



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

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

# Monthly Faculty & Staff Newsletter

## Greetings from the Dean



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

The traditional holiday season is upon us and the time from November 1<sup>st</sup> to the last class day of the semester includes only 22 instructional days. Finals begin on December 7<sup>th</sup> and our college graduation is at 2:00 on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. If there is any truth to the old saying the time flies when you are having fun, I must be having the time of my life this semester! I hope your fall semester has been productive and enjoyable. Furthermore, I hope your holiday season will be filled with good food, fellowship with friends and family, rest, and hopefully some time to recharge for the spring semester. As with last month's newsletter, you will find this one to be equally lengthy, resulting from the extensive work of the faculty, staff, and students that make our college great.

### In This Issue

- Greetings from the Dean
- Why, Values, Beliefs, Vision, and Mission
- Assessment, Accountability and Accreditation
- Strategic Planning
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- Professional Service
- Calendar

### Follow us



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

## Our Beliefs

Moving from our "Why" in the September newsletter, to our foundational core values in the October newsletter, to our beliefs in this newsletter warrants another look at the golden circle. As we seek to understand why we do what we do, the answer lies in the center of the golden circle. Our beliefs are at the core of why we do what we do. I know I have shared this video before, but I now request that you view it through a slightly different lens, that being the lens of our college beliefs.



Furthermore, as we engage in conversations and activities around enhancing student enrollment and retention (see [October newsletter](#), p. 9), I challenge us to approach it from the inside out rather than from the outside in (3:18 to 5:00 in the video).

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

## Our Beliefs

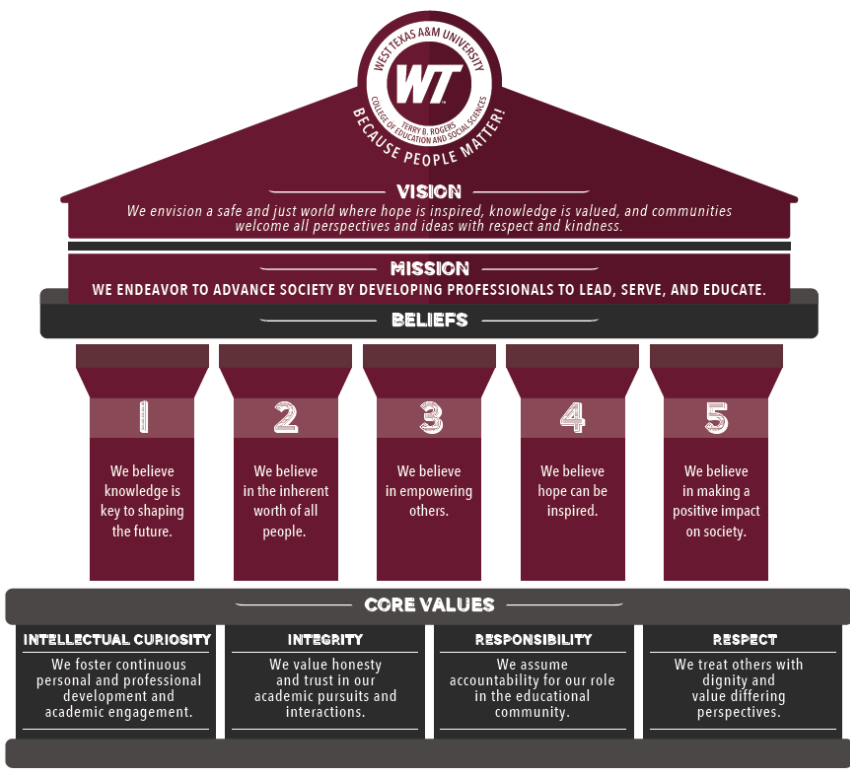
As I continue to walk you through the revisioning process the committee (pictured below) walked through, with our “Why” posted at the top of the model (see the [Sept. newsletter](#)), and our values (see the [Oct. newsletter](#)) serving as the foundation of the model, we moved next to beliefs (sometimes referred to as philosophy).

Philosophy is grounded in values and personal values influence professional values. Ashby & Krug (1998) asserted, “You must be able to express clearly and convincingly, first to yourself and then to others, the principles [values] so essential to you that no mistakes are made about where you draw the line” (p. 54). In an organization, the values system of the collective group shapes the organizational philosophy and beliefs. Ramsey (2006) contended:

No vision or mission statement is complete unless it is backed up by a well-defined set of commonly held beliefs. All organizations (including schools) become what they believe. It’s always important that everyone involved knows what these beliefs are. People can’t connect or commit if they don’t know what the school or school system stands for. (p. 20)

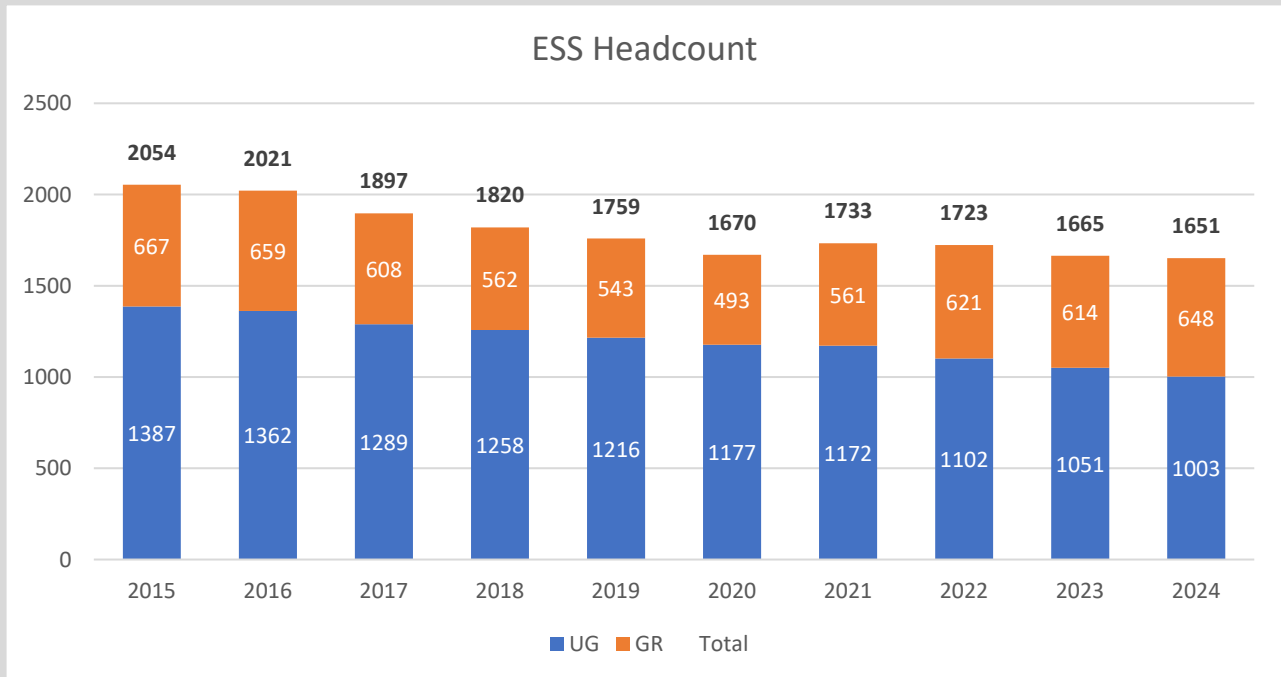
As a college within the university, it is important that our values and beliefs are in alignment with the university’s values. However, as a college with a focus on people and service, there is a reasonable expectation that our core values and associated beliefs as a college may have different, or more specifically defined meanings than those that may be more broadly defined by the university.

