Texas State University students, faculty and staff have done amazing things over the past year while weathering one of the most impactful pandemics in history. This has been a trying year, to say the least, with a global health crisis, a national social justice crisis, and a once-in-a-century winter storm in Texas. We have also experienced a financial crisis as many families were significantly impacted by the pandemic.

One of the primary ways that we can honor and recognize the great work all of you have done over the past year is getting our students back to Texas State, and returning the university to the growth that has been such an important part of our history. In order to get our students back, we must reduce the financial hurdles they face as the world comes back to normal. The federal government provided a variety of stimulus dollars to help college students and higher education institutions as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act or, CARES Act. The CARES Act is one important...
DATES TO REMEMBER

ERS Summer Insurance Enrollment
June 21 – July 23

Texas State Summer Insurance Enrollment
June 21 – July 3

July
Jul 4 • Independence Day
Jul 5 • First Day of Summer II
Jul 17 • World Emoji Day
Jul 25 • Parents’ Day

August
Aug 6 • Texas State Commencement
Aug 7 • Purple Heart Day
Aug 9 • World’s Indigenous Peoples Day
Aug 12 • International Youth Day
Aug 16 • National Tell A Joke Day
Aug 19 • World Humanitarian Day
Aug 30 • World Friendship Day
Aug 20 • World Day Against Trafficking in Persons
Aug 23 • First Day of Fall Term
Aug 26 • Women’s Equality Day

September
Sep 6 • Labor Day
Sep 7 • Rosh Hashana
Sep 8 • International Literacy Day
Sep 10 • World Suicide Prevention Day
Sep 11 • Patriot Day

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

FSS Quarterly Team – April 2020

UPD Dispatch Team - Carrie Solitto, Jennifer Paterson, Jimmy Hicks, Eric Marsh, Chelsey Bogner, Adrianna Lindsey, and Monica Suarez.

The UPD Dispatch Team improvised and didn’t miss a beat in responding to emergency calls resulting from the weather emergency. The team shared personal cell phone numbers to keep the lines of communication open with resident assistants, students, police officers, and even parents when power and phone service was down. Because of their commitment and persistence, UPD delivered quick and reliable emergency services during the weather event. Several team members stayed overnight on campus to ensure they would be available for their next shift.


The Utilities Team stood up backup generators to supply electricity to key buildings and the Jackson water well which provides water to most of campus. The team maintained system water pressure levels above minimum limits by manually operating the transfer pumps at the well house and refueled the generators around the clock by making trips to the Transdev Shuttle Maintenance facility. The multiple blackouts prevented the boilers at Central Plant from refiring until power was fully restored. However, the boilers at West Plant were operational when intermittent power was restored and the team focused its attention these units. Once the main boilers came back on, the team had to switch the load to feed steam to Texas State buildings, including residence halls. Members of this team worked long hours, stayed overnight on campus, and continuously turned the university power back on manually.

VPFSS

BROWN BAG

Have an idea... a question... a concern? Eric Algoe will host virtual monthly Brown Bag sessions on the following dates:

Wednesday, July 7
University Police Department
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug 4
Budgeting, Financial Planning & Analysis
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept 8
Facilities Management & Custodial Services
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
After over a year of quarantining, adjusting to working from home, and facing the fears that come with a global pandemic, our workplaces are finally opening up again. This change is exciting, but may come with some discomfort. We must keep wellness in mind in order to ensure a healthy return to the workplace. WELCOA recognizes seven areas of our lives that relate to our overall wellness. Below is a list of these domains and some tips on how to optimize each area of your life in the workplace.

**Health:**

This dimension focuses on the feeling of physical and mental strength and energy. During the pandemic many people have developed positive habits such as exercising at home, preparing home-made meals, and getting proper sleep. As the world returns to work, try to prioritize these habits and continue integrating them into your new routine. If you desire to develop a new healthy habit, start small and celebrate each victory along the way.

**Meaning:**

Having a purpose-driven life is important for your overall wellness. As you return to the workplace, think about why you chose your particular career and reflect on the impact you can make each day. As you interact with your peers more and more, take opportunities to connect and find meaning in your relationships with them.

**Safety:**

Learning to engage with others safely under the new parameters and boundaries of COVID-19 will take time. In order to maintain safety for ourselves and others, we must be self-aware and attentive to the environment around us. Respect others’ opinions and comply with the guidelines of the CDC and your workplace.

**Connection:**

It’s safe to say that many of us have been deprived of human connection over the past year. As we are now able to interact with others again, remember to respect others’ boundaries and set your own. Communicate your needs and concerns and enjoy the personal time that you are able to spend with those you care about.

