



## Terry B. Rogers College of Education & Social Sciences

Committed to Advancing Society by Developing Professionals to  
**Lead | Serve | Educate**

# Monthly Faculty & Staff Newsletter

### Season's Greetings from the Dean



**Dr. Gary Bigham**  
Regents Professor | Dean

As the semester draws to a close and graduation approaches, I encourage you to stop for a moment to reflect on the remarkable work you have done this semester. Your dedication, creativity, and resilience have not only shaped the minds of our students but have also strengthened the foundation of the academic community we are building in the Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences.

This season reminds us of the importance of connection and gratitude. I am grateful for the passion you bring to your teaching, research, and service. You play an essential role in making your program, department, college, and university a place of discovery, inspiration, and excellence.

As you celebrate the holidays, I hope you find time to rest, recharge, and enjoy the warmth of family, friends, and loved ones. May this season bring peace, joy, and renewed energy for the new year ahead.

#### In This Issue

- Why, Values, Beliefs, Vision, and Mission
- Holiday Celebrations
- Strategic Planning
- Students
- Curriculum & Instruction
- Research
- Faculty and Staff
- Professional Service
- Calendar

#### Follow us



[wtamu.edu/coess](http://wtamu.edu/coess)

### Our Vision / Just Cause

Starting with our “Why” and progressing to the articulation of our core values and beliefs led us next, to our vision or just cause. Simon Sinek asserts that most vision statements are poorly articulated and self-serving. Based on our “why,” and the nature of our work in education and the social sciences, a self-serving vision makes no sense. Accordingly, we needed to better grasp what a just cause is. Here is a video that guided our work.



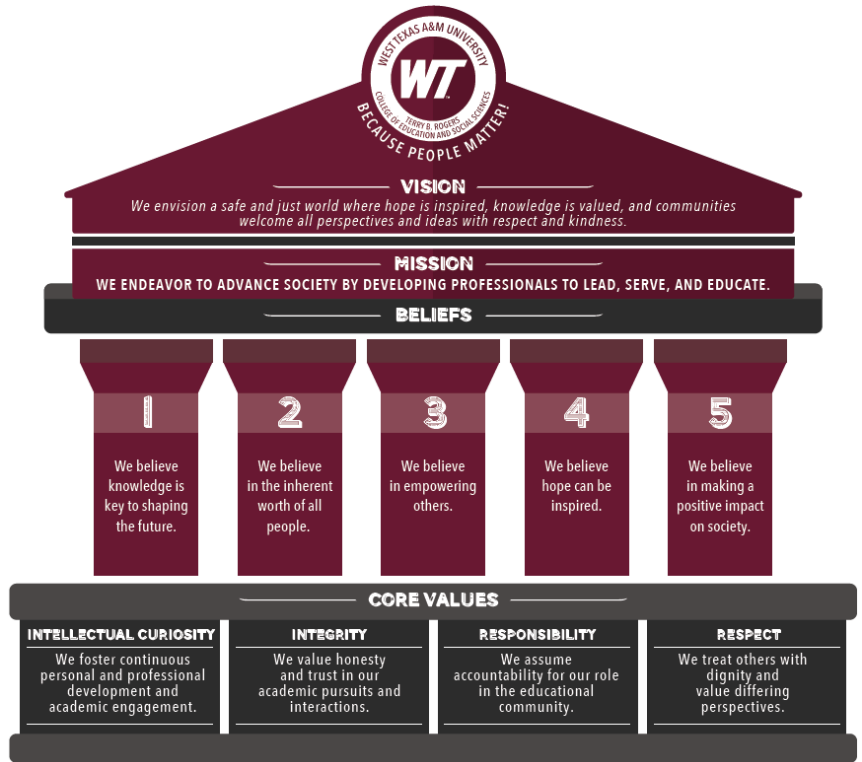
# Revisioning the Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences

## Our Vision / Just Cause

As I continue to take you through the revisioning process the committee walked through, allow me to recap a bit. Our “Why” is posted at the top of the model (see the [Sept. newsletter](#)), our values serve as the foundation of the model (see the [Oct. newsletter](#)), and our beliefs (sometimes referred to as philosophy) are represented by pillars that connect core values to vision and mission (see the [Nov. newsletter](#)). With these components in place, we dove headstrong into developing and articulating our just cause, or vision.