The committee members’ assignment leading into the meeting on beliefs was to email me one belief they wanted the committee to consider, that would be reflective of their individual programs or departments but couched within the larger context of the college. The conversations that ensued reflected a future-oriented focus on the work we do and its societal impact. The beliefs are represented as pillars of the model.

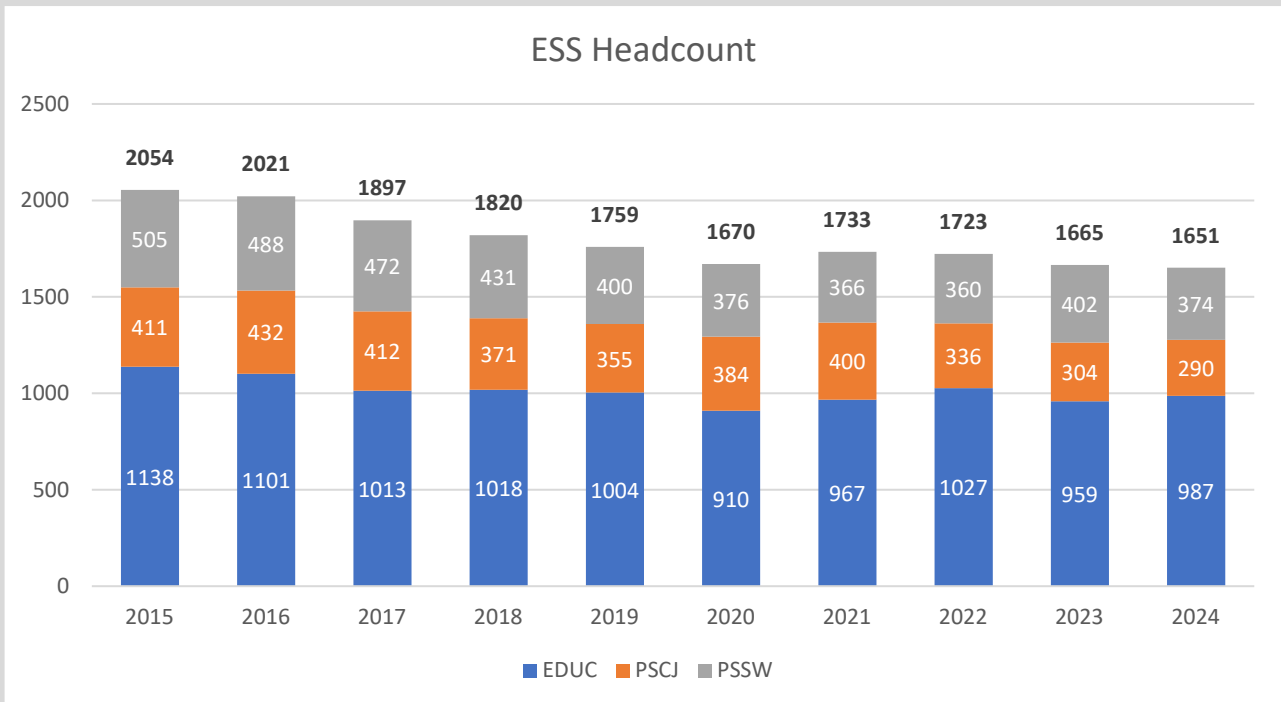


Visit the [Vision and Mission page](#) of the [Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences website](#).

## Headcount Data Reported at the College Convocation Meeting



Note the steady decline in undergraduates for 10 years, and the overall growth in graduates in the last 5 years.



Note the perceived impact of the COVID shutdown on headcount in 2020.

The unfortunate reality is that our current headcount is the lowest it has been in the last 10 years.

## COLLEGE ENROLLMENT GOAL

### Setting our Sights on Increasing Headcount

Hopefully, you recall from last month's newsletter the challenge I made to every program in the college to accomplish the goal of regaining the 400 lost headcount via organized recruiting and retainment efforts by 2030. From a cursory review of the [Headcount Dashboard](#) provided by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, we have approximately 20 programs in the college. Mathematically,  $400 \text{ headcount} / 5 \text{ years} = 80 \text{ increased headcount per year}$ .  $80 \text{ increased annual headcount} / 20 \text{ programs} = \text{a goal of increasing four headcount per year per program}$ . If you are so inclined to further break that down, this equates to only one student per SP, SU1, SU2, and FA semester.

The stated University and College goals associated with this effort are:

**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.

Last month I asked you to start the program-level conversations about strategic approaches to growing headcounts in your programs and departments, and our college headcount. Some of you have shared evidence of those meetings, and I believe that much of what I have seen holds real promise. Thank you!

As I pull from (a) Simon Sinek's video on p. 1, specifically from the golden circle explanation from 3:18 to 5:00, (b) our college beliefs, explained on p. 2, (c) the data on p. 3, and (d) the challenge to programs restated above from last month's newsletter, I am compelled to inquire about our messaging. Does our core messaging work from the inside out (why to how to what) or from the outside in (what to how to perhaps a vague why)? Is our core messaging such that it conveys who we really are, what we really believe, and why we are engaged in the work we have chosen? Does our messaging compel potential students, who believe what we believe, to want to join our cause?

In my attempt to apply Sinek's golden circle approach from the inside out, I separated the three rings in an attempt to convey our college-level message from the inside out. Here is my first attempt:

**Why:** 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:** 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:** We advance society by developing professionals to lead, serve, and educate.

Do you see similar applications for department and program messaging?

## EDUCATION PINNING CEREMONY

Forty Candidates Entered into Teaching Profession at 2nd Annual Pinning Ceremony

# 2024 PINNING CEREMONY



- Ctrl + Click on the graphic to view the video -

The second pinning ceremony was held for teacher candidates entering the Educator Preparation Program on October 8<sup>th</sup>. This new tradition at WT is a symbolic threshold crossed by teacher education candidates as they are formally welcomed into the teaching profession.



- Click on picture to access press release -

# PUBLIC POLICY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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

The Texas A&M University System Office of Academic Affairs is proud to support 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.

WT Political Science majors, Alison Sweeny and David Ortega were selected through a competitive process to be included in the Public Policy Scholars Program in the spring 2025 semester.