**Achievement:**

In order to achieve goals in the workplace, it is important that you have the support and resources you need. In these changing times, employers are more focused on humanitarian concerns than ever. Use your voice to offer suggestions and have open communication with your employer and staff. This will help build a safe and supportive workplace where everyone can thrive.

**Growth:**

Reflect on the lessons you have learned over the past year. How can you use these lessons and newfound values to improve your workplace? Use these new opportunities to grow personally and to help your peers expand on their strengths as well. Changes are bound to happen in these transitions, and it’s up to you to make those changes positive!

**Resiliency**

In difficult times, our resiliency will give us the capacity to keep going and facing our fears. It has been shown that mindfulness practices can enhance resiliency by building self-discipline, awareness, and positivity. Develop a mindfulness and meditation practice and notice how it affects your daily mood and outlook on life. This practice could be as simple as taking 5 minutes each day to sit in silence and reflect.

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**BOBCAT CHATTER**

What was the last show that you binged watch?

Tia Carr
Administrative Assistant II
VPFSS

“Prodigal Son”
Gary Anderson
Parking Services Officer
Transportation Services
One of the Newest and Oldest (73 yo), Gary has a beautiful wife, 4 children, 4 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild. Gary spent 17 years in the military (USAF) and flew combat missions in Vietnam. He was the General Manager of the Umpire Development Program for MLB, worked as Project Manager for Kraft Foods, and joined Texas State from Austin-Bergstrom International Airport as Chief of Landside Operations.

Rob Brenckle
Sr. Environmental Health and Safety Specialist
Environmental Health, Safety & Risk Management
Originally from Pennsylvania, Rob is a 21-year Military Veteran. He has been on 5 of the 7 continents and 3 of the 5 oceans and plan on visiting all within his lifetime. His interests include the stock market, woodworking, dog training, hiking, hanging out with his family. His wife, two sons, daughter and four granddaughters love visiting new places and experiencing new things.

Shuntia Carr
Administrative Assistant II
VP Finance & Support Services
Originally born in San Marcos, Shauntia Carr has a B.S. Business Management degree from Southern University A&M. As a proud enthusiast of all sports, including those taboo, Volleyball takes top spot! A veteran to recreation, select, and collegiate volleyball, she now strives to take advantage of coaching positions to mentor players and their volleyball IQ. Her favorite fictional characters include Betty Boop, Wanda Maximoff, Captain Jack Sparrow, and Harley Quinn. Shauntia’s Fun Facts include being eldest of four, of Irish descent, and (my favorite) having a Preauricular Pit!

Carole Clerie
AVP Human Resources
Office of Human Resources
A native of Evanston, Illinois and a graduate of Florida Atlantic and Lynn Universities, Clerie has held various roles in HR, starting her career in a technical support role. She served as CHRO for two institutions within the University System of Georgia for four years, and prior to that, served as the Director of Employee Services at Lynn University for ten years.

Ross Garcia
Plant Mechanic II
Utilities Operations
Ross Garcia grew up in Garland, Texas, graduating from Alice High School and his Associates Degree in Diesel Mechanics at Bee County College. When the oil field industry in Texas fell into depression, Ross enlisted the U. S. Navy. During his 27-year Navy career he conducted underwater repairs and harbor clearance dive missions in the Mediterranean Sea, Persian Gulf and other oceans around the world. Ross always enjoys bragging about the men and women in uniform who he served with during his Navy Career. You can read all about Master Chief Master Diver Ross Garcia’s Navy Dive leadership experiences in his self-published book, “View Through a Faceplate Window, Adventures of a Navy Master Diver”. Ross now enjoys working with his new crew in Utilities at Texas State University.

Norm Thormählen
Plant Operator I
Utility Operations
Norm has previously taught chemistry, physics, earth and space teacher in the public schools. His interests are astrophotography, camping, motorcycling, random Viking pillaging raids, and gardening.

James Vavra
Steam & WW Ops Mechanic I
Utility Operations
James Vavra comes to the Utilities Operations department as a Plant Mechanic I, after working the ‘the mines’ in Marble Falls. Has a wife, Amelia and two children Ellie and Anthoney. He plays tournament paintball and loves to skateboard in his free time.

Samantha Williams
HR Assistant
Office of Human Resources
Sam is originally from Grapevine, TX but is no stranger to the San Marcos area. As a Texas State Alumni, she could not be more pleased to call San Marcos home! In her free time, she loves to explore all the local spots in town, whether it’s a nice outdoor hike at Purgatory Creek, enjoying local eats, or attending the farmer’s market on a Saturday morning. You will likely find her enjoying a cup of coffee with a book by her side as well. Sam feels very lucky to be a part of the Texas State community now as a member of Staff, and the greater San Marcos area.

