roque, Danielle Elrod, Bonnie Corkran, Elizabeth Mendez, VPFSS Eric Algoe.

# STAFF SCOOP

*FSS Employee News*



Congratulations to Randall DeBacker and Kayla Lee who got married on June 25, 2016. Randall is the son of **Karon DeBacker**, Student Business Services Supervisor. He is a graduate of Texas A&M Corpus Christi & Kayla is a graduate of Texas State University and is a former student/staff of SBS. They live in Temple, TX where Randall is a computer programmer and Kayla is a second grade teacher.

## VPFSS BROWN BAG

Have an idea... a question... a concern?  
Eric Algoe will visit offices for his monthly  
Brown Bag sessions on the following dates:

**Wednesday, October 26**  
**Bookstore, Auxiliary Services & ID  
Services**

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Thursday, November 10**  
**Utilities Operations**

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 7**  
**EHSRM**

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

# THANK YOU

Veterans Day ~ November 11, 2016

## **CUSTODIAL OPERATIONS**

Mr. Bruce Banks  
Mr. Fermin Torrez

## **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, SAFETY & RISK MANAGEMENT**

Mr. James Frye

## **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT**

Mr. Gary Baisden  
Mr. Gordon Green  
Mr. Carlos Pardo

## **FACILITIES OPERATIONS**

Ms. Connie Brownson  
Mr. William "Bill" Brymer  
Mr. Jerry DeLeon  
Mr. John William Hunnicutt  
Mr. Brian McKay  
Mr. Dario Mendoza  
Mr. Gilbert Morales  
Mr. Ruben Salas  
Mr. Michael Shearer  
Mr. David Smith  
Mr. Ronald Douglas Smith II  
Mr. Michael Wayne Spivey

## **FACILITIES PLANNING DESIGN**

Mr. Frederick Maddox  
Mr. Larry Miller  
Mr. David Morris

## **GROUND AND WASTE MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS**

Mr. Albert Gomez  
Mrs. Becky Johnson-Cronk

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

Mr. John McBride

## **MAIL SERVICES**

Mr. James Dorsey  
Mr. Daniel Hurtado Jr

## **MATERIALS MANAGEMENT & LOGISTICS**

Mr. Frank Gonzalez  
Mr. Manuel Guerrero Pantoja  
Mr. Richard Ruiz

## **PROCUREMENT AND STRATEGIC SOURCING**

Mr. John Alexander Kirchner

## **STUDENT BUSINESS SERVICES & BURSARS**

Mrs. Stella Gallegos  
Mrs. Rita McMahon

## **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

Ms. Janet Beltran  
Mr. Wendell Harris  
Mr. Refugio Hernandez  
Mr. Tomas Martinez  
Mr. Tyler Francis Paugh  
Mr. Tommy Richardson  
Mr. Zane White

## **UTILITY OPERATIONS**

Mr. Neil Bascos  
Mr. Charles Daniel Childres  
Mr. Lance Patrick Johnson  
Mr. Wallace Calvin Jorgensen  
Mr. Larry Mutschler  
Mr. James Norton  
Mr. Terry Lee Pittman  
Mr. Juan Luis Romero  
Mr. Carl Teague Jr

## **VP FOR FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES**

Mr. Eric Algoe

**“Valor is stability, not of legs and arms, but of courage and the soul.”** *Michel de Montaigne*

Today, may we especially take a moment to reflect, honor and revere the courageous men and women who have chosen to take arms to secure and defend our great nation against foreign and domestic enemies. May we pause to bow our heads in honor of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, and given their lives for the sake of our country and its core principles which make us a symbol of freedom.

May we honor the families of our heroes who embody the height of patriotism and valor, who defend our Nation's founding ideals. May we never take for granted nor forget the sacrifice and service offered by those fearless souls who selflessly protect us and our way of life.

While mere words fall short against the heroism of our veterans and their families, Texas State salutes and offers its most heartfelt gratitude to those who sacrificed their lives, those who still bravely fight today, and to their families.

# BOBCAT CHATTER

*What is the kindest thing that someone has ever done for you?*

## Margie Cameron

*Training Specialist, Human Resources*

Once a little boy gave me a bottle of ice cold water. Sounds a bit under-whelming as the kindest gesture, right?

Hurricane Ivan destroyed our home in 2004.

My brother and his wife came from Georgia to help clean-up. One hot day, we were shoveling sandy muck from and moving debris from the drive-way. A woman and her two young children walked up to us and handed us each a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and homemade peanut butter cookies.

They had driven nearly 50 miles determined to deliver assistance. Their

mother said almost apologetically "This was their idea. They have been watching the news and wanted to do something on their own that might really help people hit by Ivan." Then, they handed us each a bottle of water. As soon as I touched that bottle of water, I wept. It was ice cold.

