



## 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

Happy New Year! I hope this message finds you rested and rejuvenated after the holiday season and ready to jump back into the important work we do. The spring semester offers a fresh opportunity to inspire and engage our students, support each other as colleagues, and continue the important work of advancing our mission. I look forward to remarkable things to come in the months ahead.

If you have questions, concerns, or better yet, innovative ideas and good news to share, know that my door is always open to you. Thank you for your commitment to excellence and your quest for continual improvement of yourself, as well as your discipline and the students you serve.

Here's to wishing each of you a successful and inspirational spring semester!

### 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 Mission

Grounded in our beliefs and guided by our vision, our mission is the actionable component that bridges beliefs to vision. Our strategic planning, budgeting, curriculum and instruction, etc. should be planned and executed to advance our mission. Our mission is to:

*Advance society by developing professionals to lead, serve, and educate.*

As you pause to reflect on the many undergraduate and graduate programs we have in three departments within the college, we are preparing large numbers of graduates as professionals to advance our society through their leadership, service, and education of others. In fact, we just graduated 273 more in December with Bachelor's (122), Master's (120), and Doctoral degrees (31) in education, political science, emergency management administration, criminal justice, psychology, sociology, and social work.

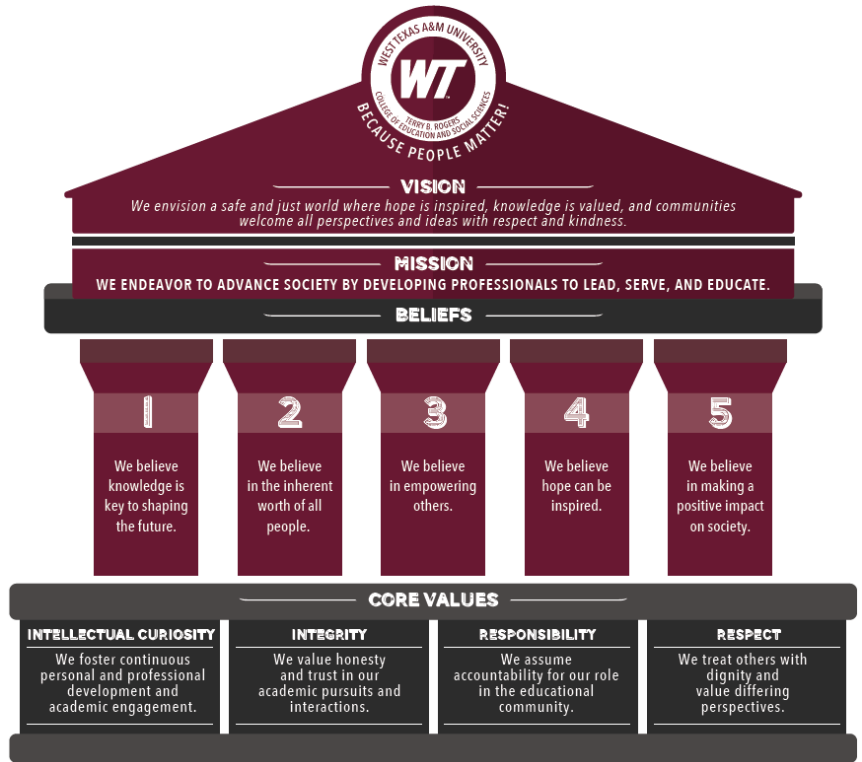
Never underestimate the value you bring to the table in the impactful work we do. Whether through your teaching, research, service, or any combination thereof, you are influencing individuals who comprise and shape our society. Your work in fulfilling our mission is impactful!

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

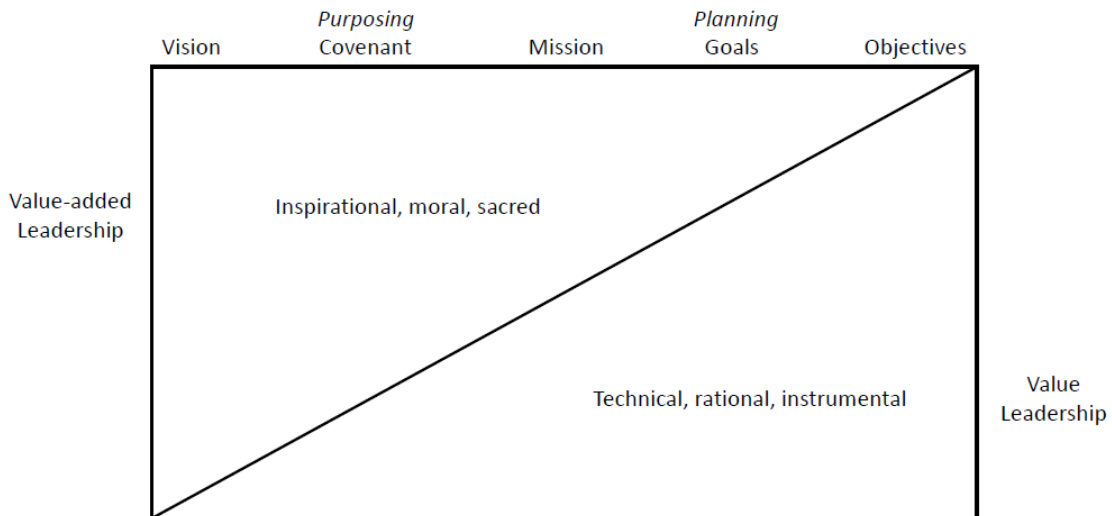
## Our Mission

Beliefs are 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)



The model depicted below influenced and guided the work of the committee in our revisioning work.



