



TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Expanded Version of the President's Briefing
Presented to the Board of Regents
November 17-18, 2022

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

Fall 2022 Enrollment

There is much to celebrate at Texas State University this Fall. TXST broke records in:

- Freshman applications (34,294), surpassing the 32,686 set in 2020. (TXST continues to be the third most applied-to university in Texas behind Texas A&M University and the University of Texas.)
- Freshman students (7,573), up 14% from last year's record class.
- New undergraduate and graduate students (11,344) for the ninth out of 11 previous years and surpassing 11,000 students for the second consecutive year.
- International students (717), up 27% from last year.
- Freshman to sophomore retention (80%), up three percentage points from last year.

Additional notable achievements at the undergraduate level include:

- A 15% (+424 students) jump in the number of incoming first-time in college students ranked in the top quarter of their high school graduating class.
- A better than expected enrollment in our new mechanical engineering program (192 declared majors), leaping over first year projections of 66 majors.

While we saw an increase in both doctoral and master's student applications (+1.9% and 6.0% respectively), this increase was observed in only a few select programs (e.g., Computer Science at the master's and Ph.D. levels, and Construction Management and Data Analytics at the master's level). However, these high demand programs were not able to accept students proportionally to the increase in application numbers due to capacity challenges (e.g., class size, sections offered, accreditation standards, and faculty supervision of student research).

Enrollment and Retention Strategies

Appointment of Commissions and Task Forces. Despite increases in certain enrollment metrics, our overall enrollment continues to lag our expectations and potential. After peaking in Fall 2016 with 38,808 students, we experienced four years of steady decline. This Fall, we are happy to report that our overall enrollment topped 38,000 students for the first time since 2019.

Data suggest many opportunities for enrollment growth. This Fall, for example, we saw declines in new transfer students (-12%) and new master's students (-18%); only 5% of our students came from outside of Texas; only 1.6% of our students enrolled exclusively in an online degree program; and only 14.2% of our sections are offered fully online. Some of these declines are of no surprise. A two-year drop in community college enrollment has impacted transfer student enrollment, and the strong labor market and high inflation rates have impacted graduate student enrollment.

Furthermore, while our first-year retention rate jumped to 80% after hovering around 77% for several years, there is still room for improvement. We are not settling for allowing 20% of our freshmen to not return for their sophomore year.

With these data points in mind, we established the [Presidential Commission on Student Success](#) to meet ambitious new student retention and success targets and a [Recruitment Task Force](#) to increase enrollment among international, transfer, online, and master's students.

SPONSORED PROGRAM AWARDS - RESEARCH AND INSTRUCTIONAL

TXST is a national research university with a Carnegie Classification of Doctoral University: High Research Activity (R2) and a Texas-designated Emerging Research University (ERU). We are focused on raising our national research profile and achieving national prominence as an R1 university (Very High Research Activity).

TXST's accomplishments over the past several years have positioned us well for this transition. In the last decade, for example:

- Our annual research and development expenditures have nearly tripled, increasing from \$37 million to \$100 million.
- Private giving has nearly tripled our endowment to more than \$340 million.
- We reinvented our library to become one of the 125 best in the nation, earning membership in the Association of Research Libraries.

Furthermore, TXST has experienced five consecutive record-setting quarters in restricted research expenditures (RRE). For the fourth quarter of FY2022, RRE topped \$15.4 million. We received 32 research and instructional awards of \$100,000 or more, ranging from \$100,000 to \$2,457,491 during the fourth quarter of FY2022. For FY2022, total RRE is expected to be \$42 million.

To become an R1 by 2027, we established the [Presidential Commission on the Run to R1](#). The Commission will conduct a comprehensive review of our current strategies, identify strategies that need to be sunset, conduct benchmarking and data analysis, determine which metrics are most important in achieving R1 status, set aggressive targets, identify strategies and resources needed to meet those targets, and prioritize those strategies and resources.

Appendix A includes the Research and Instructional Awards of \$100,000 or more received during the fourth quarter of FY2022.

PLANNING, ASSESSMENT, AND ACCREDITATION

TXST successfully completed the requirements for the Compliance Certification process and was deemed in compliance with all accreditation principles by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commissions on Colleges (SACSCOC) in December 2021. Because the U. S. Department of Education requires accreditors to physically visit campuses for institutions to be in full compliance, Dr. Crystal Baird, SACSCOC Vice President assigned to TXST, made an on-campus visit on September 20 and 21, 2022. During her visit, she toured the San Marcos and Round Rock campuses; met with the university leadership, representatives of faculty and staff, and staff of Institutional Effectiveness; and verified student complaint records.