Alison is a Junior Political Science student with an emphasis in Legal Studies. She is from Spring, Texas and is a graduate of Klein High School. She is a part of Chi Omega where she is the Career and Personal Development Chair, the Attebury

Honors Program, Student Government Association where she is an Associate Justice, and the Pre-Law Student Association where she is the co-founder and Vice President. After graduation, Alison plans to attend law school with interests in agricultural, constitutional, and corporate law. After law school Alison plans to be a litigator and ultimately plans to become a judge.

David is a Senior Political Science student with an emphasis in Legal Studies. He is from Sunray, Texas, and graduated from Sunray Collegiate High School. At WT, he is a part of the Student Government Association, where he has served as an Associate Justice of the Student Judicial Board and now serves as the Student Body Chief Justice. David is also a member of the Student Pre-Law Association, where he is the organization's treasurer. After graduation, David plans to attend law school, with interests in immigration, corporate, and criminal defense law.



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
Public Policy  
Internship Program

# STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

## Pi Gamma Mu Recognized as a Star Chapter

The Omicron Chapter of Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society in Social Sciences has been recognized as a star chapter for membership growth. Dr. Dave Rausch, Teel Bivins Professor of Political Science serves as the chapter's advisor.



## Pi Gamma Mu®

INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

The mission of Pi Gamma Mu is to encourage and promote excellence in the Social Sciences and to uphold and nurture scholarship, leadership, and service.

October 03, 2024

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MELISSA RIGGS  
(UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GLOBAL CAMPUS, MD)

ELJANA VARRUCCI  
(WAYNE STATE COLLEGE, NE)

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Dr. John David Rausch  
West Texas A&M University  
2501 4th Ave.  
Canyon, TX 79016

Dear Dr. Rauch,

The Texas Omicron Chapter of Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society in Social Sciences at West Texas A&M University is a 2023-24 Star Chapter! Your chapter accomplished this important achievement by increasing its membership by 20% or more as compared to the previous year. We want to thank you for taking the initiative to induct so many deserving students into your Pi Gamma Mu Chapter in 2023-2024 and we encourage you to become a Star Chapter again in 2024-2025!

Your hard work to bring in more new members helps Pi Gamma Mu accomplish its mission to encourage and promote excellence in the Social Sciences and to uphold and nurture scholarship, leadership, and service. It is the collection of lifetime membership fees from new members that sustains Pi Gamma Mu and we thank you for your support in this area. Increasing membership in your chapter also benefits more of the high performing students at your school with opportunities for exclusive scholarships, publications, conventions, networking, and more. Your chapter's achievement has been recognized on our website and in the Pi Gamma Mu Newsletter. We want to thank you for helping to sustain the society with this certificate recognizing your chapter as a Pi Gamma Mu Star Chapter to proudly display on your campus.

Please let us know if there is anything we can do to assist you in your upcoming membership drive or other area.

Congratulations,



Suzanne Rupp, Psy.D.  
Executive Director

## PROMOTIONAL VIDEOS

Educational Diagnostician

FEATURED GRADUATE

Meet Brooke Odegaard, a graduate student in the Master of Educational Diagnostician program. Learn about Brooke and about our educational diagnostician program through Brooke's experiences.

Ctrl + Click on the graphic to view the video.



STUDENTS

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))



**Sociology**  
**FEATURED STUDENT**

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Meet Morgana Simmons, a Sociology major. Learn about Morgana and how our [sociology program](#) is currently serving, and will continue to serve her.

Ctrl + Click on the graphic to view the video.



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))

### Student Intervention Resources

#### Writing Center

Provides assistance for specific challenges encountered by writers and to promote good writing across disciplines.

#### Behavior Intervention Team (BIT)

Promotes the development of a healthy campus community at West Texas A&M University.

- Click on the boxes to learn more about these valuable resources -

## ADDING ENROLLMENT

### Doctoral Program Extends Invitation to 35 New Applicants

The Ed.D. in Educational Leadership extended invitations to 35 applicants to join its 7<sup>th</sup> cohort. With three options from which to choose, the invitees are expected to populate the pathways as follows:

Pathways	Admissions (Count)	Admissions (Percentage)
EC-12 Leadership	16	46%
Higher Education Leadership	16	46%
Business/Finance Leadership	3	8%

By gender, female applicants noticeably outnumbered male applicants.

Gender	Admissions (Count)	Admissions (Percentage)
Male	9	26%
Female	26	74%



Our Ed.D. program was recently recognized for excellence and affordability by EDDPROGRAMS.ORG, earning the #4 ranking for Texas's most affordable EdD programs in 2024-2025.

The core doctoral faculty includes Drs. Gary Bigham, Mark Garrison, Irma Harper, Eddie Henderson, Janet Hindman, Buddy Hooper, Brad Johnson, Vince Nix, Shanna Peeples, Misty Song, and Angela Spaulding (pictured below).



CHARLES BUTT FOUNDATION

## SCHOLARSHIP FOR ASPIRING TEACHERS

[Learn more and apply today.](#)

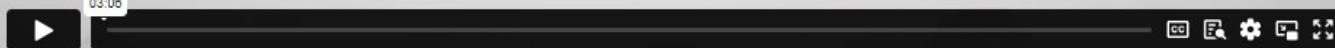
In conjunction with the Department of Education's commitment to preparing day-one ready career educators, through their partnership with the Charles Butt Foundation, new scholarship opportunities are now availed to teacher certification-seeking education students. The department has now achieved full partner status with the Charles Butt Foundation after engaging in a four-year rigorous improvement process in the Raising Texas Teachers Program. Our Education Department was one of six new partner universities added this fall semester.

About the Charles Butt Scholarship for Aspiring Teachers



Charles Butt  
SCHOLARSHIP FOR ASPIRING TEACHERS®

CTRL + Click to access video



CTRL + Click on graphic to read press release.



# ROGERS LEAD WT

## ROGERS LEAD WT APPLICATIONS

PRIORITY DEADLINE IS  
**FEBRUARY 9, 2025**

FINAL DEADLINE IS  
**FEBRUARY 23, 2025**



**240**

Total Rogers LEAD WT graduates



**\$1,000**

Scholarship awarded to scholars each semester



**\$179,000+**

Scholarship awarded to scholars each year



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT  
[WTAMU.EDU/LEAD](http://WTAMU.EDU/LEAD)

**WT** Rogers LEAD WT  
WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY.

Click on graphic to learn more

STUDENTS

## Meet Two of our Very Own Rogers LEAD WT Scholars



Anna Holcomb is a Psychology major who was born and raised in Amarillo and graduated Salutatorian of San Jacinto Christian Academy in 2022. After graduating in WT's May commencement, she will earn a Graduate degree with plans of becoming a School Psychologist. As an undergraduate, Anna is currently serving as president of the WTAMU Chorale, president of the undergraduate Psychology Club, and is a Rogers LEAD WT scholar. According to Anna, "Rogers LEAD WT is my absolute favorite thing I have ever done in my life. Getting to go every Friday rejuvenates me on the hard weeks and makes my week better. The people you get to meet along the way are so influential."