Note: Obtained from *Value-Added Leadership: How to Get Extraordinary Performance in Schools* (p. 58), by T. J. Sergiovanni, 1991, Orlando, FL: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. Copyright 1990 by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

As a college within the university, it is important that our values (and beliefs), vision, and mission demonstrate alignment with the university's. However, with a focus on people and society, there is a reasonable expectation that our values, beliefs, vision, and mission as a college may have different, or more specifically defined meanings than those that may be more broadly defined by the university. Consider the following in terms of alignment:

Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences	West Texas A&M University
<p><b>Our Why:</b> Because people matter!</p> <p><b>Vision:</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Mission:</b></p> <p>We endeavor to advance society by developing professionals to lead, serve, and educate.</p> <p><b>Beliefs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We believe knowledge is key to shaping the future.</li> <li>• We believe in the inherent worth of all people.</li> <li>• We believe in empowering others.</li> <li>• We believe hope can be inspired.</li> <li>• We believe in making a positive impact on society.</li> </ul> <p><b>Core Values:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intellectual Curiosity – We foster continuous personal and professional development and academic engagement.</li> <li>• Integrity – We value honesty and trust in our academic pursuits and interactions.</li> <li>• Responsibility – We assume accountability for our role in the educational community.</li> <li>• Respect – We treat others with dignity and value differing perspectives.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Vision:</b></p> <p>Guided by its pioneering spirit, West Texas A&amp;M University is recognized for its excellence in teaching and learning, and a strong focus on engaging students in experiences that aid in the development of skills, capabilities, and insights. Our vision is to become a Regional Research University responsive to the forces that shape who we are. Our distinctive focus on the people and places of the Panhandle region will be acknowledged throughout Texas, across the country, and around the world.</p> <p><b>Mission:</b></p> <p>The mission of West Texas A&amp;M University is to provide intellectually challenging, critically reflective, regionally responsive, and comprehensive academic programs that discover, interpret, apply, and disseminate knowledge for preparing the next generation of global citizens.</p> <p><b>Core Values:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic Freedom – We champion the free exchange of ideas.</li> <li>• Service – We put the needs of others first.</li> <li>• Pragmatism – We seek to apply what we learn for the betterment of community.</li> <li>• Innovation – We embrace better ways to shape the future.</li> <li>• Respect – We treat others with dignity which flows from the humanity of each individual.</li> <li>• Engagement – We promote citizenship and being part of something larger than oneself.</li> </ul>



# CHRISTMAS COLLEGE GATHERING

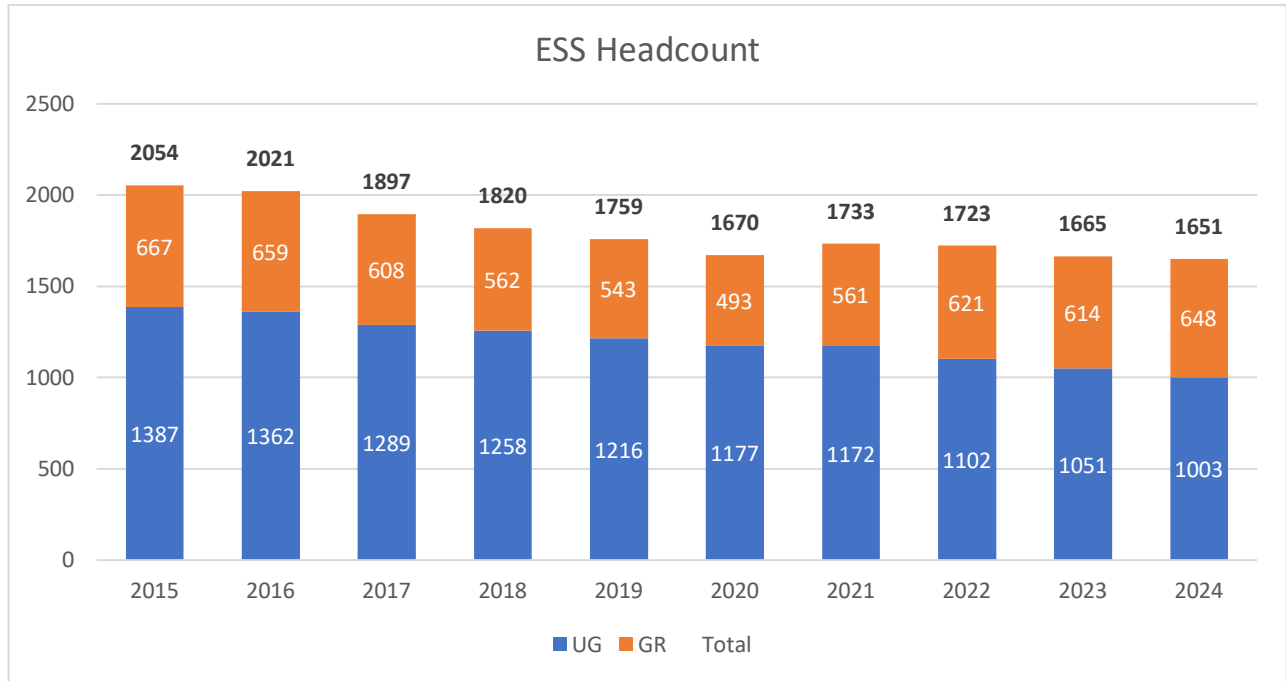
HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS



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

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

## Current Progress

Measured by weekly enrollment (not synonymous with headcount)

### December 2, 2024

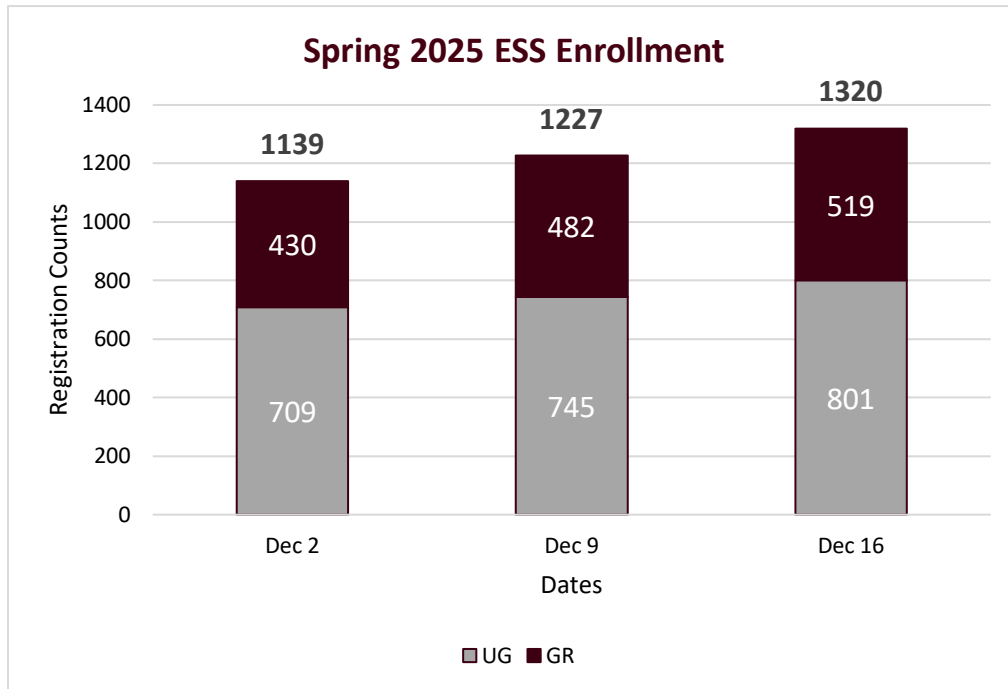
College/Dept	2023 SP	2024 SP	2025 SP	24 to 25 +/-	24 to 25 +/-
ESS	1281	1194	1139	-55	-5%
EDUC	750	653	616	-37	-6%
PSCJ	228	223	253	+30	+13%
PSSW	303	318	270	-48	-15%

### December 9, 2024

College/Dept	2023 SP	2024 SP	2025 SP	24 to 25 +/-	24 to 25 +/-
ESS	1387	1274	1227	-47	-4%
EDUC	798	706	678	-28	-4%
PSCJ	247	239	264	+25	+10%
PSSW	342	328	285	-43	-13%

### December 16, 2024

College/Dept	2023 SP	2024 SP	2025 SP	24 to 25 +/-	24 to 25 +/-
ESS	1446	1336	1320	-16	-1%
EDUC	838	756	733	-23	-3%
PSCJ	253	247	287	+40	+16%
PSSW	355	333	300	-33	-10%



## STUDENT OF THE MONTH

As a part of our student retention efforts, in conjunction with our goal to increase student headcount, we will be implementing a Student of the Month program. The student of the month is a \*new recognition\* opportunity for students in each department!

### STUDENT OF THE MONTH



TBR GO ESS

Each month, faculty and programs will be able to submit nominations for this recognition. A student will be chosen for each department and highlighted with an award and spotlight on the college website, social media, and in the college newsletter, culminating in a celebration each semester for all recipients. The criteria are a  $>3.25$  GPA and outstanding performance. Look for a link in the February newsletter to make your nominations!



## GRADUATION

### Degrees Awarded to Graduates in the Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences in the Winter 2024 Commencement Ceremony

Degrees	Graduate Count
Doctor of Education	31
Master of Arts	36
Master of Education	51
Master of Public Administration	9
Master of Science in Social Work	24
Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences	21
Bachelor of Arts	11
Bachelor of General Studies	17
Bachelor of Science	73

# 273 Degrees

STUDENTS

Degree Type	
Graduate: 151	Doctoral: 31 Masters: 120
Undergraduate: 122	Bachelors: 122