Welcome!
Brendan Michael Kirkpatrick, son of Shari K. Ferguson (Ingress Management Services), is graduating Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) on May 10th, 2021, Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Aeronautical Science, with an Applied Meteorology minor, with a concentration in Commercial Pilot, cum laude.

Max Addison Silas Palmer, son of Officer Tad Palmer and his wife Penny, graduated from Canyon High School. Max’s highlights include LaCrosse State Runner up in 2019, Bi-District Varsity Football Champions in 2020/2021, and in Ag Mechanics his Senior team won 1st Place and Grand Champion for Comal County 2021. Max also received Athletic Academic Honors for CLHS 2020-21. Max is the last of 5 kids, and has officially enlisted (6/2/2021) in the United States Navy. He will leave for his initial training in November, followed by training to be an Aircraft Mechanic in Pensacola, Florida before his assignment to a Naval Squadron.

This past spring, Alex Reyna (HR Assistant, Office of Human Resources) graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor’s of Fine Arts in Communication Design. She plans to eventually pursue a Master’s degree in HR Management but is excited to take a break and catch up on all of her missed sleep.

UPD Dispatcher Eric Marsh graduated from TXST with a BS in Criminal Justice with a minor in Forensic Psychology, Summa Cum Laude

UPD Guard Justin Shimek graduated from TXST with a BS in Criminal Justice with a minor in Business

Max has officially enlisted in the United States Navy. He will leave for his initial training in November, followed by training to be an Aircraft Mechanic in Pensacola, Florida before his assignment to a Naval Squadron.

Rebecca Hughey, daughter of UPD Sgt. Roscoe Hughey, graduated from TXST with a BS in Technology

Ruby Ryan Becker, 7lbs, 15oz - was born 6-6-2021 to Brock and Madison Becker. Ruby Ryan is the first grandchild of William (Billy) Becker – Assistant Director, Procurement & Strategic Sourcing.

Noah Rossell, son of FSS Public Information Officer Deyanira Romo Rossell, graduated from Texas A&M University with a BS in Technology, Cum Laude

Ruby Ryan Becker was born 6-6-2021 to Brock and Madison Becker. Ruby Ryan is the first grandchild of William (Billy) Becker – Assistant Director, Procurement & Strategic Sourcing.

Veronica Martinez Maldonado, (Student Business Services) is expecting a baby girl on October 9, 2021. Mom, Dad, and big sister Jayla are very excited!

Mason Castillo, son of Zindi Castillo (Student Business Services), has graduated from San Marcos High School on May 28th. He will be attending Texas State this Fall and plans to major in Business Management. Mom, Dad, and little sister are very proud!
10 Years
Andrea Aldape, ID Services
Bruce Banks, Custodial Operations
Jessica Casas, Transportation Services
Tammy Coyle, Human Resources
Bill Donovan, Facilities Planning, Design, and Construction
David Flores, Utility Operations
Alan Harrell, Grounds and Waste Management
Heather Houston, Human Resources
Martin Mercado, Jr., Custodial Operations
Jennifer Mireles, Materials Management and Logistics
Linda Rea, Transportation Services
Joel Trevino, Jr., Facilities Management
Isabel Valdez, Accounting Office
Hector Vasquez, Utility Operations
Phillip Vasquez, Custodial Operations
Hilario Villarreal, Utility Operations

15 Years
Cortney Akers, Printing Services
Jodie Mangold, Student Business Services and Bursars
Lloyd McKinney, University Police Department
Ramon Rivera, Facilities Operations
Kevin Ryan, Utility Operations
Lee Torres, Facilities Operations
Rose Trevino, Human Resources
Jose Duran, Materials Management and Logistics
Roy Eastwood, Utility Operations
Jeff Elam, Facilities Management
Sally Harris, Custodial Operations
Arnold Hernandez, Grounds and Waste Management
Xavier Lopez, Utility Operations
Roxanne Munos, Student Business Services and Bursars
Karen Munoz, Facilities
Rosalina Ortiz, Custodial Operations
John Albert Perez, Facilities Operations
John Root, Auxiliary Services

25 Years
Marcus Bryant, Treasurer
Raymond Delgado, Facilities Operations
Steve Volk, Utility Operations

30 Years
Johnny Gonzales, Materials Management and Logistics
Mario Molina, Utility Operations
Diana Vallejo, Office of Payroll and Tax Compliance