Kate Fortner was born and raised in Lubbock and graduated from Trinity Christian High School in 2022 in the top 10% of her class. Kate is a Criminal Justice major with a pre-law minor. She plans to work in the legal field or in city government after graduation. Kate is the secretary of the Pre-Law Association, an active member of the Criminal Justice Association, an Attebury Honors Scholar, and is a Rogers LEAD WT scholar. According to Kate, "Rogers LEAD WT has proven to be an incredible opportunity for me to grow as a person and as a leader. I am constantly surrounded by people who push me to be the best version of myself. I am so blessed to be a part of a program where I am known and loved on a personal level and get to pour into those around me. Everything that Rogers LEAD WT stands for, as well as the skills they are equipping me with are things that I will take with me for the rest of my life."



## EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM ADDED TO US PREP COALITION PARTNERSHIP

Following a rigorous application and interview process, WT's Educator Preparation Program (EPP) was recently added to the 7<sup>th</sup> cohort of US PREP's Coalition Partnership. The University-School Partnerships for the Renewal of Educator Preparation (US PREP) comprise us school-university partners with a common mission of attracting, training, and retaining high quality teachers for underserved communities across the country.

- Click on the graphic to learn more about US PREP -



- Click logo to access website -



# CURRICULUM

## University Curriculum

The University Curriculum meeting was held on Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. One hundred sixty-five curriculum items were presented and considered from Rogers LEAD WT and six colleges. Ninety-four of the 165 items (57%) came from our college. Department breakouts by university and college are presented in the table below.

Level	EDUC	PSCJ	PSSW
University	54/165 (33%)	27/165 (16%)	13/165 (8%)
College	54/94 (57%)	27/94 (29%)	13/94 (14%)

All curriculum items presented by our college were accepted without discussion or question. Congratulations to all involved in producing well-written documents that represented us well. Thanks, also, to Dr. Denton who presented curriculum items for all three departments in the college.



## SCHEDULING AND STUDENT PLANNING

Due to confusion among students regarding modality or location of some classes in the schedule, modifications have been made to better address class modality. The hybrid (blended) modality has been clarified to reflect it is an online course with some in-person meetings. The new modality is called Web-Based + Virtual Meetings (Synchronous Remote). This modality will specify that it is a 100% online course with required, specific online meeting days and times where the course meets virtually all at the same time. These will be displayed in Student Planning for students to know how courses will be offered.

### On Campus

EDPD*4340*01 +\$ CLASSROOM MGMT			
Seats ⓘ	Times	Locations	Instructors
40 / 8 / 48 / 0	M/W 1:00 PM - 2:15 PM 1/16/2024 - 5/9/2024	ON CAMPUS, Old Main 204 Lecture	Hart, S (Lecture)

### Amarillo Center (on campus)

PSYC*6340*01 +\$ SEM/HUMAN DEVELOPMNT			
Seats ⓘ	Times	Locations	Instructors
30 / 0 / 30 / 0	M/W 5:30 PM - 6:45 PM 1/21/2025 - 5/15/2025	Amarillo Center, WTAMU Amarillo Center 7 Lecture	Pinkham, A (Lecture)

### Online

Notice no specified meeting time.

EPSY*3341*70 +\$ EDUC PSYCHOLOGY			
Seats ⓘ	Times	Locations	Instructors
40 / 0 / 40 / 0	TBD 1/21/2025 - 5/15/2025	WEB-BASED, WEB ONLN Lecture	T. Bingham (Lecture)

### Hybrid (Blended)

Notice both the on campus meeting location and online hybrid notation.

SOCW*3302*70 +\$ CRITICAL THINKING			
Seats ⓘ	Times	Locations	Instructors
35 / 0 / 35 / 0	T 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM 1/21/2025 - 5/15/2025	Hybrid, Old Main 203 Lecture	De Anda, R (Lecture)
	1/21/2025 - 5/15/2025	Hybrid Online	

### Web-Based + Virtual Meetings (Synchronous Remote) course.

Notice it shows when they will be meeting online via videoconferencing.

CD*2373*72 +\$ SURVEY OF COMM DIS			
Seats ⓘ	Times	Locations	Instructors
20 / 0 / 20 / 0	M/W 1:00 PM - 2:15 PM 8/26/2024 - 12/13/2024	Web-Based + Virtual Mtgs, WEB ONLN Online	Mebane, H (Online)

## INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

### eBook Update

McGraw-Hill and Cengage support information was added to the dashboard of the WTClass Blackboard Institution page due to an increase in work orders from students requesting help with eBooks.

- Academic Technology staff do not have access to Cengage or McGraw-Hill systems and, therefore, have no access to assist with eBook issues for students and faculty.
- Quick access information was added on the main WTClass page for students and faculty having issues with eBooks.
- The contact information posted in Bb is the specified contact information for help and support as identified by the company representatives to Dr. Andersen, Associate Provost.

### Canvas Migration Faculty Mentor Program

- With Canvas as the new next-generation LMS for WTAMU and a launch date of Summer 1, 2025, a program was developed for each WT college to be represented by a Canvas Migration Faculty Mentor to pilot a course in spring 2025 and mentor colleagues throughout the migration process.
- Faculty representatives from each college were selected through an application process and communication with academic leadership in each college. Our representatives are Drs. Vince Nix and Alicia Macchione.
- A Canvas Faculty Mentor Kick-Off meeting was held on September 10, 2024. Topics covered included the selection process, roles and requirements, and phases of the project for faculty mentors.
- Four hundred students are included in the Canvas pilot semester. Actual course maximum numbers will be recalculated after courses go live in Colleague by October 31, 2024.
- Faculty Mentor Project Status: All 13 faculty mentors have completed the pilot course roadmap planning document for their first 3-4 weeks of the pilot course. They are all scheduled for their second meeting with a member of the instructional development team and will be working to build out their first modules in Canvas for their pilot course using the custom online course template.

### Canvas Migration - System Set-Up Status

- A hierarchy structure has been developed in Canvas to enable standards mapping for colleges, departments, and programs and to enable additional data generation, such as reporting for retention and other university purposes. Because of the development of this account structure in Canvas, roles can be developed at the college or department level to allow individuals specified by academic leadership access to college or department report generation without also granting access to courses.