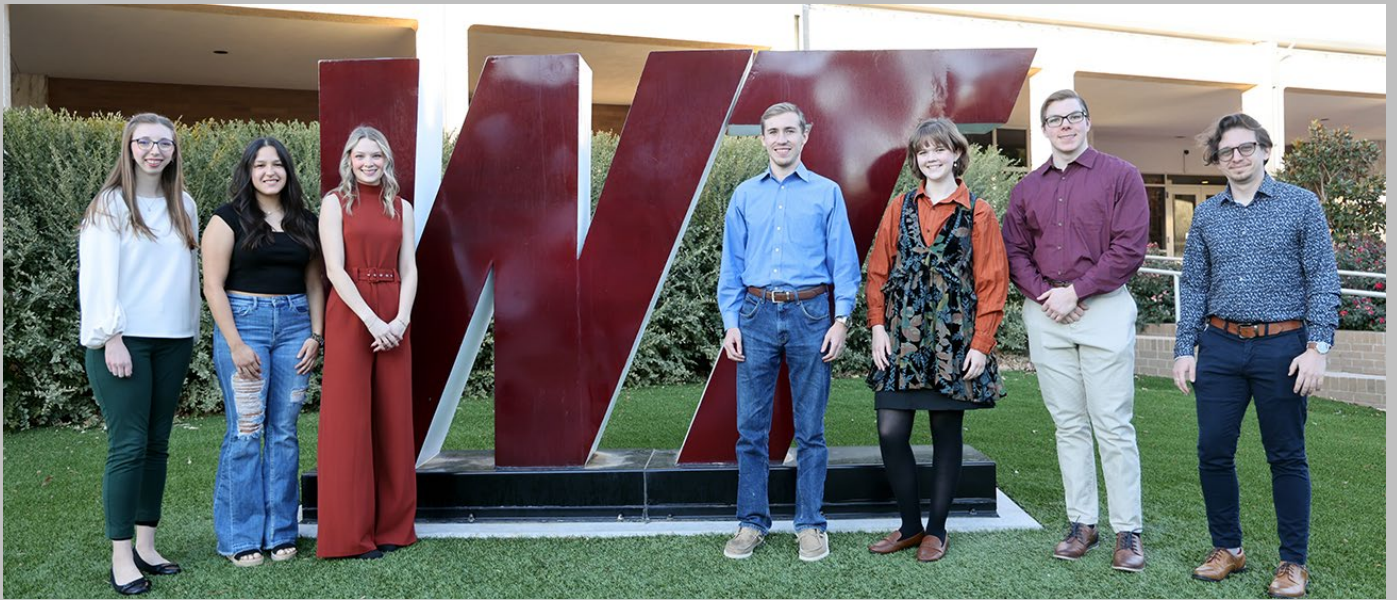


Geographic Representation	
By Country	By State
Australia: 1	
Canada: 1	
France: 1	
USA: 270	
	California: 4
	Colorado: 4
	Georgia: 1
	Louisiana: 1
	Missouri: 1
	New Mexico: 7
	Oklahoma: 1
	Oregon: 1
	Texas: 250

For additional information, access the [Winter 2024 Commencement Program](#).



## Attebury Honors Graduates



Two of the seven graduating Attebury Honors students represent the Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences. David Hardin is a psychology major from Clyde. He studied the gene that regulated the circadian clock. Elaina Robinson is an education major from Amarillo. She investigated the challenges of multilingual elementary students. Read the December 6, 2024 [press release](#).

## Honorary Doctorate



Connie Wootton, longtime and distinguished regional educator, was awarded an honorary doctorate at the Winter Commencement ceremony. Read the December 11, 2024 [press release](#).



# STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

## Education

### FEATURED STUDENT



STUDENTS

Derrick Mercado, a Bilingual Teacher at T.M. Clark Elementary School in Portland, Texas and Graduate Education student at WT, received a grant from Amplify Come Alive to transform his Bilingual classroom after being inspired in his coursework. Derrick's email notifying Dr. Beth Garcia, Sylvia Nugent Professor of ESL and Bilingual Education, of this award read:

I just wanted to email you and thank you for inspiring me. Shortly after our TELPAS module, I realized how much our bilingual students lacked when it came to support. The biggest barrier was vocabulary. Words that students knew in their first language were lost in their second. I wrote a grant, "Amplify Come Alive", with the purpose of transforming classrooms to make the setting of our units alive in our classroom.

Today I received news that my grant was accepted, approved, and awarded!

Thank you for inspiring me and teaching me so much!

## Teacher Troupe



STUDENTS

Karla Salazar and Taylor McFaul, senior education majors, created the Teacher Troupe. The troupe is an organization for WT education majors from all programs in education that need help navigating the EPP and education department. Teacher Troupe offers guidance and direction on certification testing, teacher educator information, updates in the department, and most importantly building a sense of community. Karla's and Taylor's message to fellow education majors is:

*We would love to help you as you go through your journey to becoming the excellent teacher that we know you can be.*

Dr. Amy Calson is serving as their advisor.



Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership  
**FEATURED GRADUATES**

Ctrl + Click on the graphics to view student testimonials.

STUDENTS

*Khara Skidgel*

Ed.D.  
Educational Leadership  
West Texas A&M University  
2024



*Michael Haynes*

Ed.D.  
Educational Leadership  
West Texas A&M University  
2024



*Amberly Winningham*

Ed.D.  
Educational Leadership  
West Texas A&M University  
2024





## TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Dr. Justin Moeller, Nancy and Kel Seliger Distinguished Professor in Government, taught a dual credit section of POSC 2305 to 53 area high school students in the fall. At the conclusion of the semester, Allison Kleman, Senior Communications Specialist in the Office of Enrollment Management sent the following email to Dr. Moeller. It is confirmation of our steadfast commitment to instructional excellence in the Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences.

Dr. Moeller,

I wanted you to know that I have heard AMAZING things about you from our dual credit students. When I was at the schools working on Spring registration, they all asked "Is Dr. Moeller teaching Economics?!" and were very sad to hear you would not be. They have REALLY enjoyed you and your class!