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Fundraising

TXST added \$34 million in new gifts and commitments during FY2022. FY2022 was one of the strongest fundraising years on record for TXST, with the highest number of major gifts of \$25,000 or more contributed by 159 donors. In the fourth quarter of FY2022, TXST received \$8 million in gifts. With these gifts, a total of \$208 million has been raised through the NEXT IS NOW fundraising campaign towards the goal of \$250 million.

University Advancement launched a public relations campaign on September 5, 2022, to raise awareness of the campaign to build a new Music Building for the School of Music. The campaign includes paid advertisements online and on social media, a website and promotional video, and an event in Austin on November 1, 2022, at the Steinway Galleries, to be followed by additional events in the spring in Houston, San Antonio, and Dallas. In the first two weeks, the paid advertisements generated over three million impressions and 9,000 visits to the website.

Alumni Relations

In partnership with University Advancement and Athletics, the TXST Alumni Association introduced President Kelly Damphousse to alumni, donors, and friends of the university at events in Atlanta, Palo Alto, Reno, and Washington, D.C., as well as closer to home in Austin, Houston, Round Rock, San Antonio, and Waco.

ATHLETICS

Engagement. To strengthen relationships with donors, alumni, and students, TXST Athletics hosted several engagement events during the summer.

- Head football coach Jake Spavital, his coaching staff, and Athletics staff visited with alumni in Austin, Houston, and San Marcos during the “Texas State Football Tour.”
- President Damphousse and his wife Beth hosted dinners at their home for basketball, cross country, football, soccer, volleyball, cheer, and Strutters teams.
- Athletics hosted dinners twice per week in the Dan and Cindee Diepenhorst Champions Club at Bobcat Stadium for incoming freshmen and their family members participating in new student orientation.
- In partnership with the Division of Student Affairs, Athletics hosted a record 7,000+ incoming freshmen at a pep-rally at Bobcat Stadium during “Week of Welcome.”

Personnel. Men's basketball head coach Terrence Johnson and baseball head coach Steven Trout signed contract extensions after leading their teams to Sun Belt Conference championships and postseason appearances in 2021-22.

Track and Field. Five Bobcats earned a total of seven All-America honors at the 2022 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships. Alyssa Wilson received first team All-America honors in the hammer throw, second team in the discus, and honorable mention in the shot put. Bervensky Pierre, Dominick Yancy, Daniel Harrold, and Ashton Callahan received honorable mention after placing 22nd in the 4x100 relay. Wilson also placed sixth in the hammer throw at the 2022 Toyota USA Track and Field Outdoor Championships.

Bobcats in the Pros. In July, infielder Dalton Shuffield, the 2022 Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year, was drafted in the 10th round (294th overall) by the Minnesota Twins, and pitcher Tristan Stivors, who was awarded the nation's top relief pitcher award, was drafted in the 16th round (491st overall) by the Chicago White Sox. TXST baseball alumnus Paul Goldschmidt was named an MLB All-Star. In the NFL, Aaron Brewer and David Mayo made the season rosters for the Tennessee Titans and Washington Commanders, respectively, while rookie Caeveon Patton was a member of the Indianapolis Colts throughout the NFL preseason.

Strategic Partnerships. TXST Athletics signed new agreements with Adidas as the official on-field apparel provider for the Bobcats and with LEARFIELD as the department's representative for multimedia rights.

Gameday Enhancements. Based on recommendations from a consultant hired to improve the concessions experience, data hard lines were installed to shorten transaction times; new digital menu boards featuring refreshed menu items were mounted; a mobile, in-seat ordering option was added; and students were allowed to use Bobcat Bucks and Meal Swipes. Other gameday improvements included extended tailgating time for Bobcat Club members, the return of the popular Katzengarten, and a new hospitality area outside the west side of the stadium.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Projects Currently Pending Board Approval

Proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Additions

- James Street Housing (2023-2028 CIP) (Est: \$124M)
- Commons Hall Moisture and Structural Repair (2023-2028 CIP) (Est: \$3M)
- JC Kellam Lobby Reconfiguration and Parking (2023-2028 CIP) (Est: \$4M)

Projects Requiring Board Approval in the Near Future

Design Development

- Bobcat Stadium End Zone Complex Expansion – Design Development Approval projected for February 2023 (Total Project Cost (TPC): \$37M)
- Esperanza Hall – Design Development Approval projected for May 2023 (TPC: \$52.4M)
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Building – Design Development Approval projected for August 2023 (TPC: \$137.4M)

Final Report. Pecan Building final report projected for November 2022 (\$9M).

