



JERRY S. RAWLS
COLLEGE OF
BUSINESS
—
TEXAS TECH

SCOVELL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

2025 - 2026 REPORT





Another exciting year is underway for the Scovell Business Leadership Program (SBLP) at Texas Tech! With a new cohort joining and returning members continuing their journey, the momentum of the program remains strong. Rooted in the mission of developing well-rounded, purpose-driven leaders, SBLP provides students with opportunities that reach far beyond the classroom from hands-on consulting projects and mentorship pairings to workshops led by industry professionals and visits with top executives from across the country.

Over the past year, students collaborated with a variety of companies on real-world challenges, heard from speakers representing industries such as real estate, healthcare, and finance, and traveled abroad to expand their perspective where they engaged with global firms and experienced business on a broader scale. With continued support from the Scovell family, the program is shaping the next generation of ethical, agile, and globally aware business leaders, and the future looks bright.



Looking ahead, the program aims to deepen alumni connections, strengthen community partnerships, and evolve leadership development offerings to meet the changing demands of the business world. With 23 new members joining 44 returning students, the Scovell Business Leadership Program is well-positioned for another impactful year.

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NEW MEMBERS



Nazib Alam

First-Year, Information Technology | Dhaka, Bangladesh

Nazib Alam graduated from high school in Dhaka, Bangladesh, where he was active in science fairs, debate competitions, and student-led initiatives. He has gained hands-on experience through internships in recruitment and ceramics, where he worked on data systems, marketing, and business operations. He also volunteered with Yearning Aches, a nonprofit organization focused on food hygiene and community support, helping lead donation drives and public outreach efforts. After graduation, Nazib hopes to establish an IT consulting firm that empowers small businesses in Bangladesh through digital transformation.



Samuel Alessio

Sophomore, Marketing & Management | Katy, Texas

Samuel Alessio graduated from Obra D. Tompkins High School. Within Rawls, he is a Student Business Council program member with the Career Management Center. On a wider scope, Samuel serves the university as a senator for the Honors College in the student body senate, and he serves as the operations manager at KXT 88.1 The Raider. After graduation, Samuel plans to work in marketing in the entertainment industry.



Sean Cullen

First-Year Student, Finance & Management | Dallas, Texas

Sean Cullen is a graduate of Jesuit College Preparatory School. During his time at Jesuit, he built a strong foundation in academic excellence, leadership, and community involvement. In addition, Sean played baseball all four years and was the varsity closer his senior year. He holds dual citizenship in the United States and Ireland and looks forward to the opportunity to study abroad while at Texas Tech. He is currently pursuing a double major in finance and management at the Rawls College of Business, with aspirations of building a career in finance or investment management.



Masaiyah Culmer

Sophomore, Finance & Accounting | Nassau, Bahamas

Masaiyah Culmer is a sophomore at Texas Tech University who is originally from the Bahamas. She graduated from NFC Academy in Tallahassee and has continued to excel academically. At the Rawls College of Business, Masaiyah serves as a Rawls Ambassador, an officer in the Finance Association, a member of the Student Business Council, and chair of the Development Tour Committee for the Real Estate Organization. Beyond the classroom, she enjoys playing tennis and volunteering at The Haven Animal Shelter, where she supports animal welfare initiatives. After graduation, Masaiyah aspires to become a licensed real estate broker and is passionate about providing affordable housing solutions for underserved communities.



Joannah Freeman

First-Year, Accounting | Farmington, New Mexico

Joannah Freeman graduated as valedictorian from Piedra Vista High School, earning both AP Scholar and AP Capstone honors. During high school, she held several leadership roles, including president of the Key Club, treasurer of the National Honor Society, and co-captain of the Varsity Swim Team. She was the first student at her school to graduate with both an associate's degree and an AP Capstone diploma. At Texas Tech, Joannah is working toward her BBA and MBA in accounting and plans to build a career in public or corporate accounting in the Dallas area after graduation.



