



Dear Faculty, Staff, Students, and Alumni of University Studies,

Thank you for taking the time to open this Spring/Summer 2021 edition of the Integrative Edge and thank you for being a part of the University Studies family! We could not do all that we do without you, students, alumni, parents, and friends of the program.

I am also thankful for our great team for their work during the worst times of the pandemic. Although we experienced our own set of challenges, the inner workings of our department went relatively normal. Almost from its outset University Studies has been a 100% online program. Delivering this program all online also means that our department faculty is dispersed through the contiguous United States. In addition to our students completing the program virtually, our faculty also work primarily virtually.

As I write this, we are coming up on the 10-year anniversary of the Integrative Studies program. It has served as the synthesizing component of the University Studies degree program for a decade. I will never forget starting my new role on July 11th, 2011. I had one month and 25 days to redesign two existing courses, design two more, and hire faculty to teach them for Fall 2011. To say that time was busy is an understatement. I am reminded of the work of Dr. Carol Dweck and Angela Duckworth who research and write about Mindset and GRIT. Since that day in July 2011, I have endeavored to challenge our team to maintain a growth mindset as opposed to a fixed mindset; that we can achieve what we set out to. I have also endeavored to instill a sense of GRIT in our team. There have been many challenges over the years but because our team, I believe, incorporates perseverance and passion for our students and program we have achieved much over the last 10 years.

A few briefs:

- We have graduated more than 2,000 students.
- We have added many new areas of concentration and minors. The newest being Computing Applications and Integrative Studies in Healthcare Organizations.
- Added Institutional Advancement endeavors that have awarded scholarships to University Studies students.

- Created and inducted student awards: Learn more about our awards, nominate someone or yourself, visit our [website](#).
- We continue to rank in the top ten of all Texas Tech University undergraduate majors.
- Added many new courses in Human Resource Development (HRDV) and Integrative Studies (INTS). Included several of these courses in Core for TTU and offered several with service-learning components.
- Many, many more individual and departmental accomplishments.
- You will also see pictures of our new Student Lounge located on the 3rd floor of Drane Hall.

I am continually grateful to our Student Services team. Their work with Campus Live has been helping to promote the remarkable things students and alumni have been doing with their University Studies degree. If you would like to know more, make sure to follow us on all socials @ustudiesttu.

Thank you for being a part of our program and giving back to us!