Thank you for all the effort you have put into connecting with these students. You are making a difference!

Have a happy Friday and a wonderful weekend!

**WT** **ALLISON KLEMAN**  
ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT  
Senior Communications Specialist  
akleman@wtamu.edu | 806.651.0018

Other faculty shouldering dual credit loads are Dr. Nikki Kraus, who had seven dual credit students in SOCI 1301 in the fall, and Dr. Steven Hubbard, who will be welcoming 19 dual credit students (last count) to PSYC 2301 this spring.



## Student Evaluations

Students are encouraged to evaluate their courses and instructors at the conclusion of each semester. IOTA reported 3155 responses to 6011 total evaluations resulting in a 52.49% response rate in our college. Aggregated data to the course and instructor prompts are compiled in the table below for the university, our college, and the three departments within our college.

Course Evaluation Prompts		WT	ESS	EDUC	PSCJ	PSSW
1	This course increased my knowledge in the field.	3.56	3.62	3.68	3.52	3.60
2	Course content was consistent with course objectives.	3.61	3.65	3.71	3.58	3.63
3	I would recommend this course to a friend.	3.47	3.54	3.61	3.45	3.50
Instructor Evaluation Prompts						
1	My instructor communicated effectively with students.	3.55	3.59	3.63	3.55	3.57
2	My instructor encouraged critical thinking and/or appreciation for the subject.	3.60	3.65	3.69	3.56	3.65
3	My instructor used teaching methods that enhanced my learning.	3.46	3.52	3.60	3.41	3.48
4	My instructor explained the course's content clearly.	3.50	3.56	3.60	3.52	3.53
5	My instructor used effective examples and illustrations.	3.54	3.58	3.62	3.51	3.56
6	I would take another course from this instructor.	3.49	3.55	3.62	3.45	3.52

Note that in every area of measurement, the ESS mean exceeds the university mean. There are obviously several ways to interpret these findings. However, I am optimistically surmising that these numbers speak to the level of the quality of education students are receiving from the Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences. Thanks to each of you for your contributions to teaching excellence.

## ECU Buff \$mart Financial Bootcamp

The ECU Buff \$mart Team and the Alumni Association wanted to share with you an exciting opportunity for students this spring—*Advanced Money Management Bootcamp*.

This bootcamp is designed to help students enhance their financial literacy and develop essential skills for managing money in today's world. The sessions will cover the following topics, providing practical knowledge that can benefit them in their personal and professional lives.

- February 4 – Building Credit
- February 11 – Home Buying, Car Buying and Large Purchases
- February 18 – Cover Yourself (Insurance)
- February 25 – Invest in Yourself (Investing)
- March 4 – Finances in Relationships

All sessions will be held at the JBK Legends Club at 4:00 pm and will have virtual options for online students. Flyers will be sent out in January.

**The ECU Buff \$mart Team is requesting faculty to consider offering extra credit to their students who attend the bootcamp.** Not only would this incentivize their participation, but it would also allow them to gain valuable financial skills that complement their academic learning.

If you have questions, reach out to [Meghan Williams](#), ECU Buff \$mart Program Coordinator.

## Apple Polishing Award Recognition

Mortar Board is a national honor society recognizing college juniors and seniors for their exemplary scholarship, leadership and service. Mortar Board's purpose is to:

- Promote equal opportunity among all peoples
- Emphasize the advancement of the status of women
- Support the ideals of the college or university
- Advance a spirit of scholarship
- Recognize and encourage leadership
- Provide service
- Contribute to the self-awareness of its members
- Establish the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas as individuals and as a group

This year, student members of the WTAMU Scribes Chapter of Mortarboard have: sponsored a 5k Fun Run benefit for Cancer, volunteered at a campus Blood Drive, distributed treats and books at the WT Trunk or Treat, organized an event honoring professors at Apple Polishing, read to students at Storybridge, contributed a tree to the Festival of Lights Tree Donations, cooked and served meals at Ronald McDonald House, and run a table for the community at the Festival of Lights.

WT Faculty Advisors are Drs. Elizabeth Clark, Ashley Morgan, and Nikki Kraus.

The Apple Polishing Award is a venue by which student members can recognize and honor faculty who have made a significant impact on their college experience. The 2024 nominees in the Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences include Drs. Reed Welch, Kal Demerew, and Sohee Kim.



**Thank you for the difference you are making in our students' college experiences!**



**MORTAR BOARD**

## West Texas A&M and McGraw-Hill Partnership

An email from McGraw-Hill in late December...

### Spring 2025

McGraw Hill is excited to partner with West Texas A&M faculty to provide your students with access to McGraw Hill's higher education catalog of digital course materials.

Please browse our Higher Education catalog of materials under Browse by Discipline:

<https://www.mheducation.com/highered/home-guest.html>

Digital course materials will be delivered via McGraw Hill Connect, ALEKS, or Simnet. For access to the applicable platform and to discuss your review options, please fill out this form, or reach out to your Learning Technology Representative (LTR).

Julie Blair, Learning Technology Representative

[Julie.blair@mheducation.com](mailto:Julie.blair@mheducation.com)

C: 806-241-3425

Fill out this form and we will be in touch:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/304681a3bc35460cb4c6b8aa28a46919>

To allow for successful set up and implementation of the product you have chosen to utilize with your students, **please ensure you notify your LTR, no later than January 7, 2025 with the product(s) you will be using with your students.** We suggest you schedule a time with your CSR to ensure your course is set up, paired with the LMS, and ready for a successful class start. Your students will not be able to access the materials until you have set up the content so please ensure this is completed before class starts.