- Most of the third-party vendors currently integrated in Blackboard, have been integrated in Canvas. The main exception is McGraw-Hill ALEKS, which is an eBook tool that can only be integrated into one learning management system – this is a restriction by McGraw-Hill. The Canvas integrated third-party vendors list includes but is not limited to:
  - Turnitin
  - Respondus LockDown Browser and Respondus Monitor
  - ILP (product that syncs information to/from Colleague)
  - Zoom
  - McGraw-Hill Connect and SimNet
  - Cengage
  - SoftChalk
  - Coursera
  - Pearson
  - Panopto
  - Brainfuse
- Roles have been created in Canvas to match the current roles in Blackboard. Additional roles can be created for college and department access levels for report generation. With guidance from the Provost's Office, a request system for those roles will be developed to ensure compliance with FERPA and other data requirements.
- Permissions for each role were defined by the existing permissions in Blackboard.
- Permissions for course dates and other system settings were set to sync from the approved WTAMU settings for courses in Colleague.
- Testing by the online support team is in progress on the following:
  - Sync from Colleague to Canvas
  - Add/Drops of students with sync
  - Cross-listed and/or Stacked courses
  - Grade publishing
  - Grade publishing of stacked/cross-listed courses
  - Course access dates for instructors, students, graders, tutors, GA/TA etc..
  - Extending access to students for grades of Incomplete
  - Turnitin
  - Exams/Tests tool – Classic Quizzes vs New Quizzes
  - Additional tasks are added weekly as identified.
- The WTAMU Division of IT purchased a premium Canvas implementation, which provided access to a Canvas project manager and team who came to campus for three days in July to discuss the processes for setting up the Canvas system. After the on-site visit, this team is available 30 minutes weekly for questions pertaining to the migration implementation.

- Also included in this implementation was one custom Canvas course template developed and created by the Canvas Instructional Design team working closely with the WT online support team. This process took a couple of months of back-and-forth, and the result is a custom Online Course Template that meets best practices in online teaching and is available for use by WT faculty in online courses in Canvas. This template includes an Instructor-Only module with course development information.
- A default course template was developed by the WT online support team that will be applied to all courses synced into Canvas from Colleague. This template includes an Instructor Only module with course development information.

### **Canvas Migration - Online Course Migrations with K16**

- The WT Division of IT purchased premium migration for 1000 unique online courses with “white glove treatment” to migrate these courses. This external vendor (K-16) migrates courses and helps reorganize content, check links, and more. This additional attention to detail in migrating online courses will result in a better experience for students when Canvas is live. It will also help online faculty by reducing the time spent working on cleaning up courses for content in courses that are delivered online.
- An algorithm process is utilized by K16, and 10 unique courses were identified to be used to test the algorithm. These courses were selected according to the following criteria:
  - Learning modules structure
  - Folders within folders structure
  - Grading rubrics
  - Turnitin assignments
  - Respondus lockdown browser/monitor for tests
  - Discussions
  - Instructional Videos
  - Expanded custom menu items
  - Cross-listed courses
  - Publisher content
- The most recent semester of each unique online course section will receive a “white glove” migration process by K16 to reduce the amount of time faculty spend reorganizing course content during the migration process.
- The first iteration of the algorithm was completed on the 10 courses and the online support team was tasked with item-by-item comparison to the course in Blackboard. Any item from the points possible on a test, number of test questions, links in the course, course layout, discussions, and more that was not correct was identified on a document hosted by K16. This review process took 2 weeks.
- Currently K16 is working on a revised algorithm for a second iteration that should be completed at any time. (4+ weeks)

- Once the second iteration of the course imports with the revised algorithm is completed and submitted to the WT online support team, the review process will begin. Any issues inside the second iteration of the migrated courses will be identified and reported back to the K16 team.
- This algorithm and review process will take place three times before the algorithm is finalized for the official migration of the 1K unique online course sections.
- Summer 1/Summer 2 will be the first semesters K16 will white-glove migrate – after the determination of one unique online course per Instructor in those terms (Unique = one section per course). This process is estimated to take place in December 2025.
- After grades are posted for the 2024 fall semester, K16 will white-glove migrate one unique online course per Instructor member from the 2024 fall semester (Unique = one section per course). Due to online courses currently being developed for courses with a new textbook from Cengage or McGraw-Hill eBooks or OER, the migration of the 2024 fall online courses will not take place until after grades are posted in December.
- Estimated K16 2025 spring semester online course migration—Any online courses not K16 migrated from the 2024 fall semester are tentatively scheduled to be migrated in May 2025 after grades are posted for the 2025 spring semester.
- May 2025 intersession online courses, not K16 migrated from a previous semester, are tentatively scheduled to be migrated in late June 2025 after grades are posted for the 2025 May semester.

### **Canvas Migration – F2F Course Migrations**

- In the premium Canvas implementation, purchased by the WT Division of IT, 5K courses will be migrated from Bb to Canvas by a team from Instructure Canvas.
  - The WT online support team will provide Bb zipped files of courses to be migrated along with specific data about the course ID, term and Instructor ID for each course.
  - Canvas support team migrations take 2-4 weeks.
- Additional migrations will be implemented by the WT online support team.

### **Canvas Migration – Faculty Training**

- Access to Canvas Instructional Designer live virtual workshops and tutorials included with premium implementation through December 2025. Easy access to the training portal from the “Help” link in the left-hand navigation in Canvas. This link is for faculty only and you must have an account in the WT Canvas system to access the virtual/online training.
- Growing with Canvas is an online course created by Instructure Canvas for the purpose of learning how to navigate in Canvas.
- Getting Started with WTClass Canvas is an online course created by the WT online support team for faculty to learn about creating courses in WTClass Canvas.
- Additional live and virtual workshops for faculty to be provided by the WT Academic Technology team beginning in February 2025. Training can also be scheduled specifically for academic colleges and departments.

## PUBLICATIONS and PRESENTATIONS

### Collaborative Publication Across Disciplines in the College

Dr. Shanna Peeples, Dr. John G. O'Brien Distinguished Chair in Education, and Dr. Nicole Kraus, Assistant Professor of Sociology have recently contributed to the field of rural education and rural sociology through a joint publication in a volume titled *Rural Education and Queer Identities: Rural and (Out)Rooted* edited by Whitten and Azano at Virginia Tech University.



Their research, that was previously presented at an international conference, explores the intersections of rural education LGBTQ+ identities, addressing critical issues such as safety, visibility, and value for queer rural youth and educators in schools and communities.

Drs. Peeples and Kraus hope this will be valuable reading for scholars in various fields, including Foundations of Education, Social Justice Education, History of U.S. Education, Education Policy and Politics, Queer Studies, and Women and Gender Studies.

Additionally, they will be presenting this research at the upcoming National Rural Education Association conference, and they are awaiting word from AERA on its acceptance for the 2025 conference, further extending its reach and impact.

They believe this publication reflects positively on the EDUC and PSSW departments and the College of Education and Social Sciences, demonstrating our commitment to inclusive and progressive research.

If you would like more information about their contribution or the publication, here is a link to it at Routledge: <https://www.routledge.com/Rural-Education-and-Queer-Identities-Rural-and-OutRooted/Whitten-Azano/p/book/9781032868240>



### Consortium of State Organizations for Teacher Education



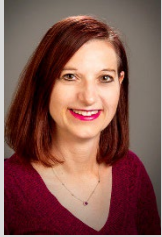
Dr. Eddie Henderson, Myra Raffkind Professor of Global Education and Co-Director of the Ed.D. program presented *Confident Leadership – Elevate Your Executive Presence* at the Fall 2024 CSOTTE conference in San Marcos, Texas on Monday October 15<sup>th</sup>.