We had not had cold water in nearly two weeks. There was no ice. There were no stores open nearby. FEMA or Red Cross supplies had yet to arrive. Power had been downed in a swath 80-100 miles wide.

The little boy's face crumbled with confusion and disappointment. Crying was not the reaction he was going for and I realized he must have thought he did something wrong. I quickly hugged him and thanked him. I explained that I

was crying because I was so happy. We praised him and his sister, telling them of all the people who came to help us, they were the only ones who thought to bring ice cold water.

I can still see the joy and burning desire to help that filled that boy's eyes. He ran to their van and brought as many bottles of ice cold water as he could carry. It's hard to say if his arms were more overflowing with water bottles or his heart with pride. It still makes me smile and a bit teary-eyed remembering his sweet, pure compassion.

It would be incorrect to say this was the greatest act of kindness anyone has ever done for me; but it certainly was the most innocently genuine and memorable.

# OFF THE CLOCK

## Amy Thomas

*Administrative Assistant III – Facilities, Planning, Design and Construction*

With last month's celebration of the inaugural "Mermaid Parade and Splash Festival" in San Marcos, it is fitting to feature one of the many Aquarena Springs aquamaids/mermaids who happens to be our very own, Amy Thomas.

Longtime residents and visitors from far away have fond memories of family outings and school trips to Aquarena and one of the many fascinations at the park was attending the "Underwater Theatre." Amy shares her experience and some behind the scene stories as her role as an aquamaid. She remembers it vividly and states "It's hard to believe that my days as a mermaid happened 30 years ago"..."it was a lot of fun."

She tells us that the aquamaids would switch between performing as aquamaids and Lost Civilization Indian Maidens. As an aquamaid, one of her many talents was being a good swimmer and doing multiple flips under water. The aquamaids would swim out from under the volcano (their dressing room), and used the air hoses attached to the platforms to raise them up so the audience could see them more clearly. They would sit on their "lily pads", with a metal bar across their laps to keep them from floating to the surface. This is where they would also remove their dive masks (which was great if you had stage fright, because it made everything a little blurry).

She fondly describes how the aquamaids were trained to eat and drink under water which always amazed audiences. They would take out a stalk of celery and would skillfully twirl it around their fingers before taking a few bites and dropping the leafy top back into their little "mermaid purses." They would then take out their bottle of soda (unsweetened Kool-aid, actually), and would toss the bottle around like the awesome bartenders in the movie "Cocktail", after which they would turn the bottle upside down, pop the top, and put the bottle to their lips. Drinking under water always seemed to WOW the audience.

This was followed by a gracious feeding of their fish friends. They would pull out the fish food (frozen scoops of cat food), and crumple it into the water in front of them. The fish were eager and the audience was thrilled. She recollects how aquamaids with freckles had to watch out because apparently, fish cannot tell the difference between food and speckled flesh during a feeding frenzy... And, did you know fish have teeth? She said that she didn't, until she

was a mermaid...ouch! Also, one of the many perks was swimming with the famous "Ralph the Swimming Pig". She remembers how the Underwater Show Staff trained him from the time he was a piglet.

This is only a glimpse of the many stories in Amy's treasure trove of memories as a mermaid but she wanted to finish her story by telling us "I never realized how peaceful it is to be completely enveloped in water... until I was a mermaid. There is something so calming about sitting at the bottom of the San Marcos River and getting lost in a world so few humans know about, much less understand. Being a mermaid was one of the most precious experiences of my life. I would do it all over again."



OFF THE CLOCK is a section in the newsletter that showcases an interesting fact about a staff member in the FSS division. Did you publish a book, do you have a hidden talent, do you have a unique collection, or are you related to a famous person (just to name a few suggestions)? We welcome any information you would like to share in the newsletter!

# LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

...Continued from page 1

largest university in Texas. With 37,979 students enrolled in fall 2015, Texas State experienced a five-year enrollment growth rate that was 55 percent higher than the combined five-year enrollment growth rate of all other Texas public universities. Our student body is now 48 percent minority and continues to become more diverse. Texas State has been recognized by the U. S. Department of Education as a Hispanic Serving Institution since 2010 and is one of only 40 doctoral-degree-granting institutions in the country to earn that designation.

The demand to come to Texas State is not slowing down and we remain committed to playing a key role in the success of 60x30TX by carrying our share of the necessary enrollment growth. In fact, we experienced a double-digit percentage increase in applications for fall 2016, and anticipate record enrollment for the 19th straight year. We already have over 30,000 applicants seeking one of our 5,700 spots in the fall 2016 freshman class. The primary constraint in being able to serve more students is physical space. Texas State has the largest academic space deficit of any school in the state of Texas, nearly three-quarters of a million square feet, and a total space deficit of over 1.2 million square feet according to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's space projection model. Due to our continued enrollment growth, Texas State will still have these space deficits even after the openings of the new Engineering and Science building and the new Health Professions building mentioned above.