WT Faculty member Robin Clark has recorded videos within WT's instance of Blackboard here:

[WT Connect Course Pairing](#) // Passcode: HK!&9k@C

[WT Connect eBook Pairing](#) // Passcode: HK!&9k@C

Additional Quick resources for Connect:

- Quick Video to access instructor resources is [HERE](#)
- Self-Help Resources to help get started on Connect can be found [HERE](#)
- Mobile App for Students and Instructors to access eBook offline info [HERE](#)
- First Day of Class Student Registration for Blackboard is [HERE](#)

Customer Success Training: [Schedule](#)

Higher Education Technical Support (for both Instructors and Students):

Phone: [\(800\) 331-5094](tel:8003315094) (7 days a week)

[ContactUsWebForm](#)

For additional resources on ALEKS, Simnet, or additional resources on Connect, please reach out to your LTR.



## Bb to Canvas Migration

### Tentative Schedule of Events

Event Info	Date Scheduled (some dates may be tentative)
2024 SU1, SU2, Fall Courses breakdown and Zip files submitted to Canvas Support for migration from Bb to Canvas.	Tuesday, December 17, 2024
2024 SU1, SU2, Fall online Courses breakdown submitted to K16 for migration from Bb to Canvas.	Thursday, December 19, 2024
2024 SU1, SU2, Fall courses to be migrated to Canvas by vendors	Last week of January 2025
Update to Dean's Council on Migration	Monday, January 6, 2025
Spring pilot students to be notified and get access to Canvas (sync of Colleague and Canvas) and added for access to early training in the <i>Passport to Canvas</i> course.	Monday, January 6, 2025
Spring pilot – students get access to pilot Canvas course.	Thursday, January 16, 2025
Spring pilot first day of classes	Tuesday, January 21, 2025
First sessions of open faculty training available for registration in Trumba	January 6, 2025
Faculty Training begins	First week of February 2025
Review/Comparison of 2025SP courses for compiling migration lists to send to Deans	By end of February 2025

Event Info	Date Scheduled (some dates may be tentative)
Review of the process for K16 Archiving all course content and student submissions in the Blackboard system.	By end of February 2025
Analyze active community groups in Blackboard and develop a plan for moving forward with Canvas.	Beginning end of March 2025
File request with Blackboard for course content zip files for 2025SP semester.	May 9, 2025
Migration of 2025SP courses by Canvas and K16 breakdown and zip files to vendors by	May 16, 2025
Go Live with all courses in Canvas for 2025SU1.	May 30, 2025 (5 days before the semester begins)
2025 May courses to be migrated.	June 2025



In preparation for the transition from Blackboard to Canvas, faculty members were carefully screened and selected to serve as mentors to colleagues within each of the academic colleges. The role of mentors is to learn the Canvas system as an early adopter, prepare and teach a course in Canvas in the Spring 2025 pilot semester, and provide expertise, assistance, and encouragement to colleagues in navigating the migration to Canvas. Faculty mentors for our college are Drs. Vince Nix and Alicia Macchione.



Additionally, to keep everyone informed and up to date on the progress of the migration, the instructional technology team has created a [dedicated migration website](#). This website will serve as a central hub for information, resources, and training updates related to the transition to Canvas. You are encouraged to check the site regularly as we transition to the Canvas environment. The migration website link is [Canvas Migration Website](#).

## PROFESSORSHIPS

### Nancy and Kel Seliger Distinguished Professorship in Government



RESEARCH

Dr. Justin Moeller has been named the Nancy and Kel Seliger Distinguished Professor in Government. Thanks to prominent civic leader Kel Seliger and his wife Nancy, the Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences has added this distinguished professorship to its growing list of [endowed chairs and professorships](#) in the college, now totaling 16 in number. Now that the [press release](#) is out, I wanted you to have the opportunity to read it.