As guided by Simon Sinek, we adopted his definitions of vision (something that is external to the organization) and just cause (a cause that is so just that we are willing to sacrifice for it).

Vision should describe the perfect world as we see it and a just cause should provide a lifetime of a cause worth working toward, else it lacks meaning.



To recap main points of the video, the essential features of a just cause that guided the committee's thinking and conversations were:

1. Inclusive – anyone who wants to join the cause can. The very words used in a vision statement must be an invitation to those who believe what you believe, whether they are internal or external. They are an invitation to anyone who wants to contribute to what you believe.
2. Service Oriented – must be for others, not for yourself. Includes a contributor and a benefactor. Service orientation means that the primary benefit goes to someone other than the contributor.
3. Idealistic – state in terms that are literally unachievable.
4. Resilient – different from being stable, resilience is the ability to adapt and change. Must be able to withstand cultural, political, or technological change. It must be durable.

Within these parameters, and with much thought and consideration, the committee articulated the following vision for our college:

**We envision a safe and just world where hope is inspired, knowledge is valued, and communities welcome all perspectives and ideas with respect and kindness.**



Visit the [Vision and Mission page](#) of the [Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences website](#).

### **Inside Out Messaging** (first 1-1/2 minutes of video)

Whether in written or verbal form, our messaging is critical. I received no comments on what is written below that was first presented in last month's newsletter. I am still seeking input from anyone who is so inclined to respond to the request for input.

**Why do we do what we do?** Everything we do in the Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences centers on our deep-held belief that knowledge is key to shaping a better future for the people who comprise our society. In short, we do what we do because people matter!

**How do we do it?** Through a combination of traditional and online course offerings coupled with meaningful engagement in internships, research, and service, we avail opportunities for anyone seeking advanced credentials to positively impact society. We offer high-quality, competitively priced degree and certification pathways for traditional and non-traditional students leading to Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral degrees, in addition to an array of professional certificates in Education and the Social Sciences.

**What do we do?** We contribute to the advancement of society by developing professionals to lead, serve, and educate.

# CHRISTMAS TIME IS HERE!



HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS



Mary and Walter Wendler Invite You to a

## Christmas Reception

4:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024

AT LEGACY HALL  
IN THE JACK B. KELLEY STUDENT CENTER



FOLLOWED BY FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS  
Hosted by WT and the City of Canyon