## PROFESSORSHIPS

### Four New Professorships Added to the College

Due to generous philanthropic support, four new professorships were recently added to our college. Four programs in three departments benefitted from this support. Three Dyke Rogers Professorships were added, as was the Nancy and Kel Seliger Distinguished Professor in Government.



Dr. Maxine De Butte was named the **Dyke Rogers Professor of Psychology**. Dr. De Butte obtained her Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Carleton University in Ontario, Canada in 2004. She joined the Department of Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work in 2009 and holds the rank of full professor.

Learn more about Dr. De Butte by reading her [biography](#).



Dr. Jenifer Kunz was named the **Dyke Rogers Professor of Sociology**. Dr. Kunz obtained her Ph.D. in Sociology from Brigham Young University. She joined the Department of Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work in 1993 and holds the rank of full professor.

Learn more about Dr. Kunz by reading her [biography](#).



Dr. Judy Williams was named the **Dyke Rogers Professor of Education (Science of Teaching Reading)**. Dr. Williams obtained her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in language and literacy from Texas Tech University in 2012. She joined the Department of Education in 2009 and holds the rank of associate professor.

Learn more about Dr. Williams by reading her [biography](#).



Dr. Justin Moeller was named the **Nancy and Kel Seliger Distinguished Professor in Government**. Dr. Moeller obtained his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Georgia. As a faculty member in the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice, Dr. Moeller holds the rank of associate professor.

Learn more about Dr. Moeller by reading his [biography](#).

A [press release](#) about the three Dyke Rogers Professorships was made public on October 30<sup>th</sup> and a press release about the Nancy and Kel Seliger Distinguished Professorship is forthcoming.

## New Appointments to Previously Established Professorships

The departures of Drs. Russell Miller and Mikyung Shin at the conclusion of the 2023-2024 academic year left two professorships unfilled. Dr. Sang Hwang was appointed the Lanna and Bob Hatton Professor of Education, previously held by Dr. Miller, and Dr. Michelle Simmons was appointed the Bill Piehl Professor of Education and Social Sciences previously held by Dr. Shin.



Dr. Sang Hwang was named the **Lanna and Bob Hatton Professor of Education**. Dr. Hwang obtained her Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis on reading education from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2000. She joined the Department of Education in 2001 and holds the rank of professor.

Learn more about Dr. Hwang by reading her [biography](#).



Dr. Michelle Simmons was named the **Bill Piehl Professor of Education and Social Sciences**. Dr. Simmons obtained her Ed.D. in Special Education from Texas Tech University in 2017. She joined the Department of Education in 2017 and holds the rank of associate professor.

Learn more about Dr. Simmons by reading her [biography](#).

Press releases are forthcoming.

## DISSERTATION DEFENSE

### Robin Johnson Defends Dissertation



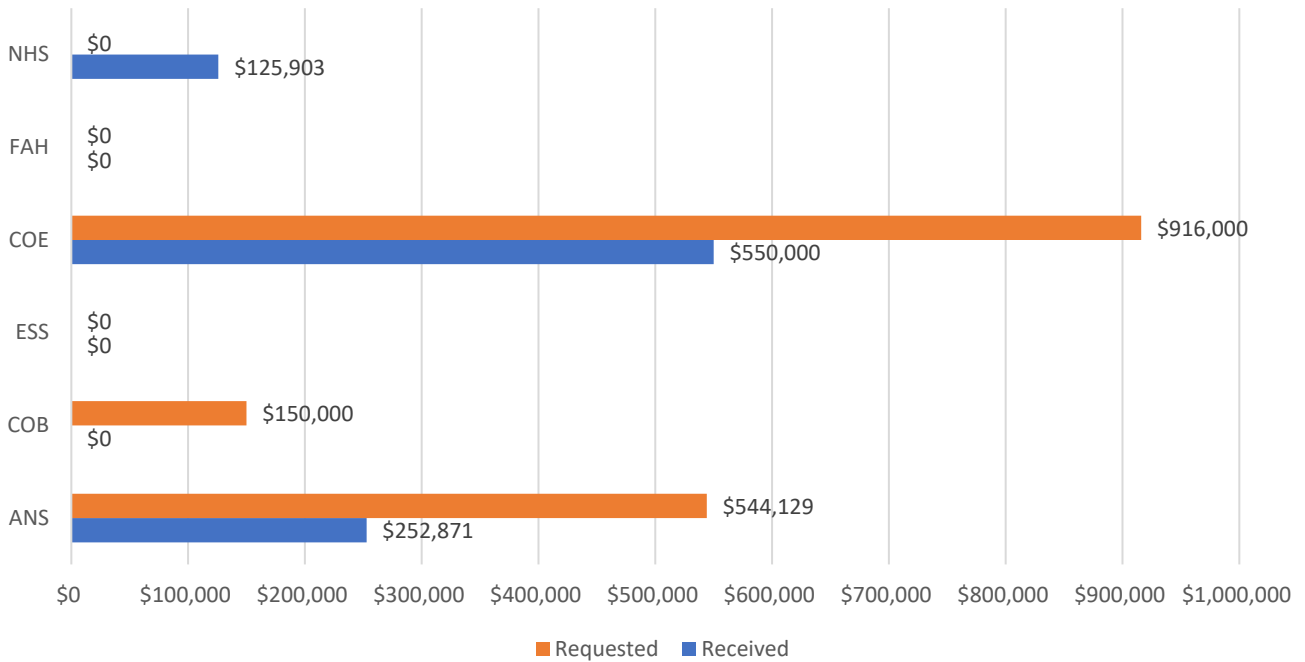
Congratulations to Dr. Robin Johnson who successfully defended her dissertation, titled *Utilizing School and Community Resources for Meeting the Needs of Gifted Students in Rural Communities*, on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Johnson will receive her Ph.D. degree in Educational Psychology from the University of North Texas with an emphasis on Gifted and Talented Education in December 2024. Dr. Johnson has worked as a part-time instructor for the Department of Education and is currently serving our Educator Preparation Program (EPP) as the Lead Undergraduate Academic Advisor. She will be moving from the advisor position into a full-time instructor role for the EPP, teaching EPSY 4341 Educator Readiness and Performance and serving as the Testing Coordinator/Remediation Specialist.

# GRANT FUNDING

## Sponsored Research Services Grant Report

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

SRS Grant Report FY 2025



RESEARCH

## Local Poster Presentation Opportunity



## COLLEGE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT



President Wendler's annual meeting with the TBRCOESS faculty and staff was on October 16<sup>th</sup>. His topics included the following:

- Student Enrollment
- Student Retention
- Local Recruitment
- Homeschool Students
- Embedded Associate Degrees
- No Cost to Students Textbook Initiative
- Merit Pay
- One West
- Texas A&M AgriLife
- Panhandle Plains Historical Museum
- Behavioral Health Workforce Initiative
- West Texas Water Resilience Center
- Multidisciplinary Research Facility

FACULTY AND STAFF

A graphic for Veterans Day celebration. It features a stylized American flag on the left side, with the stars and stripes appearing to wave. The background is white with a subtle texture. The text is centered and right-aligned.

