

The Nutrition Bench-to-Community Engaged Scholars in Texas (Nutrition BEST) Program

www.depts.ttu.edu/stem/usda_reeu/



GOAL



- Enhance student learning in research ethics, methods, and processes in nutrition, food science, and agriculture.
- Provide insight on the benefits of mentoring underrepresented individuals.

BENEFITS



- Boost your career with the Nutrition BEST Fellowship program.
- Get paid research and internship opportunities while improving your skills.
- Benefit from mentorship by experienced professionals in various fields.
- Access supportive environments for growth and development.

WHO QUALIFIES

- Full-time Sophomores & Juniors from an underrepresented group (African American, Hispanic America, Pacific Islander, Native American, etc.) who are **interested in research, graduate school, and/or careers** in nutrition, food science, or agriculture.
- Non-pre-med students who plan to pursue graduate school or work in nutrition, agriculture, the food industry, and/or Extension.
- Have a GPA of 3.0 or greater.
- Committed to 1-year program, and completing mandatory surveys and interviews about your experiences including after leaving the program.

PARTNERS



Apply now!



General Information



- Two full semesters of mentored research.
- Additional opportunities for peer mentoring.
- Summer Extension Internship with community engagement.
- Required participation in Responsible Conduct for Research, community engagement, and leadership seminars.

Contact for additional information: Alex.Scoggin@ttu.edu

NAMES/ROLES

TITLE AND AFFILIATION

PROJECT DIRECTOR (PD), RESEARCH MENTOR & PRIMARY CONTACT

Naima Moustaid-Moussa
806-834-7946
naima.moustaid-moussa@ttu.edu

Horn Distinguished Professor, Department of Nutritional Sciences; Associate Vice President for Research & Director, Obesity Research Institute; Office of Research & Innovation, Texas Tech University

CO-PROJECT DIRECTORS (CO-PDs) & PRIMARY CONTACT

Molly Forman
Co-PD, Extension Internships

Regional Director, Family & Community Health, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Karen Franck
Co-PD, Evaluation

Associate Professor, Family & Consumer Sciences, University of Tennessee Extension

Jaclyn Cañas-Carrell
Co-PD, Recruitment

Chair & Professor; Environmental Toxicology, Texas Tech University

Jessica Spott
Collaborator, Recruitment

Director, STEM CORE; Office of Research & Innovation, Texas Tech University

Marianne Evola
Co-PD, RCR & Leadership Training

Director, Office of Responsible Research, Office of Research & Innovation, Texas Tech University

Oak-Hee Park
Co-PD, Research Mentor, Community Nutrition

Research Assistant Professor; College of Human Sciences, Texas Tech University

Chanaka Kahathuduwa Co-PD, Research Mentor (literature/ data analyses)

Resident Physician, Neurology / Clinical Assistant Professor, Psychiatry, School of Medicine, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

EXTENSION MENTORS

Cory Edwards
Christina Reid
Amber Bozeman
Sonja Stueart-Davis

Extension Agents
Family & Community Health
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

RESEARCH MENTORS

Kembra Albracht-Schulte
(lifestyle interventions)

Assistant Professor, Department of Kinesiology & Sports Management, Texas Tech University

Jannette Dufour
(basic science-diabetes)

University Distinguished Professor & Chair, Department of Cell Biology & Biochemistry, Associate Director of ORI, School of Medicine, Texas Tech Health Sciences Center

Halima Bensmail
(machine learning biostats/bioinformatics)

Principal Scientist, Qatar Computing Research Institute and Hamad Bin Khalifa University

Hanna Moussa
(imaging & modeling)

Associate Professor of Practice, Department of Physics, Texas Tech University

Wilna Oldewage-Theron
(community nutrition)

Professor, Department of Nutritional Sciences, Texas Tech University

Leslie Thompson
(food science & safety)

Professor, Department of Animal & Food Science, Texas Tech University

Catherine Simpson
(plant sciences, phytochemicals)

Assistant Professor, Department of Plant & Soil Science, Texas Tech University

Yujiao Zu
(diet-gene interactions in obesity)

Research Assistant Professor, Department of Nutritional Sciences Texas Tech University