6 PM AT CHARLES K AND BARBARA KERR VAUGHAN  
PEDESTRIAN MALL

Activities for all ages with special appearance by Santa Claus



**WT**  
WEST TEXAS A&M  
UNIVERSITY™



*save the date*



UNIVERSITY  
*Christmas*  
LUNCH

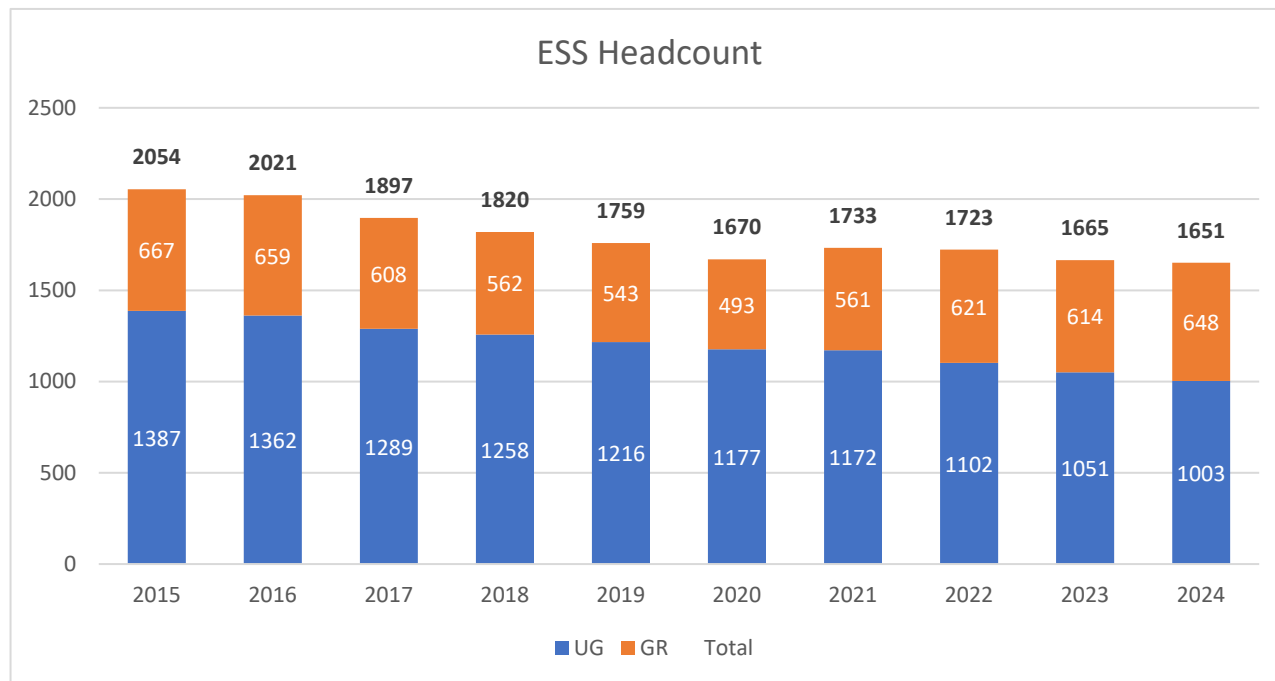
**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6**

Hosted by the Office of the President

# COLLEGE ENROLLMENT GOAL

## Increasing Headcount

### Needs Assessment Data



### University and College Goals

**WT 125 Goal 3:** Increase university enrollment through student recruitment and degree attainment.

**TBRCOESS Goal:** Increase enrollment in the Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences to 2000 (headcount) by AY 2030-31 via active recruitment and retention measures.

### The Math (in round figures)

Annually:  $\frac{2000 \text{ headcount} - 1600 \text{ headcount}}{2030 - 2025} = \frac{400 \text{ headcount target growth}}{5 \text{ years}} = 80 \text{ headcount growth/year}$

$\frac{80 \text{ headcount growth/year}}{\sim 20 \text{ programs}} = \sim 4 \text{ headcount growth / year / program}$

# FINANCIAL LITERACY

## Scholarships Awarded in Conjunction with Financial Literacy Workshops



Thanks to the Education Credit Union Buff \$mart program and WT's Money Management Bootcamp, 94 WT students are more financially literate on topics such as paying for college, building credit, and tackling financial obstacles. Thirty-eight of the 94 earned \$250 scholarships. Read the [press release](#) for additional information.

Twelve of the 98 in the cohort are from our college, six of whom were awarded scholarships. They include:

First Name	Last Name	Active Major
Autumn	Adams	Pre-Social Work
Ella	Barkley	Pre-Social Work
*Jayden	Bunce	Psychology
*Isabel	Cadavid Posada	School Psychology
Caleb	Hayes	Social Sciences
*Pilar	Hunt	Teaching
*Rosalinda	Lucio	Psychology
*Alyssa	Mosley	Education
*Avery	Rodriguez	Pre-Social Work
Lily	Rogers	Political Science
Maya	Sena	Psychology
Kiera	Torres	Criminal Justice

\* Denotes scholarship winners

Learn more about the Buff \$mart program

<https://www.wtamu.edu/student-support/buff-smart/index.html>

## PUBLIC POLICY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

### Two WT Political Science Majors Selected for the TAMUS Public Policy Scholars Program



STUDENTS

David Ortega and Alison Sweeney were highlighted in the November edition of the College newsletter. Now that the [press release](#) is out, I wanted everyone to have the opportunity to read it.

The Texas A&M University System Office of Academic Affairs supports a special partnership between the staff of the Public Policy Internship Program and the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University where undergraduate students from every university across the System can intern in Washington, D.C. for a semester while earning course credit.