Information Items Not Requiring Board Approval

Ribbon Cutting. Live Oak Hall (\$10M) and the Infrastructure Research Laboratory (\$14M) will begin full operations in Spring 2023.

For a map of major projects currently underway, refer to [map of the Fall 2022 Major Construction Projects](#).

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)

Canvas Outcomes Report

A new report available in TXST's Learning Management System (LMS), Canvas, is now available for department use. The new outcomes report and integration tool allows departments to access learning outcome data quickly and easily. Previously, it was incumbent upon the IT Assistance Center to generate the report out of the LMS, clean and aggregate the data, and then route the report to the appropriate department. The previous method was time-consuming and did not allow departments to run the report when needed.

Mediaflo Decommission

Mediaflo, TXST's previous video content management system, has been replaced by YuJa. The new YuJa platform offers significantly improved functionality and enhanced options for the university. Content from the previous system was successfully migrated to the new platform and user feedback has been positive. The old system has been successfully decommissioned and resources utilized by the system have been reallocated.

Accessibility Training Course

Electronic Accessibility remains a focus for the division. Ensuring websites, software, and documents produced at the university are accessible and compliant with ADA standards is a priority. A series of workshops designed to help faculty and staff understand the need to create compliant documents, and how to make their documents accessible has been launched. Participation in the workshop series has been robust and additional workshops are being planned.

Cybersecurity Awareness Month

The Information Security Office recognized Cybersecurity Awareness Month. Observed every October, Cybersecurity Awareness Month was created as a collaborative effort between government and industry to ensure every American has the resources that they need to stay safer and more secure online. Multiple events were held for students, faculty, and staff on topics ranging from password security and multi-factor authentication to phishing and cybercrime.

Appendix A

Research and Instructional Awards of \$100,000 or more received during the fourth quarter of FY2022.

Recipient/Unit	Funding	Project Title and Purpose
Dr. Kathy Erin Martinez Prather Texas School Safety Center	\$2,457,491 U. S. Food and Drug Administration	Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Tobacco Prevention and Control Program will implement the FDA's State Tobacco Retail Compliance Inspection program.
Dr. Leslie L. Huling Lyndon B. Johnson Institute for STEM Education and Research	\$1,585,868 Year 4 of 4; Total Award \$10,467,745 National Aeronautics and Space Administration	National Aeronautics and Space Administration STEM Educator Professional Development Collaborative will provide STEM engagement for students and educators nationwide.
Mr. John Robert Curnutt Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) Center	\$1,529,319 Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service	Active Shooter Incident Management will provide 24 deliveries for Active Shooter Incident Management Courses.
Dr. Todd Michael Ahlman Center for Archaeological Studies	\$1,028,045 U. S. Army	Intergovernmental Service Agreement with Fort Leonard Wood will provide stormwater and sediment and erosion control technical assistance and program support by conducting field investigations and providing environmental analysis in support of meeting environmental objectives of the Clean Water Act.
Dr. Norma Judith Perez-Brena School of Family and Consumer Sciences	\$913,815 U. S. Department of Health and Human Services	Strong Relationship/Strong Families: Healthy Relationship and Adult Preparation Education will implement and evaluate the Strengthening Relationships Strengthening Families program which provides healthy relationships and coparenting education to adolescent parents in the schools.

