INSIDE THIS ISSUE

LIFE BEYOND GRADUATION:
Meet the Class of 2021

TRANSFORMING TOMORROW TOGETHER WITH STRENGTH

Transformational partnerships and funding advance community vitality

Access to art and culture education boosted by DOE record grant

STRENGTHEN THE SCHOOL TO COLLEGE PIPELINE:
La Familia

University receives national designation for excellence in education

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-SAN ANTONIO UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE 2022
ON THE COVER

Featured on the cover is future entrepreneur and newly-minted alum Julianne Garcia ’21, a San Antonio native with a passion for learning and business. Her dream is to someday create and run her own business. Read more about Garcia and the other outstanding graduates of the Class of 2021 and 14,000-plus Texas A&M University-San Antonio alumni network (starting on page 27 and online at tamusa.edu/um).
CONTENTS

2 Welcome
Greetings from Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp and Texas A&M University-San Antonio President Cynthia Teniente-Matson

4 Transforming Tomorrow Together – from vision to passion to transformation, Texas A&M University-San Antonio is on the map—and gaining national recognition as an HSI exemplar.

14 Academic and administrative leaders envision the A&M-San Antonio of tomorrow, and share their vision for academic excellence, talent pipeline and an inclusive community.

18 University Highlights
Around the University, students, faculty and staff are leading a transformational charge as the University’s reputation, enrollment and achievements support a dynamic mission.

22 Athletics
A Season of Firsts – Jaguars hit the competitive field. Launching in 2021, the University’s intercollegiate athletics program successfully established an infrastructure and joined the Red River Conference in several sports including softball, men’s golf, women’s and men’s soccer.

25 Life After Graduation – Class of 2021 looks to the Future

27 Class Notes
IN LESS THAN A DECADE AND A HALF, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-SAN ANTONIO HAS TRANSFORMED WHAT WAS ONCE AN EXpanse OF RANCHES AND PASTURE.

And as we welcome a new year, and reflect on the past 12 months, there is a theme of transformation during a global pandemic, no less.

The talents, flexibility, and ingenuity of our faculty and staff have prepared us well for the opportunities that lie ahead. Our alumni, now 14,000 strong, are leading – from the C-suite to creating businesses to research to professional degrees in healthcare and education to public service. And like Texas A&M University-San Antonio – doing so from a place of strength (Con Fuerza).

2022 is a critical period in A&M-San Antonio’s growth and physical development for making strides in academic excellence and enhancing our reputation. The following pages are filled with examples of innovation – and we are seizing every opportunity presented by our geography and the ingenuity of our time. You’ll read stories of the achievements of our world-class faculty and national recognition of the University that speaks to impact and engagement. On campus you will see visible signs of progress as the College of Business and Library building prepares to open fall 2022, and as we begin the outdoor hardscape for the second quad. Further expansion will continue to transform our 700-acre campus, such as the funding request for a bond initiative to support roadway expansion to address our growth and those of neighboring projects. We will also see progress in the VIDA development and our own housing projects to accommodate further growth. Our intercollegiate athletics program, now in its second year of competitive play, will continue to make a name in the NIAA and Red River Conference. And we will see more major gifts to fund scholarships, new program and initiatives and research. We will see continue impact of our partnerships and collaborations including the ASPIRE network and providing equitable access. As our enrollment continues to grow, we will continue to be focused on putting our students first, ensuring that our faculty have the resources and support to support our students and their academic journey, and to be an active partner in our community.

We are advancing our reputation through our work, through our faculty, through our collaborations, we are delivering on our promise and mission and commitment to excellence as we steadily raise our profile. We are and will continue to be a university on the rise, Transforming Tomorrow Together.

Cynthia Teniente-Matson
Cynthia Teniente-Matson, Ed.D.
President
Texas A&M University-San Antonio
GREETINGS FROM A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

In 2021 Chancellor John Sharp launched Around Texas, a television series now in its third season featuring the extraordinary achievements and distinctive programs across the 11 A&M University System campuses. Texas A&M University-San Antonio’s inaugural e-sports program was featured in March 2021 edition.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio was born on a mission to serve all students — particularly those from South San Antonio’s underserved population — with access to a high-quality, affordable education.

Because of this mission, and our dedication to it, Texas A&M University-San Antonio has not only become the fastest growing university in The Texas A&M University System, but the entire state of Texas.

Graduating from university not only changes the life of the graduate, it changes the lives of their families and their communities. As graduates move on to professional lives and have their own children, the talk around their kitchen tables inevitably moves from “will you go to college” to “what college will you go to?”

This change is at the heart of Texas A&M University-San Antonio’s mission.