The program will provide students with 6 hours of in-person coursework developed and taught by distinguished faculty from the Bush School of Government and Public Service, focusing on current issues and special topics relevant to Washington, D.C. and the American political system. **Students will attend classes two days a week** at the [Bush School DC Teaching Site](#), located just blocks from the White House. Additionally, students will **intern three days a week in a hosting office** and earn between 0-6 hours of internship credit. Students will benefit from a curriculum that emphasizes critical thinking, policy analysis, and real-world application, equipping them with the skills and knowledge necessary for a successful career in public service.

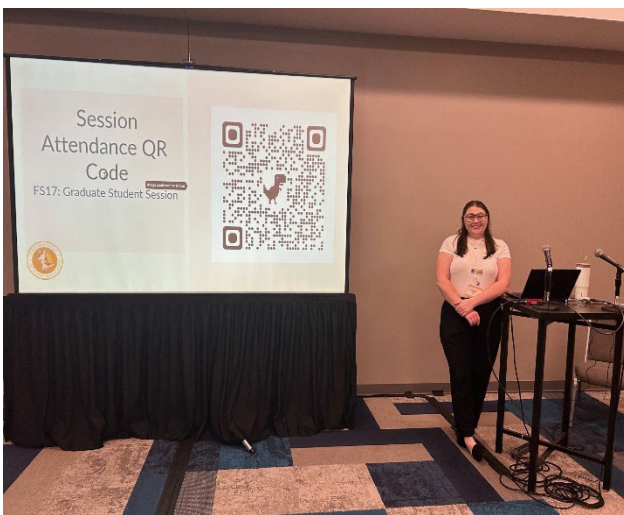




## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

### Graduate Students Attend Texas Association of School Psychology Conference

Under the leadership and guidance of Drs. Denton and Gregory, School Psychology students and alumni participated in the Annual Fall Professional Development Convention for TASP.



Congratulations to alum Brook Roberts, who received the Outstanding Contribution to the Profession Award! Congratulations, as well, to travel grant recipients Virginia Gerhardt and Monica Hernandez-Olivo, and Outstanding Student Scholarship awardee Isabel Cadavid Posada!

Pictured, to the left is Gracelynn Wilson. She is a recent graduate of our School Psychology program and the Graduate Representative for TASP. She led a session for students on advocacy.

## PROMOTIONAL VIDEOS

### Social Work

#### FEATURED GRADUATE

Meet Ashley Heatherly, a Social Work graduate. Learn about Ashley and about our Social Work program.

Ctrl + Click on the graphic to view the video.



Want to know more about the Social Work Program?

<https://www.wtamu.edu/academics/college-education-social-sciences/department-psychology-sociology-social-work/programs/social-work/index.html>

Want to create a promotional video for your program?

<https://form.asana.com/?k=TuaPvvtrHS8TSWf0MHhQ8A&d=1120648480473208>

Contact: Madison Mays ([mmays@wtamu.edu](mailto:mmays@wtamu.edu))

## Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership

### FEATURED GRADUATES

Meet the self-proclaimed “Las Chicas,” graduates from the first cohort in the doctoral program. “Did you know that only 0.02% of doctorate degrees are held by Latin women? These four ladies from WT's Doctorate of Education program decided to make their dreams a reality and to improve that statistic” (quoted from the doctoral website).

Ctrl + Click on the graphic to view the video.



Want to know more about the Ed.D. Program?

<https://www.wtamu.edu/academics/college-education-social-sciences/department-education/programs/edd/index.html>

Want to create a promotional video for your program?

<https://form.asana.com/?k=TuaPvvtrHS8TSWf0MHhQ8A&d=1120648480473208>

Contact: Madison Mays ([mmays@wtamu.edu](mailto:mmays@wtamu.edu))

CHARLES BUTT FOUNDATION

# SCHOLARSHIP FOR ASPIRING TEACHERS

[Learn more and apply today.](#)

*Charles Butt*  
SCHOLARSHIP FOR ASPIRING TEACHERS®

## CONGRATULATIONS!

West Texas A&M University named  
one of the new Raising Texas  
Teachers partner universities by the  
Charles Butt Foundation!