<p>Dr. Kathy Erin Martinez Prather Texas School Safety Center</p>	<p>\$756,521 Texas Department of State Health Services</p>	<p>Tobacco Youth Prevention and Control Program FY23 will continue planning, implementation and oversight of the Texas Teen Ambassador Initiative, Regional Teen Tobacco Summits, Statewide Tobacco Conference, Texas Tobacco-Free Kids Days.</p>
<p>Dr. Alyson Alexander Collins Department of Curriculum and Instruction</p>	<p>\$731,814 Year 1 of 4; Total Award \$2,999,507 U. S. Department of Education</p>	<p>Turning the TIDE: Building Teacher Capacity to Accelerate Text-Based Writing Performance of Students with and At-Risk for Disabilities will accelerate the performance of students at risk for disabilities in text-based writing as a response to pandemic-related challenges.</p>
<p>Dr. Yuan Lu Xiphophorus Genetic Stock Center</p>	<p>\$628,358 Year 1 of 4; Total Award \$2,811,209 National Institutes of Health</p>	<p>Advancement of the Xiphophorus Model for Studying Disease will maintain the unique features and preserve the strength of a model to be used in biomedical research.</p>
<p>Dr. Tania Betancourt Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry</p>	<p>\$593,778 Year 2 of 5; Total Award \$2,968,890 National Science Foundation</p>	<p>Central Texas PREM: A Partnership Between TXST and the University of Texas at Austin will form the TXST-UT PREM Center for Intelligent Materials Assembly.</p>
<p>Dr. Mi Jin Choi School of Social Work</p>	<p>\$494,071 Texas Department of Family and Protective Services</p>	<p>Title IV-E Year 29 will enhance the values, knowledge, and skills of current and prospective Child Protective Services workers in several local regions through social work education, financial assistance, ongoing training, and support.</p>
<p>Dr. Norma Judith Perez-Brena School of Family and Consumer Sciences</p>	<p>\$421,875 U. S. Department of Health and Human Services</p>	<p>Strengthening Relationship/Strengthening Families will provide pregnant and parenting adolescents with comprehensive relationship and sex education to reduce sexual risk behaviors, lower repeat pregnancies, improve adolescent well-being, and increase school retention.</p>
<p>Dr. Shetay Nicole Ashford-Hanserd</p>	<p>\$377,938 Year 3 of 5; Total Award \$1,471,815</p>	<p>CAREER: ACCEYSsing Black and Hispanic Women</p>

Department of Organization, Workforce, and Leadership Studies	National Science Foundation	Community Cultural Wealth (CCW) and Persistence in STEM and Computing (STEM+C) Pathways will pilot a CCW of STEM+C Majors survey to be distributed at Hispanic Serving Institutions and Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the state of Texas.
Dr. Young Ju Lee Department of Mathematics	\$350,017 National Science Foundation	Coupled Flow and Transports Modeling and Simulation of Complex Fluids and Extreme Weather Patterns by Harnessing Data will build an integrated research program that encompasses interconnected mathematical disciplines and challenging applications, such as complex fluids and tornadoes, in modeling and simulation of coupled flow and transports.
Dr. Anthony S. Torres Department of Engineering Technology	\$350,000 Universities Space Research Association	Understanding the Effect of Vibrations on the Crystallization of ZBLAN will consist of utilizing existing ZBLAN processing hardware and retrofitting it with a vibrating device and an accelerometer.
Dr. Yihong Chen Ingram School of Engineering	\$340,000 Nanohmics, Inc.	Additive Manufacturing Process Kits for Radio Frequency Components will support the overall development of technology -- component design effort, characterization of the material properties of the films, advice on the radio frequency component printing and fabrication effort, and the testing/evaluation efforts of the radio frequency components.
Ms. Rachael Weldon-Caron Division of Inclusive Excellence	\$338,972 Year 2 of 5; Total Award \$1,355,888 U. S. Department of Education	Student Support Services will address student retention and graduation for low-income, first-generation students, and students with disabilities.
Dr. James P. Van Overschelde Department of Curriculum and Instruction	\$333,808 Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	Identifying Barriers to Educator and Student Success will examine what barriers exist for teacher candidates of color to

		enter and successfully complete an Education Proficiency Plan, and for educators of color to remain in the profession.
Dr. Farzan Irani Department of Communication Disorder	\$315,350 Year 3 of 4; Total Award \$1,576,750 U. S. Department of Health and Human Services	Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students in Communities Disorders will provide scholarships to TXST Department of Communication Disorders graduate students for whom the cost of college attendance would constitute a financial hardship.
Dr. Kristina Henry Collins Lyndon B. Johnson Institute for STEM Education and Research	\$300,000 Translation Research Institute	Lyndon B. Johnson Space Health Inclusion Partnership Institute for STEM Education and Research will develop a partnership with the Translation Research Institute for Space Health to address cultural oversight that serves as a barrier to equity in STEM and space health research.
Dr. Paulina S. Flasch Department of Counseling, Leadership, Adult Education and School Psychology	\$299,074 U. S. Department of Justice	Campus Victim Services will improve responses to victims of dating and domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
Dr. Maria Del Mar Huertas Pau Department of Biology	\$298,134 National Science Foundation	Environmental Nitrate is a Nitric Oxide Donor That Modulates Fish Olfactory Function will unravel a novel nitric oxide pathway in olfactory function that is unique to aquatic vertebrates.
Dr. Seyedmeysam Khaleghian Department of Engineering Technology	\$270,119 U. S. Department of Agriculture	Smart Farm Program will propose multidisciplinary student experiential learning opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students from engineering technology, the School of Engineering, and the agricultural sciences department.