**Proposal Due Date: JANUARY 10<sup>th</sup>!**

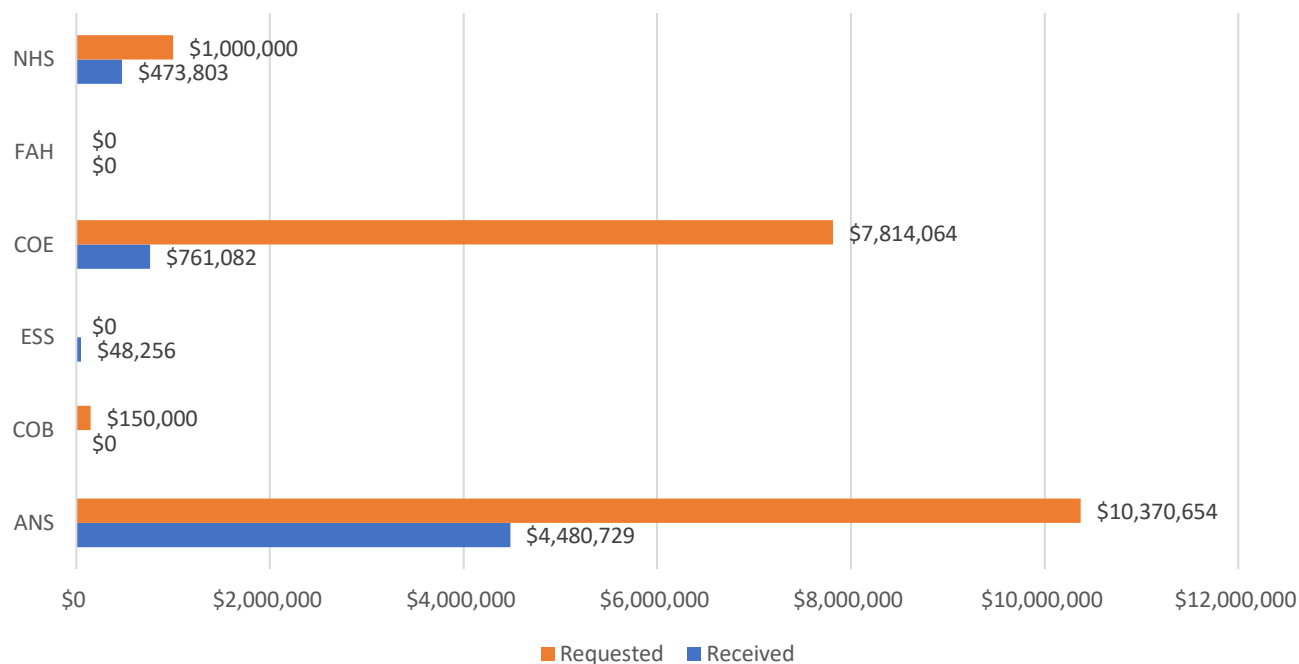
[Submit Proposal](#)

[Website](#)

## GRANT FUNDING

### Sponsored Research Services Grant Report

SRS Grant Report FY 2025



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

*Note:* FY 2025 proposal and award activity spans September 1 through December 23, 2024

### REMINDER: 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 it is acknowledged that there are smaller grant opportunities that do not lend themselves to the larger university processes, you are strongly urged to check before applying, regardless of the size of the grant. The resources are in place for your benefit and your success.



# Texas Higher Education COORDINATING BOARD

### Digital Learning Summit, February 11-12, 2025 – Registration Open

The Division of Digital Learning at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is excited to open registration and announce plenary speakers for the third Digital Learning Summit. This year's theme, *Choosing Agility: Adapting to a New Era of Innovation in Digital Learning*, explores strategies for building flexibility to thrive in an evolving digital landscape.

This free virtual event brings together colleagues from across Texas and beyond to explore cutting-edge trends transforming higher education and will be headlined by nationally acclaimed thought leaders:

- [Bryan Alexander](#), Ph.D., Senior Scholar, Georgetown University
- [Yakut Gazi](#), Ph.D., Vice Provost for Learning Innovation and Digital Education, Duke University
- [Todd McLees](#), Founder, HumanSkills.ai
- [C. Edward Watson](#), Ph.D., Vice President for Digital Innovation, American Association of Colleges and Universities, Co-Author *Teaching with AI*

[Registration and the Agenda at a Glance](#) are now available.

To enhance the virtual summit experience, institutions are invited to host live campus Idea Exchanges. These onsite events offer a dynamic platform to extend discussions from thought-provoking sessions, exchange ideas sparked by summit content, and share insights on digital innovation within your communities. A comprehensive Host Institution Guide will be provided to support successful event planning for those who [sign up](#).

We encourage you to share this announcement with faculty, librarians, instructional designers, administrators, digital learning staff, and other campus leaders who may be interested in advancing digital innovation. We look forward to your participation in this year's Texas digital learning conversation.

Visit [DLTX](#) to keep up to date on Digital Learning News and Events.

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Elizabeth Tolman, Program Director, at [digitallearning@highered.texas.gov](mailto:digitallearning@highered.texas.gov).

## Student Mental Health Support

The Texas A&M University System is collaborating with the JED Foundation to better support mental health across campus. A JED Foundation staff member will present a free virtual webinar to help faculty and staff better support students in distress.

Gustavo Molinar will be presenting The Jed Foundation's "You Can Help a Student" for all TAMU System schools from 1 to 2 p.m. CST Feb. 11. This presentation, titled *You can Help a Student: Recognizing Signs of Distress amongst Young Adults* is intended for any faculty/staff at any TAMUS school.

Participants will be able to:

- 1) Describe the mental health landscape of students
- 2) Identify signs of distress in peers, students, and self
- 3) Discuss how they can help when someone is in distress or experiencing suicidal ideation
- 4) Identify where to go when professional help is needed and know where to find additional resources

[Register](#)

If you have questions, contact [Chris Thomas](#) at or [Amy Andersen](#).

## Artificial Intelligence

### Generative AI in Higher Education

A Strategic Framework for Transformation and Innovation



DECEMBER 2024

### BIPARTISAN HOUSE TASK FORCE REPORT ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Guiding principles, forward-looking recommendations, and policy proposals to ensure America continues to lead the world in responsible AI innovation

Ctrl + Click on the graphics to access shared documents

## COMPLIANCE CORNER

### Train Traq Compliance

As a friendly reminder to all full- and part-time faculty and staff, including student workers, the following penalties will be assessed for being 20 days delinquent in any assigned training:

1. Graduate Assistants, Student Workers, and Staff Technicians will have their employment terminated by their department. They are eligible for rehire if the manager chooses to rehire them. The department will be responsible for the cost of a new criminal history check.
2. Faculty and Staff employees will have their network access removed until their past-due training is completed. Also, Faculty and Staff employees who are delinquent in their training at any time during the fiscal year will not be eligible for any merit increases.
3. Any part-time employee, including part-time instructors (PTIs) who are in training non-compliance, may not be eligible for rehire in the future.