## TEACHING EXCELLENCE

# *Congratulations!*

Dr. Jenifer Kunz



For receiving recognition  
today at the  
Gallery of Excellence

for

Distinguished  
Innovation in Teaching



## Educator Preparation Program Achieves Accredited Status



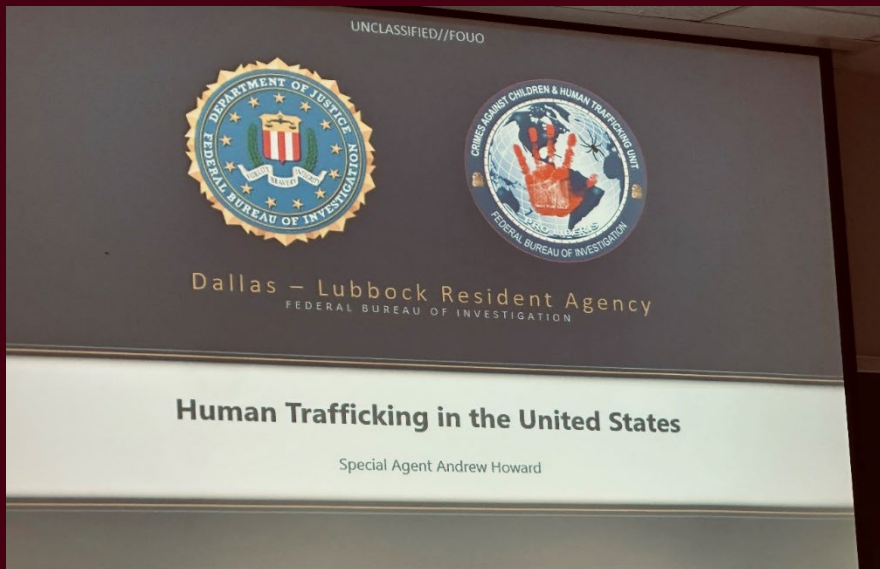
Dr. Betty Coneway, Dr. Geneva Schaeffer Professor of Education and Social Sciences and Head of the Department of Education received official notification on November 25<sup>th</sup> that the Texas Education Agency staff will recommend that the WTAMU EPP be assigned the following status under the Accountability System for Educator Preparation (ASEP) at the February 14, 2025 State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) meeting:

## ACCREDITED

## Criminal Justice Human Trafficking Program



FBI Special Agent Andrew Howard from the Amarillo-Lubbock Residency presented a program to Criminal Justice students on November 18<sup>th</sup> titled "Fighting Human Trafficking." Accompanying Agent Howard was Supervisory Agent Jeff Andersen.



## PROFESSORSHIPS

### New Appointments to Previously Established Professorships



Dr. Michelle Simmons, Bill Piehl Professor of Education and Social Sciences and Dr. Sang Hwang, Lanna and Bob Hatton Professor of Education were recognized for their appointments to their professorships in the November newsletter. Now that the [press release](#) is out, I wanted you to have the opportunity to read it.