35 Years
Frank Gonzalez, Materials Management and Logistics
Cruz Jaimes, Jr., Materials Management and Logistics
Steve Prentice, Transportation Services
Michael Shearer, Facilities Operations
2021 TEXAS STATE SERVICE AWARDS

10 Years

Iliana Camarillo, Custodial Operations
Blanca Castillo, Custodial Operations
John Charlet, Auxiliary Services
James Frye, Environmental Healthy, Safety & Risk Management
Jon Gaddis, Facilities Management
Anna Hale, Office of Payroll and Tax Compliance
Edith Harvey, Facilities Management
Elizabeth Hewett, Treasurer
Larry Miller, Facilities Planning, Design, and Construction
Rocio Ortiz De La Rosa, ID Services
Robert Roten, Custodial Operations
Vanessa Salazar, Human Resources
Miguel Sandoval, Jr., Custodial Operations
Janet Weitz, Utility Operations

15 Years

Maria Alvarez, Custodial Operations
Cynthia Balboa, Procurement and Strategic Sourcing
Neil Bascos, Utility Operations
Frederick Boasi, Custodial Operations
Jason Boyd, Facilities Planning, Design, and Construction
Barbara Delgado, Facilities Operations
Dannette Elliot, University Police Department
Margarita Flores, Custodial Operations
Adam Gonzales, Facilities Management
Mike Machado, Facilities Operations
Michael Maldonado, Facilities Management
Elsie Romano, Environmental Healthy, Safety & Risk Management
Monica Saenz, Office of Payroll and Tax Compliance
Richard Selvera, Materials Management and Logistics
Don Steen, Jr., Transportation Services
Staci Wade, Student Business Services and Bursars
Lauren Williams, Bookstore

20 Years

Alma Apodaca, Transportation Services
Delfia Chavarria, Custodial Operations
Robert DeLeon, Grounds and Waste Management
Carolyn Holesovsky, FSS Planning
Becky Johnson-Cronk, Grounds and Waste Management
Michael Kubin, Utility Operations
Raymond Martinez, Grounds and Waste Management
Gilbert Morales, Facilities Operations
Melinda Olivo, Associate Vice President for Financial Services
Juan Romero, Utility Operations
Robert Stafford, Facilities Planning, Design, and Construction

25 Years

Joaquin Martinez, Jr., Grounds and Waste Management
Carlos Pardo, Jr., Grounds and Waste Management
Enrique Rodriguez, Grounds and Waste Management
Steve Williams, Custodial Operations

30 Years

Miguel Hernandez, Facilities Operations

35 Years

Adrian Castilleja, Grounds and Waste Management
Lisa Gonzales, ID Services
Art Pineda, Materials Management and Logistics
tool in helping students. This bill allotted $14 billion to the Office of Postsecondary Education as the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund, or HEERF.

HEERF has since received two more rounds of additional funding, the latest of which is known as the American Rescue Plan (ARP) which was signed into law on March 11, 2021, providing $39.6 billion in support to institutions of higher education to serve students and ensure learning continues during the COVID-19 pandemic. The total emergency funds available to institutions and their students is $76.2 billion.

Texas State’s share of these funds stands at just over $180 million. These funds are making a huge difference for our students. As a university, we took several different approaches to provide as much financial relief as possible in response to our students’ financial difficulties. We streamlined funding disbursement, so that students whose estimated family contribution was $0 did not need to apply; funds were sent directly to the students’ accounts. To date, we have disbursed a total of $43,132,496 in relief to 34,591 students through both federal and local funds.

Students who enroll at Texas State next fall and spring semesters can continue to receive emergency grant funds thanks to HEERF. In fact, we are planning to provide an additional $52,629,515 through HEERF this coming academic year. However, this emergency funding is only part of our ongoing work to keep a Texas State education affordable to as many students as possible. We are also tripling the amount of merit-based financial aid being offered to next fall’s freshman class, going from $5 million to $15 million, and we have raised the threshold for what students can owe the university and still enroll in classes by 1,500%. This type of bold action is sized to respond to the size of the disruption caused by the pandemic. We are committed to honoring our employees by doing whatever it takes to get our students back on our campuses.

These financial aid programs underscore our commitment to helping students continue to pursue their college education through challenging times. As we emerge from the worst of the pandemic’s impacts over the past year, I am looking forward to welcoming our students back on to our campuses this fall. We may not exactly know what the next academic year holds, but I am eager to tackle whatever comes our way, and I am confident we will live up to any challenges presented. My confidence is rooted in the good work that all of you, our staff, have done over the past year. Your amazing work, resiliency, and flexibility have been an inspiration and remind me on a regular basis how great it is to be a Bobcat.

"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less."

– Marie Curie