<p>Ms. Rachael Weldon-Caron Division of Inclusive Excellence</p>	<p>\$261,888 Year 2 of 5; Total Award \$1,309,440 U. S. Department of Education</p>	<p>Student Support Services STEM will address student retention and graduation for low-income, first-generation students, and students with disabilities.</p>
<p>Dr. Feng Wang Ingram School of Engineering</p>	<p>\$249,999 National Science Foundation</p>	<p>Using Artificial Intelligence to Improve the Accuracy of Automated Pavement Condition Data Collection will support the proposed innovation for a cost-effective automated pavement condition survey system with accurate and robust measurement abilities using machine learning algorithms and data enabled analytics.</p>
<p>Dr. Jacob Daniel Fillman Department of Mathematics</p>	<p>\$248,177 National Science Foundation</p>	<p>From Cantor to Bethe-Sommerfeld: Phase Transitions in Aperiodic Media will explore open questions about ergodic Jacobi operators with the goal of building bridges between two of the PI's areas of activity -- direct and inverse spectral theory of operators in mathematical physics having many or few spectral gaps.</p>
<p>Dr. Steven R. Whitten Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry</p>	<p>\$243,917 Year 3 of 3; Total Award \$1,228,225 University of Texas Health Science Center</p>	<p>South Texas Doctoral Bridge Program will increase the number of underrepresented minority students that graduate with doctoral degrees and pursue biomedical research careers in bridging Master of Science students at TXST to doctoral granting programs.</p>
<p>Dr. Ryan Loren Peterson Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry</p>	<p>\$176,864 Year 1 of 4; Total Award \$733,413 National Institutes of Health</p>	<p>Mechanisms For Cellular Copper Import Via Secreted Cuproproteins will explore 1) how the active site diversity within the Bim1-Like Proteins (BLP) family affects Cu-Binding properties, and 2) how BLP extracellular localization patterns alter cellular Cu-homeostasis.</p>

<p>Dr. John P. Blair ALERRT Center</p>	<p>\$150,000 Year 3 of 3; Total Award \$2,781,744 Federal Bureau of Investigation</p>	<p>South Texas Doctoral Bridge Program will increase the number of underrepresented minority students that graduate with doctoral degrees and pursue biomedical research careers in bridging Master of Science students at TXST to doctoral granting programs.</p>
<p>Dr. Semih Aslan Ingram School of Engineering</p>	<p>\$121,010 Stratajam, LLC</p>	<p>Use of Machine Learning a Unique Sensor Package to Analyze the Walls of Mineral Exploration and Geotechnical Boreholes will create a tool that will cut mineral exploration and geotechnical drilling costs while providing accurate and instantaneous results needed for important decision-making in mining and construction industries.</p>
<p>Dr. Jung Heum Yeon Ingram School of Engineering</p>	<p>\$118,115 Year 1 of 2; Total Award \$326,552 Seoul Institute of Technology</p>	<p>Development of IoT-Based Snow Removal System for Preemptive Response to Heavy Snow and Black Ice will research design, construction, and field performance evaluation of carbon product-based self-heating concrete pavement system for winter road maintenance.</p>
<p>Dr. Todd W. Hudnall Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry</p>	<p>\$110,000 American Chemical Society</p>	<p>Enhancing Catalytic Activity at P-Block Element Centers Through Coordination to Electrophilic Carbene Ligands will utilize electrophilic carbene ligands to enhance the catalytic activity at p-block element centers, specifically sulfur, selenium, and tellurium.</p>
<p>Dr. Anthony S. Torres Department of Engineering Technology</p>	<p>\$107,509 Year 5 of 5; Total Award \$572,509 Texas Department of Transportation</p>	<p>Use of Rapid Setting Hydraulic Cement for Structural Application will advance the state of the art of practice regarding the use of rapid setting concretes as a structural building material.</p>