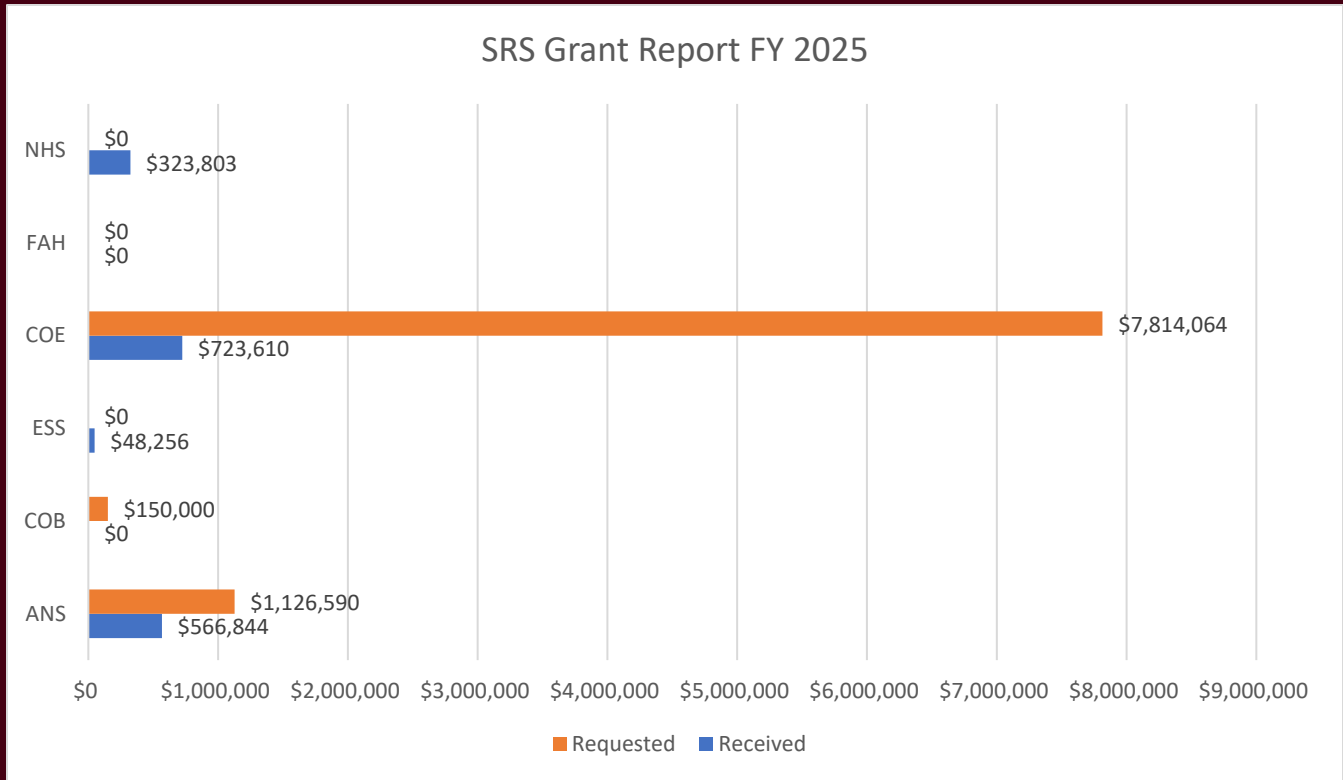
RESEARCH

A green banner with white text. On the left is a large '20' with 'TH ANNUAL' in smaller text to its right. In the center, the text reads 'FACULTY and STUDENT RESEARCH POSTER SESSION and Research Fair'. On the right, it says 'MARCH SIXTH 2025'.

# GRANT FUNDING

## Sponsored Research Services Grant Report

Steve McLean, Director of Sponsored Research Services, reported the following for FY 2025:



Note: FY 2025 proposal and award activity spans September 1 through November 30, 2024

### Considerations When Applying for Grants

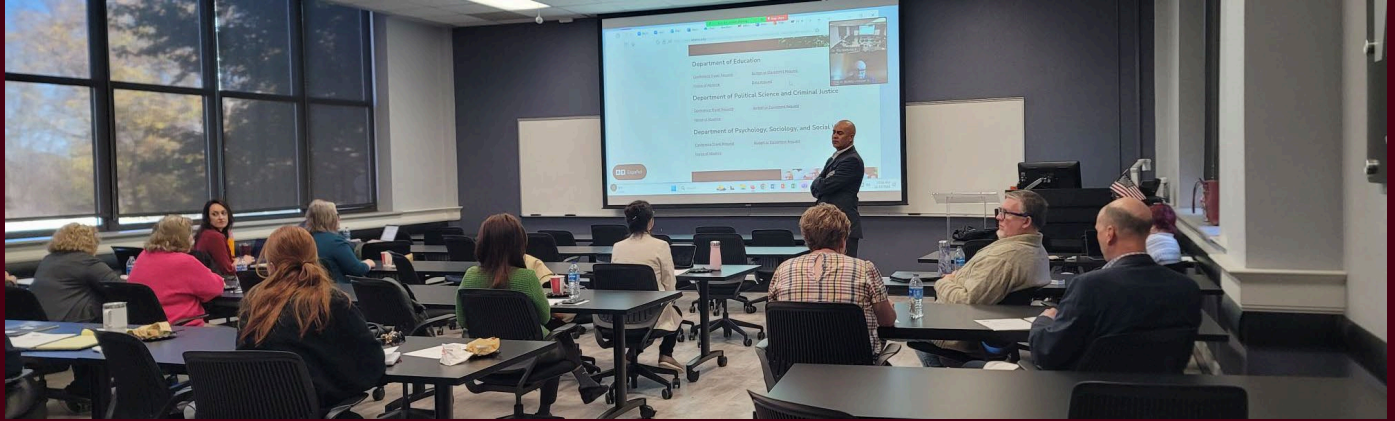
When applying for external grants, please recognize that one or more institutional components will typically need to be consulted before the application is submitted. All external research grants should “flow” through SRS. Most non-research grants should “flow” through the Office of Philanthropy and External Relations. In most cases, grants that do not flow through SRS or Philanthropy are considered private enterprise and the awardee will not be allowed to use university resources while fulfilling work funded by the grant. Moreover, tax implications typically accompany direct payment to the awardee vs. funding the flow through the university processes. Employment of the university resources (aka offices) may result in larger awards than can be secured by individual faculty members.