Cesar García Trejo

First-Year, Management | San Antonio, Texas

Cesar Garcia Trejo graduated from Reagan High School as a Hispanic National Recognition Scholar and summa cum laude student. Cesar was a section leader and student advocate in band and earned state and national titles. He was also a tutor for UT OnRamps English and German honors courses. Cesar is a member of the Texas Tech Goin' Band and works as a volunteer cook at his local Ronald McDonald house. After graduation, Cesar plans to have a startup business in media marketing targeted toward Hispanic immigrants looking to invest in the United States.



Austin Gill

Sophomore, Finance | Dhaka, Bangladesh

Austin Gill has grown up around the globe but has graduated from The American International School of Dhaka (AISD) in Bangladesh with an International Baccalaureate Diploma. In Bangladesh, Austin was his school's Executive Student Body representative, a coach, and a varsity athlete in swimming, track, and football (soccer), breaking multiple records and competing internationally. When school wasn't on, Austin worked at the United States Embassy (Dhaka) as a budget analyst and project manager. At Texas Tech, Austin is an honors student, director at the Sales Leadership Group, and a student assistant at Bob L. Herd Department of Petroleum Engineering. With the goal of graduating in 2028 with an undergraduate and master's degree in finance, Austin plans to pursue a career in investment banking or private equity, with the end goal of working overseas for the United States State Department under the political economics section.



Cooper Heller

First-Year, Finance & Architecture | Dallas, Texas

Cooper Heller attended W.T. White High School, graduating as the salutatorian of his class. Cooper was a multi-sport varsity letterman and team captain in football, baseball, and golf, and he received Academic All-State honors in all three sports. He also served the community as a coach and mentor for the youth swim and flag football teams. During his time at Texas Tech, Cooper hopes to continue to grow academically and take advantage of all his opportunities. After graduation, he plans to pursue an MBA and start a business alongside his brother.



Whitley Hinkle

First-Year, Accounting | Idalou, Texas

Whitley Hinkle graduated from Idalou High School with honors in the top 10 percent of her graduating class. During her time in high school, Whitley served as the vice president of the Idalou FFA Chapter, the 2023 Lubbock District FFA treasurer, and a 2024-2025 Area 1 FFA vice president. Whitley is the two-time champion of the Texas Tech University Fearless Champions Accounting UIL contest and was an active member in the National Honor Society, serving as the vice president of her chapter her junior year. She plans to get her master's in accounting and has the goal of being a Certified Public Accountant after graduation.



JJ Jones

Sophomore, Management | Clovis, New Mexico

JJ Jones graduated from Clovis High School with honors, ranking in the top five percent of a graduating class of more than 500 students. During his time at CHS, he was actively involved in several extracurricular activities, including basketball, football, and the National Honor Society. Since starting at Texas Tech, he has continued to pursue the sports he loved in high school, staying involved in both football and basketball. In addition to athletics, JJ is also deeply involved in his faith and currently serves as the treasurer of The Navigators—a Christian organization committed to sharing the Gospel and building community across the Texas Tech campus.

After graduation, JJ plans to enter the business world with the goal of eventually starting his own company. He hopes to apply the leadership skills and management knowledge he's gained through his degree, extracurricular involvement, and faith-based service. JJ is particularly interested in entrepreneurship and is passionate about creating a business that not only provides value to its customers but also reflects his core values of integrity, hard work, and service. He also plans to stay active in ministry and community outreach, wherever his career may take him, combining his professional goals with a strong commitment to making a positive impact in the lives of others.



Sahej Kaur

Sophomore, Finance | Frisco, Texas

Sahej Kaur graduated high school as a National Honor Society scholar and was a part of the girls' basketball team. At Texas Tech, she serves as the vice president of marketing for The Finance Association, works as a student ambassador for housing, and is an active member of the Honors College. Outside of school she loves to volunteer at the animal shelter and watch sports. Upon graduation, she aspires to work in private wealth management.