**WT WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY™**  
and the **city of CANYON TEXAS**

# Celebrating Veterans Day

11 a.m. | November 11  
WT Veterans Memorial



## 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*

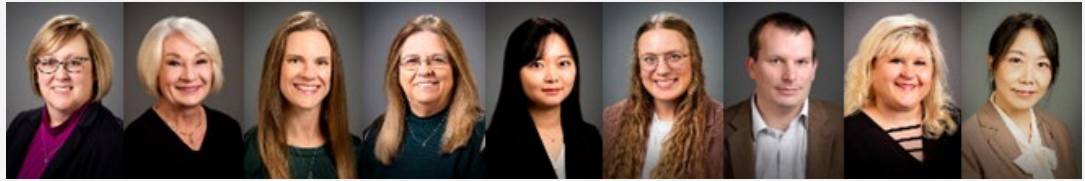
**I Am WT**  
*Faculty and Staff*

*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



## Notes from the ARMR Committee

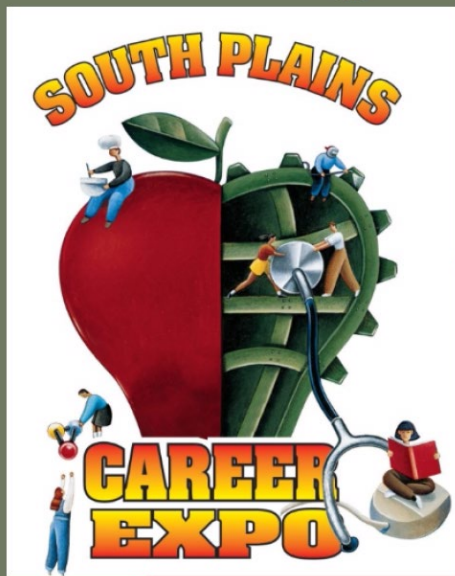
At the ARMR Committee's October meeting, a coat drive was planned in connection with a cocoa and cookies social come and go event for students in November. This event was designed as both an outreach and student retention effort. The intent is to enhance college community while providing for students in need.



Dr. Justin Moeller, Associate Professor and Program Director of Political Science and Nancy and Kel Seliger Distinguished Professor in Government recently attended the South Plains Career Expo held at the Lubbock Civic Center, where he recruited students for the Emergency Management Administration program.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

## 2024 South Plains Career Expo



**FREE COCOA & COATS WITH COESS**

11am-2pm Nov 19th  
Hazel Kelley Wilson Room (JBK)

Join us for Cocoa & Coats with COESS! Stay warm this winter with FREE coats and hot chocolate, courtesy of College of Education & Social Sciences. We'll also be giving away branded swag items like beanies and gloves—perfect for battling the cold! Come by, grab a cup of cocoa, and pick up some cozy winter gear. Don't miss out on this opportunity to stay warm and stylish this season!

More information: [amacchione@wtamu.edu](mailto:amacchione@wtamu.edu)



NO TRICKS, JUST TREATS

# CHARLES BUTT SCHOLARSHIP GATHERING DAY

Please join us for a Halloween themed informational session and voucher drawing on

**Thursday Oct 31st**  
**Come and Go**  
**10am - 4pm**  
**Old Main 415**

FOR ASPIRING TEACHERS IN  
 CORE SUBJECTS W / STR EC 6  
 CORE SUBJECTS W / STR 4-8  
 ELAR W / STR 4-8  
 ELAR SS W / STR 4-8  
 MATH 4-8  
 MATH / SCIENCE 4-8  
 SCIENCE 4-8  
 SOCIAL STUDIES 4-8  
 SPECIAL EDUCATION EC-12

Virtual **Q & A**

LEARN ABOUT

**Free**

GRADUATE SCHOOL

SMALL AND RURAL SCHOOLS  
SPECIAL EDUCATION SUPPORTS

*Meet Our*  
DIAGNOSTICIAN PROFESSORS

**Dr. Stephanie Hart**

**Rural Educators:**  
Learn About Becoming a School Psychologist or Diagnostician

*Meet Our*  
SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSORS

**Dr. Michelle Simmons**

**Dr. Kenneth Denton**

Thursday, November 14th  
6:00 - 6:30 PM

*Register Now*

**Dr. Kassi Gregory**

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION

## B.A./B.S. DEGREE

A traditional undergraduate degree. On campus or 100% online.

[Apply Today](#)

**Welcome**

Are you interested in a career in emergency medical services, firefighting, homeland security, or emergency management but don't know where to start? Or are you ready to start on your career path? A degree in emergency management administration (EMA) opens up a world of opportunities. Our graduates are employed in high-earning positions in a variety of fields and in both the private and public sectors. Within Texas, almost 200,000 Texans work in emergency management-related fields.

The Emergency Management Administration B.A./B.S. degree is a traditional undergraduate degree that can be completed on campus or 100% online.

Do you think EMA might be a good fit for you? We're here to help you achieve your goals and aspirations. For additional information, contact [Dr. Justin Moeller \(jmoeller@wtamu.edu\)](mailto:Justin.Moeller@wtamu.edu).

**EMA B.A./B.S. vs. BAAS**

The EMA program offers three distinct degrees. The Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) and the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) are traditional undergraduate degrees. The B.A./B.S. degree plans do not expect previous EMA experience or current employment in any emergency management-related field. The Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences (BAAS) requires students to have vocational, technical, or military training/coursework prior to entering the program. Most students enrolled in the BAAS degree program are practitioners and actively engaged in the field. The B.A./B.S. does not award credit for existing vocational, technical, or military training/coursework.

**CAREER OPTIONS**

High Paying. In Demand.

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

**FIREFIGHTING**

There are approximately 55,000

**HOMELAND SECURITY**

## OUTREACH



**WT WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY™**

**Center for Learning Disabilities**

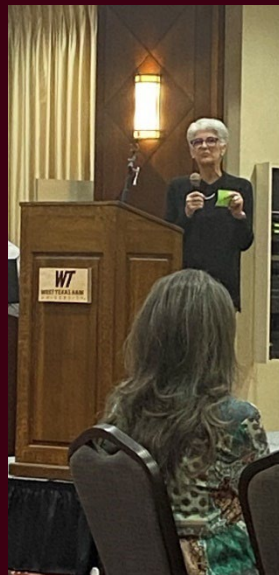
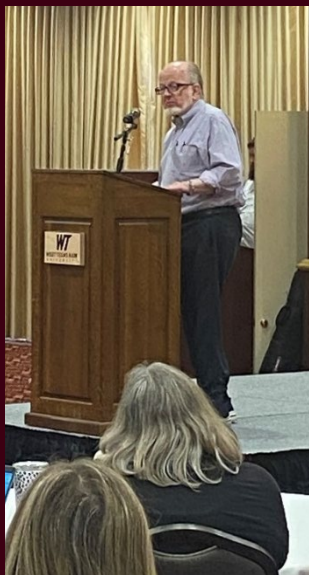


The Center for Learning Disabilities (CLD) hosts Community Workshops throughout the academic year. The line-up for 2024-2025 is as follows:

November 4	Technology and Students with Learning Differences
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

### 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Helen Piehl Distinguished Lecture

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Helen Piehl Distinguished Lecture titled *Understanding ADHD and Its Complications in Children and Related Disorders* was a highly successful event. With 66 in attendance in person and online, all walked away with a deeper understanding of ADHD and related disorders in association with their work with children.