FACULTY AND STAFF

Faculty members engaged in various forms of research are required to complete training as applicable to the kind of work they are doing. For example:

- Responsible Conduct of Research (applies to all)
- IRB – Human Subjects Research Training
- IACUC – Animal Research Training
- Biosafety Training
- Lab Safety Training

...and the list goes on.

Click on the CITI logo above to create/access your CITI account.

## PHILANTHROPY



*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>

## University Business

**\*\*RETURN KEYS you are not using\*\***

Help us help WT.

Please return any keys that you are not using, or do not know what the key is for, to the LOCK SHOP at your earliest convenience.

Sometimes keys are left in desks or other safe places and forgotten.

If you find keys, bring those keys to us so we can reuse them.

Returned keys can be removed from your key record.

The key guidelines link is included for your reference.



### KEY GUIDELINES

We are open 8 am to 5 pm

Monday – Friday

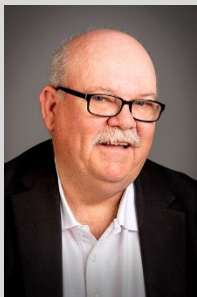
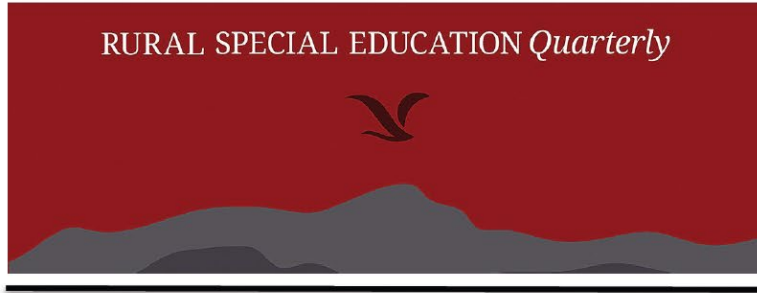
Old SUB 113

Call Krista at Ext. 2145 with any questions



## SERVANT LEADERSHIP

### Dr. Buddy Hooper Joins RSEQ Editorial Board



Congratulations to Dr. Buddy Hooper, Associate Professor of Educational Leadership, who was recently extended an invitation to join the Editorial Board for the Rural Special Education Quarterly (RSEQ) journal. Dr. Hooper is a core doctoral faculty member in the Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership program.

## OUTREACH

### Center for Learning Disabilities

The Center for Learning Disabilities (CLD) hosts Community Workshops throughout the academic year. The line-up for 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

## TASP Shining Star School Psychology Trainer

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE



December's  
Shining Star  
School Psychology Trainer  
Dr. Kenneth Denton



Texas Association of School Psychologists  
22h · 🌐

We're thrilled to round out the year by celebrating Dr. Kenneth Denton as our December Shining School Psychology Trainer! 🌟 Dr. Denton is described as tireless, caring, persistent, thoughtful, assertive and fair. Dr. Denton's selfless dedication to his students, colleagues, and the broader community demonstrates his commitment to making a difference and giving back to the field. Dr. Denton, thank you for leading with heart and purpose, preparing the next generation of school psychologists to create meaningful change.



About This Month's  
Shining Star  
School Psychology Trainer

Dr. Denton currently works as an Associate Professor in Psychology, School Psychology Specialist Program Director, and Associate Dean at West Texas A&M University. He has been an LSSP in Texas for over 16 years, with experience working in public schools in the Texas Panhandle before returning to a doctoral program and teaching as an instructor. He received his Ph.D. from Texas Tech University in 2016. Throughout this time, he collaborated with other leaders to grow comprehensive services in the Texas Panhandle from a few school psychologists to a wider network of professionals. His training and research have focused on behavior interventions, school climate, assessment/diagnosis and parent support/collaboration. He has taught courses and supervised students across the curriculum and domains of practice, with repeated training in assessment and law/ethics. He has also recently worked with the TASP Shortage Taskforce and the Trainers workgroup. It is his goal to build capacity in Texas for improving education and opportunities for all children and families. He hopes to improve care and support for those that care and support children – parents and teachers – ultimately building a future where children feel safe and valued.



## January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> New Years Day University Closed	<b>2</b> 2:00: <a href="#">IRB</a> and <a href="#">IACUC</a> Submission Deadline	<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> Faculty and Student Research Poster Session and Research Fair Proposal Deadline	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 2:00: <a href="#">IRB</a> and <a href="#">IACUC</a> 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>

Academic Affairs Calendar

Academic Calendar (Registrar)

## February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> Scholarship Application Priority Action Date
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 2:00: <a href="#">IRB</a> and <a href="#">IACUC</a> Submission Deadline CLD Workshop: Legal Issues and Special Populations APS due	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> Class Day	<b>6</b>	<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> Fall Graduation Application Available
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 2:00: <a href="#">IRB</a> and <a href="#">IACUC</a> Submission Deadline  20 <sup>th</sup> Class Day	<b>18</b> Greenlighting available for May, SU 1, SU2, and Fall	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> IT Maintenance	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Last day to drop or withdraw from <b>8-week</b> classes with grade of X	<b>28</b>	

Academic Affairs Calendar

Academic Calendar (Registrar)