



Dear students, alumni, and friends,

Once again, it is my pleasure to write to you with these program highlights. As you have come to expect from our newsletters, we have highlighted here the excellent work being done by our University Studies faculty, academic advisors, and students. But, as you know, these achievements would not be possible without the generous support of our alumni and friends. So I am also excited to announce in this issue that University Studies will begin a development campaign during which you will have an opportunity to support the many wonderful programs we are planning for our students in University Studies such as study abroad trips, undergraduate research opportunities, and general scholarships. Our approach to fund raising will be characteristic of University Programs, namely—integrative. We will use crowdfunding technology similar to GoFundMe for specific programs such as undergraduate research and service breaks and enlist the help of TTU's advancement team for longer-term initiatives, growing our Fund for Excellence and other endowments, for instance. Of course, you need not wait for a formal invitation to support University Programs. You may support us now by following this link: [Fund For Excellence](#). Thank you for continued support.

Our faculty and staff joined for a "Kick-Off event" in August 2019 that provided a new vision, mission, and set of core values for University Staff as we move into 2020. Our vision in University Studies engages students in a highly recognizable, valued, and flexible learning experience in order to advance and connect their academic and community knowledge. The department is committed to developing lifelong learners who have a civic identity and operate as catalysts for societal change. Our mission is to develop diverse and highly skilled, civically minded lifelong learners that will be globally engaged to solve complex problems. Our core values are Student Success, Teamwork, Excellence & Integrity, and Pedagogy.

Since 2010, University Studies has graduated over 1,800 students, built 27 new academic courses, extended program offerings to three academic undergraduate degrees, six academic minors, one concentration, and one undergraduate certificate. As a result, we have 25 faculty, 8 staff, and 7 student assistants.

Here are a few special graduation announcements from our student accomplishments this past year. University Studies graduated the following students in the 2018-2019 academic year: Bachelor of Arts in University Studies: 158; Bachelor of Science in University Studies: 30; Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences in Applied Leadership: 7; Undergraduate Certificates in Strategic Leadership in Human Resource Development: 7. University Studies continues to offer curriculum to meet the needs of our student populations. We now offer an Integrative Studies in Healthcare Organizations academic minor. This minor provides the academic foundation for pre-health students to prepare for advanced study as well as the essential knowledge components in health care studies. The healthcare field is unique, interdisciplinary setting requiring knowledge in health, wellness, personnel, and multi-faceted that is growing in the United States. This minor provides an introduction and overview of the healthcare field and its various organizations that integrate theory, application, and practice in healthcare organizations. Students in this minor will be able to tackle global healthcare organizational problems and assess issues from an integrative perspective.

The other academic minor now being offered for spring 2020 is Computing Applications. The Computing Application minor will provide students with an interdisciplinary undergraduate education at Texas Tech University in applications of computing and information technology in a wide variety and widely dispersed domains such as music, arts, languages, sciences and wind energy. Formalized educational paradigms in interdisciplinary computing applications currently do not exist. These have been identified as necessary, even critical, by employers to succeed in the workforce. This minor is developed with a critical view to the changing face of the current job market, which has seen an increased and widespread influx of information technology. Information technology has facilitated the acquisition of information whether in education, entertainment or communication. For example, two disparate domains of study: computer science and experimental biology came together to create a new discipline—bioinformatics, without which, the human genome could not have been published. Information technology is integral to every lifestyle; its applications can only increase in time. Seeds of computing have already been sowed in diverse areas of study already exist at Texas Tech University—course involving digital arts, digital humanities and computing in musicology are already part of the university curriculum. Through this minor, we seek to provide students with the foundational tools and applications to meet the demands of the job market. This minor will be housed in the Department of University studies at TTU and will contribute to a student's undergraduate degree in University Studies. To complete this minor, students will be required to take two courses that are foundational computer science, two courses related to foundational to the discipline of interest, and two courses involving computer applications in the discipline of interest. Most importantly, all courses for both minors are offered online.

This fall, we also welcomed our newest Academic Advisor: Gracie Quintana. Gracie recently worked in University Xplore and enjoyed her time working with transfer students. Gracie has several years of management experience in various industries and is excited to help our programs grow.

Additionally, Kelsey Kern was promoted to Senior Academic Advisor on September 1, 2019. Kelsey recently completed her master's degree in interdisciplinary studies. Kelsey has provided exceptional service to our students, faculty, and staff.

Our faculty and staff continue to produce scholarly work. Dr. Marcus Tanner and Dr. Sarah Schwintz presented "Assessing an Interdisciplinary Program Using High Impact e-Portfolio Assignments" at the Texas Association for Higher Education Assessment conference in San Antonio, Texas on October 2, 2019. Alyssa Wagner, Assistant Director of Student Services, was selected as a team member to participate in Excelencia's 2019 Alignment Institution in Washington D.C. this fall to strengthen institutional capacity to examine strategies that align data, practice, and leadership to achieve significant levels of Latino student success. Lastly, Dr. Sarah Schwintz, Senior Director for Student Services in University Programs, was published in Inside HigherEd: "Four Strategies for Completing your Dissertation"

Our faculty and staff continue to recruit for our degree programs not only here in Lubbock, but all over the state of Texas including major cities and community colleges. Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter to see if one of your favorite advisors or Instructor may be in your area! Additionally, if you haven't been to our building recently, you may notice that our offices have moved from Drane Hall 164 to individual offices on the 3rd floor of Drane Hall. Please come check in and meet us in Drane Hall 332! If you are a current student, please take the time to visit with our student services office to plan for next year's coursework in 2020. Additionally, the FASFA and scholarship applications for the 2020-2021 are now open. Please don't forget to apply for a scholarship for next year on or before February 1, 2020.

Sincerely,



Patrick C. Hughes, Ph.D.

Vice Provost, University Programs and Student Success