While I acknowledge that there are smaller grant opportunities that do not lend themselves to the larger university processes, I strongly urge you to check before applying, regardless of the size of the grant. The resources are in place for your benefit and your success. Why not use them?



## FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

### Induction and Mentoring Committee Convenes Tenure-Track Faculty

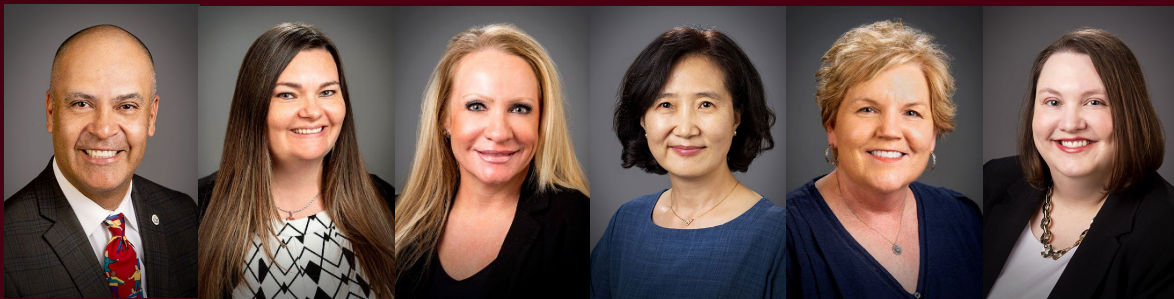


The first convening of the TBRCOESS tenure-track faculty by the Induction and Mentoring committee was on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

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The purpose of the Induction and Mentoring Committee is to facilitate a seamless and supportive transition for new members to the Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences (TBRCOESS). This committee is dedicated to creating a structured induction process that ensures that new faculty are integrated into the community, understand organizational values, and have access to essential resources. Additionally, the committee strives to provide meaningful mentoring relationships, pairing experienced members with new faculty to foster professional growth, skill development, and a sense of belonging. Through these efforts, the committee aims to cultivate a positive and inclusive organizational culture that promotes long-term engagement and success for all members.

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Members of the Induction and Mentoring Committee

## PHILANTHROPY

Save the date for the Bobble Head pickup and donor reception for all participants in this year's I Am WT Faculty and Staff campaign! The event is at the Fairly Group Club in the Bain-Schaeffer Buffalo Stadium on Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. This come and go event starts at 2:00 and ends at 4:00.

# BOBBLE HEAD PICKUP

**Come pick up your bobble head  
and join us for a donor celebration!**

**Thursday, December 12th  
2 - 4pm | Fairly Group Club  
Bain-Schaeffer Buffalo Stadium**

**I Am WT**  
*Faculty and Staff*



*I Am WT* provides a venue for WT employees to support One West efforts in meeting the \$175 M goal. Consider participating today!