## Criminal Justice Career Fair

On Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, the Criminal Justice Program hosted a well-attended Criminal Justice Fair in the JBK Commons area.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE CAREER FAIR

#### PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
San Juan County Sheriff's Office (New Mexico)  
Department of Public Safety  
Amarillo/Plainview District Parole Offices  
Canyon Police Department  
Randall County Juvenile Probation  
Liberal Police Department (Kansas)  
Midland Police Department  
Dallas Fort Worth International Airport  
Amarillo Police Department  
Randall County Sheriff's Office  
Kansas Highway Patrol  
New Mexico Department of Game & Fish  
Drug Enforcement Administration  
Law Office of Cody Pirtle  
Lubbock Police Department  
+ more!

#### DATE & TIME:

**OCT. 29TH, 4:00 - 6:00 P.M.**

**JBK STUDENT CENTER - COMMONS  
2403 RUSSELL LONG BLVD**

**WT** Criminal Justice Program  
WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

CONTACT [JBISSONI@WTAMU.EDU](mailto:JBISSONI@WTAMU.EDU)



A Project of the ARMR Committee

Terry B. Rogers  
College of Education & Social Sciences

# Winter Coat Drive

**Donation Deadline:  
November 15th @ 5:00pm**

Drop-off Locations:

- Old Main 420
- JBK 103

Look for the COESS  
Coat Drop Box!

The goal is to collect at least 50 new or unwanted coats to redistribute to WT students in need. For more information on how you can get involved or get resources, contact Dr. Alicia Macchione (amacchione@wtamu.edu).

**Please  
Donate**

*A New or Gently  
Used Coat to Help  
Keep WT Students  
Warm This Winter*

**COESS Thanks You For Your Donation!**

A Project of the ARMR Committee

FREE

# COCOA & COATS

WITH COESS



11am-2pm Nov 19th  
Hazel Kelley Wilson Room (JBK)

Join us for Cocoa & Coats with COESS! Stay warm this winter with FREE coats and hot chocolate, courtesy of College of Education & Social Sciences. We'll also be giving away branded swag items like beanies and gloves—perfect for battling the cold! Come by, grab a cup of cocoa, and pick up some cozy winter gear. Don't miss out on this opportunity to stay warm and stylish this season!

More Information: [amacchione@wtamu.edu](mailto:amacchione@wtamu.edu)

## Criminal Justice Human Trafficking Program

By way of outreach, our Criminal Justice program has provided, and continues to provide, student-oriented programs focused on current, relevant issues that include, or engage the community and associated resources. This program will be the third one offered this semester. In September, a program focused on drug addiction and recovery, highlighting the Fentanyl epidemic featuring DEA Agent John Beasley, was provided, as reported in the [October newsletter](#). In October, the Criminal Justice Career Fair brought potential employers from multiple agencies from across three states to campus to engage with our students. All of this, to be followed with this human trafficking program in November. Kudos to the Criminal Justice program for your continued outreach efforts and dedication to the discipline!

**NOV. 18TH @ 5 PM OLD MAIN RM. 220**



**FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING**  
***FBI SPECIAL AGENT HOWARD***

**WT** Criminal Justice Program  
WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

CONTACT [JBISSONI@WTAMU](mailto:JBISSONI@WTAMU)



## College Representation at the Maroon and White Tip-Off Classic

The Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences was represented by every department at the Maroon and White Tip-Off Classic held on the evening of October 17 in the Piehl barn at Bushland. As pictured, the Department of Education was represented by Dr. Matt Driver and his wife, Dr. Crystal Hughes, and Mr. Gilbert Antunez and his wife (who was representing the Sybil B. Harrington College of Fine Arts and Humanities). Dr. Nikki Kraus and her husband represented our Department of Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work, and Instructor Jeanette Arpero Bissoni and her husband represented the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice.

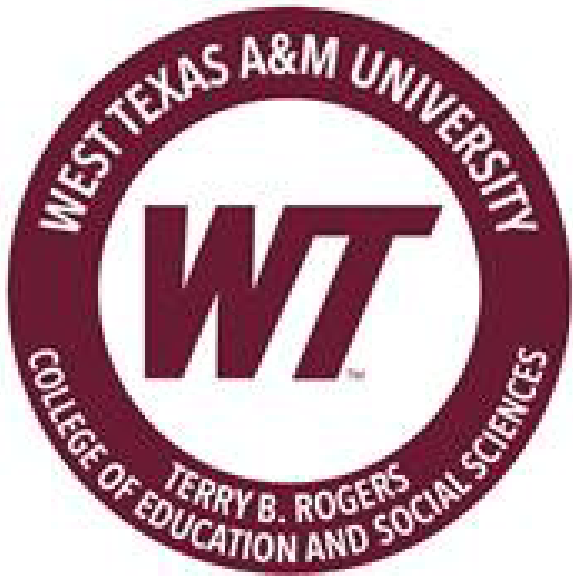


The Maroon and White Tip-Off Classic is an annual fund-raising event for the WT men's and women's basketball programs.





*from*



## November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> Registration Opens – Graduate Students <hr/> 9:00: University Curriculum Committee Meeting <hr/> 2:00: <u>IRB</u> and <u>IACUC</u> Submission Deadline	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Registration Opens – Seniors  CLD Community Workshop	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Registration Opens – Juniors	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Registration Opens – Sophomores <hr/> 9:00: WT Homeschool Conference – Happy State Bank Academic & Research Building	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Registration Opens – Freshmen <hr/> 11:00: City of Canyon – WTAMU Veteran’s Day Event	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Coat Donation Deadline <hr/> 10:00: Induction & Mentoring Meeting; JBK Thunder Room <hr/> 2:00: <u>IRB</u> and <u>IACUC</u> Submission Deadline <hr/> Dean T&P/3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Review Recommendations Due; Interfolio <hr/> 8:00 pm: IT Maintenance →	<b>16</b> University T&P/3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Review Recommendations Due; Interfolio  2:00 am: IT Maintenance
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 11:00-2:00: Cocoa & Coats with COESS event; JBK Hazel Kelley Wilson Room	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> No Classes	<b>28</b> Thanksgiving University Closed →	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

## 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)