William Koch

First-Year Student, Finance | Trophy Club, Texas

Will Koch graduated from Byron Nelson High School and is an AP scholar with distinction. At Byron, Will was president of the Guitar Club along with being the president and founder of the Automotive Club. Will was also a prolific competitor in Destination Imagination, reaching the Global Finals several times. Will's goals are to have a stellar career in finance and travel the world while participating in the finance industry.



Danica Lekic

First-Year, Energy Commerce | Houston, Texas

Danica Lekic graduated from Memorial Senior High School, where she was a four-year varsity swimmer and team captain, earning multiple awards in regional competitions. Balancing academics and athletics, she also received the All-American Academic Award. Outside of school, Danica was actively involved in the National Charity League and volunteered at the Houston Arboretum, where she earned the prestigious Presidential Volunteer Service Gold Award. She plans to pursue an MBA after completing her undergraduate studies to advance her career in the energy industry.



Slavka Lekic

First-Year, Finance | Houston, Texas

Slavka Lekic graduated from Memorial High School, where she received multiple community service honors, including the Presidential Volunteer Service Gold Award and competed as a dedicated member of the school's tennis team. Outside of school, Slavka held a leadership role as the engagement and inclusion officer in her local chapter of a national charity league, where she focused on fostering inclusive community involvement and service initiatives. She is passionate about the intersection of business and law and is considering pursuing either a juris doctorate or a master's degree in a specialized area of finance after graduation.



Judson "Cooper" Manning

First-Year, Management | Lubbock, Texas

Judson "Cooper" Manning graduated from Shallowater High School with distinction and was recognized as Academic All-State and All-District in football and basketball. He participated in numerous sports while in high school, including varsity football, basketball, golf, and track and earned all-state and all-district player awards. He was a football team captain and served on the Varsity Football Leadership Council. He was a member of the Shallowater High School UIL Congress Team, a member of Shallowater FFA and 4-H, an officer and member of Shallowater FCA, and a member of the National Honor Society.

He loves meeting new people, making meaningful connections, and helping others. He is excited and honored to have the opportunity to be a part of the Scovell Business Leadership Program and he is looking forward to becoming involved in several activities while at Texas Tech, including Texas Tech sports, Greek life, and the Rawls College of Business. He hopes to attend law school and eventually own his own business. Some of his favorite activities include boating, dirt bike riding, skiing, and spending time outdoors and with his family and friends.



Walker Maupin

First-Year, General Business | Gruver, Texas

Walker Maupin graduated from Gruver High School with a 3.71 GPA. While at Gruver High School, he was student body president and NHS vice president, as well as being a part of UIL academics and sports. Walker was also involved in FCCLA, FFA, theatre, and competed in football, basketball, track, golf, and tennis.

Walker is active in his church and serves as a counselor at Ceta Canyon Summer Camp. In addition to his academic and extracurricular involvement, he works as a farm and ranch hand on his family's operation, assisting in crop production and livestock care.



Katie Mills

Sophomore, Accounting | Frisco, Texas

Katie Mills graduated from Liberty High School where she was a member of the National Honor Society and a daughter in the National Charity League Golden Corridor with a passion for charity. Currently at Texas Tech, she continues her charity work through her sorority, Alpha Phi. She is also involved in other organizations such as Student Government where she works on the Budget and Finance Committee and in Phi Alpha Delta, an international pre-law group. Katie is a recipient of multiple academic and major-based scholarships that help her advance her education. After graduation, she plans to either attend law school to become a tax lawyer or start pursuing a career in accounting right away.



Andrew Nelson

First-Year, General Business | Frisco, Texas

Andrew Nelson graduated from Prestonwood Christian Academy. Andrew was involved in varsity golf, the National Honor Society, and the Young Men's Service League while attending Prestonwood. Upon graduation, Andrew will have completed more than 100 hours of community service from freshman to senior year. Andrew plans on majoring in business while also taking pre-requisites in preparation for the MCAT. This summer, Andrew interned at a children's hospital in Plano, TX, and shadowed doctors.