Our university's highest priority is student success. Texas State has the sixth highest six-year graduation rate in the state despite being funded at a rate that is the fourth lowest of the 38 public institutions of higher education in Texas. We are especially proud of the fact that our graduation rates are strong for all ethnic groups. While we have increased the total number of degrees awarded by 17 percent over the past five years, the number of degrees awarded to Hispanic and African-American students has increased by 57 percent and 78 percent respectively.

Texas State has long been focused on college affordability. This restraint in raising tuition has been achieved, in large part, by remaining dedicated to continuously improving our level of efficiency. Please find some examples of that efficiency below:

- Texas State spends 3.7 percent less today than

it did in 2003 to deliver a unit of instruction after adjusting for inflation.

- Texas State would have to hire over 1,000 additional staff members to reach the average faculty to staff member ratio among the state's Emerging Research Universities as measured by THECB.
- Our faculty carry a teaching load 32 percent higher than the state average while being paid 12 percent below the state average.

As a university with thousands of veterans and their families currently enrolled, we fully support the spirit of the Hazlewood Act. In fact, Texas State has the highest number of Hazlewood program participants of any university in Texas. However, this largely unfunded mandate is placing a significant and likely unsustainable burden on the university. This is evidenced by the fact that total Hazlewood waivers have increased by more than 26 percent annually since 2012, and, even after accounting for the recent state-funded Hazlewood Permanent Fund endowment distribution and the Texas Veterans' Commission funding, Texas State predicts that the program will cost the university well over \$200 million in waived revenue over the next 10 years.

True to the goals of 60x30TX, Texas State University provides students with the marketable skills necessary to succeed in the workforce. The percent of Texas State baccalaureate graduates employed in the fourth quarter following graduation has been consistently higher than the state average in every year since 2001, and 8.6 percent higher in the most recent year. Additionally, our graduates are not only employed, they also express great satisfaction with the education they receive at Texas State. According to surveys conducted as a part of the Voluntary System of Accountability, our graduates rank us only behind Texas A&M in the percent who would "Attend the Same Institution if Starting Over Again" and the percent rating their entire educational experience "Good or Excellent."

Texas State fully supports the THECB's Formula Advisory Committee's recommendations on formula funding rates. Formula funding represents 77 percent of our general appropriation and is vital to the success of Texas State. Additionally, it is requested that the Legislature provide sufficient appropriations to cover the full cost of the Higher Education Group Insurance Program (HEGI). We estimate that the

State's share of our employer contributions for health insurance is underfunded by \$1 million per year in fiscal years 2016 and 2017. The level of state support we are provided, including Core Research and TRIP funding, is a key factor in ensuring and increasing quality, enabling the achievement of strategic goals, and maintaining affordability.

The continuous growth in total enrollment, total degrees awarded, and minority graduates, combined with our high employment rate and student satisfaction results, demonstrate Texas State's commitment to continuing to be a key partner in contributing to the goals of 60x30TX.

Excerpt ends

While the four months every two years that the legislature is in session can bring many surprises, hopefully this excerpt gives you some insight into our message as we enter the session. The big issues certainly include, but are in no way limited to:

- continuing to shine a light on Texas State's amazing accomplishments;
- securing sustainable funding for the Hazlewood program;
- refuting the notion that elimination of the state's tuition set-aside requirement would allow for tuition decreases;
- describing our perilous space shortage; and
- growing awareness that students across the state of Texas will increasingly come from poorer families over the coming decades than they have in the past;

We are all fortunate to live in a state that values education, and so we enter this and every legislative session hoping that higher education fares well. We are also all fortunate to be a part of Texas State which is one of the most exciting universities in the country. While it is true that Texas State has risen in too many ways to count over the past one hundred years, our motto is more true today that it has ever been as we continue to rise in almost every way it is possible to track, including opening with a record enrollment in the Fall of 2016 for the unimaginable 19th consecutive year.

We remain the Rising Star of Texas.



Digitally printed and addressed at Copy Cats at Texas State



*The rising STAR of Texas*

***"And I rose  
In rainy autumn  
And walked abroad in a shower of all my days..."***

- Dylan Thomas

## Committee

The Finance and Support Services Division in support of the University's mission is dedicated to providing outstanding customer service and a challenging and satisfying work environment while ensuring the efficient and effective use of financial, human, and physical resources.

Alma Apodaca (AV12@txstate.edu)

Sylvia Cruz (SC17@txstate.edu)

Stephanie Daniels (SD1344@txstate.edu)

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Melinda Olivo (MZ10@txstate.edu)

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Vanessa Salazar (VS21@txstate.edu)

Lauren Williams (LW20@txstate.edu)