**Faculty / Staff Payroll Deduction**

<https://www.wtamu.edu/one-west/give.html>

# STUDENT RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION EFFORTS

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE



**WTAMU ONLINE  
OPEN HOUSE  
BSW PROGRAM**



**NOV 14, NOV 21  
& DEC 05**  
10:00am-10:45am  
via Zoom Meeting

Join us to learn more about the Social Work Program at WTAMU!

- CSWE accredited since 1975
- What is Social Work?
- Where do Social Workers work?
- WT Online & In-Person Classes
- Broad range of Career Options in SW.
- Program Credits (B.A vs B.S)
- SW pathway to become a Therapist!
- Broad range of Career Options
- Internship & Professional preparedness
- Q&A Forum

*See you there!*



**AC to WT**

**Transfer**



## SERVANT LEADERSHIP

### Dr. Kassi Gregory Assumes President-Elect Position of TASP



Congratulations to Dr. Kassi Gregory, Assistant Professor of School Psychology, who now serves as President-Elect of the Texas Association of School Psychologists (TASP). Dr. Gregory was elected to the leadership position of this state organization at their fall convening in Allen Texas on November 7-9. According to information printed on the [TASP website](#), “The Texas Association of School Psychologists is a professional organization that supports and advocates for school psychologists having a positive impact on school systems to improve academic skills, social-emotional functioning, and mental-behavioral health for all students.”



# OUTREACH

## Center for Learning Disabilities

The Center for Learning Disabilities (CLD) hosts Community Workshops throughout the academic year. The line-up for 2024-2025 is as follows:

February 3	Legal Issues and Special Populations
March 3	Practical Tips to Support Students with Learning Differences at Home
April 7	Differentiation in the Classroom for Students with Learning Differences
May 5	Transition to College Panel: Advocacy and Recommendations from College Students' Lived Experiences

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

## COCOA & COATS WITH COESS A Project of the ARMOR Committee



OVER 70 COATS GIVEN AWAY!

## REMINDERS

### Last Class Day

Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>

### Dead Day

Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

### Graduation:

Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>



TBRCOESS graduation ceremony is at 2:00 P.M.

[Graduation Ceremony Information](#)

### Final Grade Reporting

Final Grades Due: December 16<sup>th</sup>



**9:00 a.m.**

**University Closed: December 24<sup>th</sup>  
through January 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Spring 2024 Semester  
First Class Day: January 21<sup>st</sup>**

## December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> May Graduation Application Deadline <hr/> Scholarship Application Early Action Deadline	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 11:30-1:30: COESS Christmas Come & Go Meal and Employee Appreciation <hr/> 4:00: Festival of Lights; JBK Legacy Hall / Pedestrian Mall	<b>5</b> Last Class Day	<b>6</b> Dead Day <hr/> 9:00: University T&P Committee Meeting <hr/> 11:30: University Christmas Lunch; JBK Legacy Hall <hr/> Deadline to Submit Final Copy of Thesis to Dean	<b>7</b> Finals
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Finals	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 2:00: I Am WT Gift Pick up and Reception; Fairly Group Club	<b>13</b> 2:00: ESS & NHS Graduation; FUB	<b>14</b> 10:00: ANS & FAH Graduation; FUB  2:00: COE & COB Graduation; FUB
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:00: Grades Due  1 <sup>st</sup> Class Day January Intersession Classes	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 8:00 p.m.: IT Maintenance	<b>21</b> 2:00 am: IT Maintenance
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Last day to drop/withdraw with guaranteed X	<b>24</b> University Closed	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> University Closed	<b>31</b>				

Academic Affairs Calendar

Academic Calendar (Registrar)

## January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> New Years Day University Closed	<b>2</b> 2:00: <u>IRB</u> and <u>IACUC</u> Submission Deadline Last Class Day	<b>3</b> Finals	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Grades Due	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 2:00: <u>IRB</u> and <u>IACUC</u> Submission Deadline	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Waitlists Close IT Maintenance	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Martin Luther King Jr. Day University Holiday	<b>21</b> First Class Day	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> Scholarship Application Priority Action Date

Academic Affairs Calendar

Academic Calendar (Registrar)