Preston Parsons

First-Year, Business Administration | Brady, Texas

Preston Parsons grew up in Star Valley, Wyoming, but graduated from Brady High School in 2025 in the top 10 percent of his graduating class. At BHS, he was a varsity basketball player, NHS, FCA, and Interact Club member, NHS vice president, and captain of various UIL academics teams. Preston holds the record as the most decorated UIL academic competitor in BHS history with 11 state meet qualifications and 66 total medals, 11 of which are state medals, and was the leader of the first state championship team since 2016. In his free time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time with family. When he's not studying or working, he is often found on a lake, playing golf, or working the radio waves as an FCC licensed ham radio operator (Callsign W1PGP). After graduation, Preston plans on going to law school to become an energy lawyer in the lone star state while starting a family and a political career.



Farhan Rahman

First-Year Student, Information Technology | Dhaka, Bangladesh

Farhan Rahman graduated from high school in Dhaka, Bangladesh, where he created meaningful projects by fusing his passion for art and technology. He operated his own independent art business, freelanced in server and client data management, and interned at X Solutions Ltd., gaining experience in digital marketing and database organization. He also organized a local volunteer initiative to support a small animal shelter, raising awareness and resources for stray animals. After graduation, Farhan aims to develop impactful tech innovations and build a career leading cutting-edge IT projects.



Kal Sitler

Sophomore, Finance | Papillion, Nebraska

Kal Sitler graduated from Pine Creek High School in Colorado Springs, Colorado, as an AP student with honors. At Pine Creek, he was active on the football team and had the privilege to lead the JV team in prayer every game. At Tech, he is an officer in the Rawls Finance Association where he leads the mentorship program. He is also a member of both the banking and real estate organizations, as well as being a Rawls Ambassador. After graduation, Kal plans to join a commercial real estate firm and work toward being a broker.



Luke Thurmond

First-Year, Finance | Clovis, New Mexico

Luke Thurmond graduated magna cum laude from Ronald Reagan High School. He was the North East Independent School District Kids Health Advisory Committee representative for Reagan High School. At Reagan, he was a member of the National Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Winners Circle, and Distributive Education Clubs of America in which he was a finalist in the State Competition for Business Development Plan.

Luke served in various leadership roles, including president and vice president of Young Men's Service League in which he received numerous national service awards. He received the gold award for the North East Independent School District Student Volunteer Service Award for the past four years. Luke was a varsity football player and an Academic All-District recipient. He wants to further his education by pursuing a certificate in investment management and a Master of Business Administration. Luke is honored to be a member of the Scovell Business Leadership Program.

Joshua Ziskrout

First-Year, General Business | Cypress, Texas

Joshua Ziskrout plans to major in business. He graduated from iSchool High at University Park with an Associate of Arts degree from Lone Star College. While in high school, he mentored underclassmen and was a member of the National Honor Society. Joshua was also a competitive tennis player and a member of the Young Men's Service League. After receiving his bachelor's degree, he plans to become a CPA and get his MBA.



