



**Dear students, alumni and friends,**

Once again it is my pleasure to write to you—our University Studies community of faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends—with these program highlights. Our University Studies faculty, academic advisors, and students continue to have a national impact in the areas of teaching, research, service, and community engagement. University Studies continues to grow its academic programs and student services team.

We are excited to introduce you to the newest members of the University Studies Student Services team: Rachel Frazier, Rachel Nash, and Courtney Lynn join team members Alyssa Wagner, Kelsey Kern, and Skye Torres. Rachel Frazier serves as lead advisor coordinating graduation activities each semester and supporting academic advisors, ensuring all requirements have been met by each graduating senior. Rachel Nash and Courtney Lynn both serve as senior academic advisors advising for both Lubbock-based and online University Studies students and working closely with students to ensure that all program and university requirements for graduation are met. Alyssa Wagner serves as Assistant Director of Student Services supervising the day to day operations of the Student Services office. Kelsey Kern and Skye Torres serve as academic advisors providing support for front office management, assisting with referrals, minor declaration and serving as the front line for recruitment and retention. In addition to our current inventory of excellent academic programs, these student services professionals are now advising for two additional minors: Legal Studies and Mexican American Latina/o Studies minor. Courses for the Mexican American Latina/o Studies minor will be available for registration this fall 2018.

Our University Studies students go on to do great things professionally and in service to their communities. In this issue, we are pleased to feature Mr. Chris Falls. Chris graduated with honors from Texas Tech University with a bachelor's degree in University Studies with academic concentrations in Organizational Leadership, Human Resource Development, and Communication Studies. Chris graduated with a law degree from St. Mary's University and currently works for Surface Land Department in the petroleum industry. Recently, Chris served his community as chair of the Bexar County Suburban Committee and as Vice-Chairman for the Alamo Area of Council Governments and as Mayor of Hollywood Park, Texas from May 2014 to May 2018.

The University Studies Faculty continue to achieve in the areas of teaching, research and service:

- Rachna Heizer is now serving University Studies as Coordinator of Human Resource Development Curriculum and Instruction. Rachna also presented her research at the Netroots Nations Conference in August 2018 in New Orleans on "Reframing Disability as Diversity". She held a training on "Strengths Based Education for Students with Disabilities" at the Fairfax County Public School's Special Education Conference in April 2018. She has also participated in two panels one at the June 2018 Network Nova Women's Summit in Virginia on Intersectionality, and on the Juvenile Justice September 2018 with the Fairfax County NAACP.
- Andrea McCourt & Suzanne Tapp presented at the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources (CUPA-HR) Conference in Indianapolis on October 8th - Title: "Strategies to Attract, Develop, and Retain Contingent/Adjunct Faculty". Andrea McCourt was selected for a one-year faculty fellowship in the Texas Tech University Teaching Learning, and Professional Development Center. The fellowship will focus on the development of opportunities and other resources for non-tenure track faculty.
- Stella Zaragoza was elected to serve as the Treasurer 2018-2020 for the Association for Distance Education and Independent Learning. She has been serving this organization as an At-Large Board Member since 2015.
- James Childers has completed the Online Learning Consortium program for teaching online, and earned their Certificate in Online Teaching.
- Gail Bentley presented a roundtable presentation at the National Council on Family Relations conference in San Diego.

Through their service to students, in their research and teaching, and in their community engagement, the staff, and faculty of University Studies are developing innovative curricula, applying theory to research and teaching to address real-world challenges and empowering students to achieve in careers and community service. In University Studies, we are building on a foundation of interdisciplinary knowledge and skills, making connections between diverse sources of knowledge and real-world experiences, and having a transformative impact on peoples' lives. On behalf of our

University Studies faculty, staff, and students, I thank you for your support of University Studies.

Sincerely,



Patrick C. Hughes, Ph.D.