2025 - 2026 SCOVELL BUSINESS LEADERS

Md Mahamidul Islam Akib | Junior, IT | Dahka, Bangladesh
Nazib Alam* | First-Year, FIN/MGT | Dahka, Bangladesh
Diego Alessio | Senior, FIN | Katy, Texas
Samuel Alessio* | Sophomore, MKT/MGT | Katy, Texas
Jackson Allen | Junior, FIN | Van Alstyne, Texas
Carter Arrott | Senior, FIN | Van Alstyne, Texas
Claire Ashley | Sophomore, SCM | Keller, Texas
Waez Asif Sattar | Junior, IT | Lubbock, Texas
Jaiden Barrera | Sophomore, MGT | Lamesa, Texas
Dayton Barkley | Junior, FIN | Lubbock, Texas
Jackson Bentley | Senior, ENCO | Lubbock, Texas
Siddharth Bhakta | Junior, ENCO | Lubbock, Texas
Ryan Briggs | Junior, IT | Albuquerque, New Mexico
Gabriella Caro | Sophomore, MGT | Shallowater, Texas
Collin Cash | Sophomore, FIN | Lubbock, Texas
Sean Cullen* | First-Year, FIN/MGT | Dallas, Texas
Masaiyah Culmer* | First-Year, FIN/ACCT | Nassau, Bahamas
Carson Dailey | Senior, MGT | Lubbock, Texas
Carson Dann | Senior, ACCT | Frisco, Texas
Hannah Davis | Senior, MKT | Southlake, Texas
Eleanor Deaton | Senior, FIN | Austin, Texas
Emma Ferriol | Sophomore, MKT | Austin, Texas
Gretchen Foster | Sophomore, SCM | Fair Oaks Ranch, Texas
Joannah Freeman* | First-Year, ACCT | Farmington, New Mexico

Cesar García Trejo* | First-Year, MGT | San Antonio, Texas
Jacob Garret | Sophomore, FIN | McKinney, Texas
Austin Gill* | Sophomore, FIN | Dhaka, Bangladesh
Liliana Gomez Lozano | Senior, ENCO | Monterrey, Mexico
Sebastian Gutierrez | Senior, FIN | Amarillo, Texas
Sydney Hayden | Senior, MGT | Houston, Texas
Copper Heller* | First-Year, FIN/ARCH | Dallas, Texas
Whitley Hinkle* | First-Year, ACCT | Idalou, Texas
Eli Huggins | Senior, FIN | Dallas, Texas
Maverick Irvine | Sophomore, ENCO | Leander, Texas
JJ Jones* | Sophomore, MGT | Clovis, New Mexico
Parker Joyce | Senior, ACCT | Vega, Texas
Sahej Kaur* | Sophomore, FIN | Frisco, Texas
William Koch* | First-Year, GB | Trophy Club, Texas
Danica Lekic* | First-Year, ENCO | Houston, Texas
Slavka Lekic* | First-Year, FIN | Houston, Texas
Jathan Lewis | Senior, FIN | Ovilla, Texas
Mitchell Long | Senior, MKT | Southlake, Texas
Samuel Love | Senior, FIN | Granbury, Texas
Judson "Cooper" Manning* | First-Year, MGT | Lubbock, Texas
Luke Marshall | Sophomore, MGT | Albany, Texas
Walker Maupin* | First-Year, GB | Gruver, Texas
Isabelle Mensik | Junior, MKT | Katy, Texas
Katie Mills* | Sophomore, FIN | Frisco, Texas

Aylin Miranda | Sophomore, GB | Lubbock, Texas

Andrew Nelson* | First-Year, GB | Frisco, Texas

Elyse Nesser | Sophomore, GB | Cypress, Texas

Preston Parsons* | First-Year, BA | Brady, Texas

Oreoluwa (Ore) Osijonwo | Senior, FIN | Glenn Heights, Texas

Farhan Rahman* | First-Year, IT | Dhaka, Bangladesh

Pace Ritz | Senior, FIN/AAEC | Tahoka, Texas

Patrick Ritz | Sophomore, AAEC/ GB | Tahoka, Texas

Braeden Salzwedel | Senior, FIN | Lubbock, Texas

Katarine Samwel | Sophomore, FIN | Edmond, Oklahoma

Jameson Seal | Sophomore, FIN | Lubbock, Texas

Kal Sitler* | Sophomore FIN | Papillion, Nebraska

Jaiden Thomas | Senior, Arch/BBA | El Paso, Texas

Luke Thurmond* | First-Year, FIN | San Antonio, Texas

Samya Tipatre | Junior, IT | Frisco, Texas

Abigail Vega | Senior, FIN | Lovington, New Mexico

Peyton Vega | Junior, FIN | Georgetown, Texas

Brayden Webb | Senior, ENCO | Lubbock, Texas

Joshua Ziskrout* | First-Year, GB | Cypress, Texas





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