The needs of this region are clear, and the possibilities for this 696-acre campus are only as limited as our imaginations.

John Sharp
Chancellor
Texas A&M University System

To watch the interview visit: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CunjOKIRewcg
TRANSFORMING TOMORROW TOGETHER

FROM VISION TO PASSION TO TRANSFORMATION, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-SAN ANTONIO IS ON THE MAP

Whatever you do, do it with passion. The rest comes by itself, according to Latina artist Fabiola Haro. Such words describe Texas A&M University-San Antonio and its relentless quest to redefine higher education. Every milestone reached – such as record enrollments and graduation classes to new scholarships and an emerging research agenda speak to an underlying passion for a vision grounded in collaboration and connections across geographies, industries and disciplines.
Texas A&M University-San Antonio is moving at an unprecedented speed to deliver a mission of impact and engagement. Each step is founded in the institution’s strategic plan focused on transforming the future of higher education, access and community opportunity. The strategic plan, which carries the title: A&M-San Antonio: Transforming Tomorrow Together: 2022-2026, is defining the future for a distinctive institution. And we do so with strength (con fuerza).

While speed of growth is one distinctive feature of the institution – what differentiates A&M-San Antonio is an emerging role as a national exemplar for collaboration, partnerships and creativity that is creating a momentum for the region and socio economic and intergenerational impact on graduates and their families.

Over the next five years, A&M-San Antonio is also poised to become an exemplar as a proud Hispanic-Serving and Military-Embracing Institution with a predominantly first-generation student population focused on transforming lives and building partnerships to advance the community.

In the following pages of the 2022 University Magazine you’ll read about the programs and individuals who are leading transformational initiatives as well as those impacted. These stories are representative of an intersection of purpose and impact.

Intersection of purpose and impact
During 2021, several first of their kind initiatives launched that are impacting the lives of students, their families and the communities the university’s mission to bolster educational equity and resources in the region. With the support of the A&M University System and corporate and foundation financial support and collaborations, the university is redefining opportunity through transformation partnerships bringing access and a culture of equity and inclusiveness.

This issue of the University Magazine features some of these transformational engagements.
HEALTHY PARTNERSHIPS IN STORE WITH NEW VIDA DEVELOPMENTS AND UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM

The University community and beyond is starting to see real progress in the VIDA developments underway adjacent to the A&M-San Antonio campus. In November, University Health announced the acquisition of 68 acres of land adjacent to Texas A&M University-San Antonio for a new hospital site.

A&M-San Antonio’s 20-year vision, articulated in the new five-year strategic plan, defines a strategy for building up academic programming and a research enterprise in key disciplines that will best serve our students, our institution, and the community for the future. University Health’s investment reinforces A&M-San Antonio strategy to develop opportunities for collaboration and innovation.

The placement of a health care facility on the South Side also demonstrates University Health’s commitment to supporting a healthy community and equitable access to health care for all San Antonio residents and opens the to developing partnerships in workforce development and career opportunities for A&M-San Antonio students and graduates, interdisciplinary research collaborations, and health-science education.

ASPIRE PARTNERSHIP

Entering its third year, the ASPIRE network (A&M-San Antonio and South Bexar County ISDs Partnership to Impact Regional Equity and Excellence), a collaborative effort between A&M-San Antonio and seven South Bexar County ISDs (East Central, Edgewood, Harlandale, Somerset, South San Antonio, Southside, and Southwest) that is creating equitable opportunities across districts and enhance social mobility, income growth, and career readiness for South Bexar County and the greater San Antonio area. From culture and arts education to digital access to teacher preparation and leadership development to family programs, ASPIRE and its network are influencing the socio-economic framework and opportunities to influence school to college pipeline and access.

Such efforts are gaining national recognition in recent months. In addition significant increase in federal grants to launch new strategic educational initiatives, the university was one of 10 exemplars in the nation this year to receive the Seal of Excelencia joining 14 other institutions recognized for serving Latino and other student populations with intentionality. (Read the full story on page 11).

As US Department of Education Secretary Carlos Cardona spoke with constituents and the media following his visit to the Gus Garcia Middle School October 7, 2021, he saw firsthand, along with US Representative Joaquin Castro (20th District), the impact the ASPIRE network across South Bexar County and San Antonio. Visiting with school staff, teachers, students, parents and College of Education and Human Development faculty, Cardona spoke about the opportunities and shared impact created when a strategy leads with collaboration.

To see more about the visit, news.tamus.edu/national-spotlight-shines-on-aspire-partnership/
UNIVERSITY, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE TOBIN CENTER, RECEIVES $3.35 MILLION U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GRANT

A unique collaboration between Texas A&M University-San Antonio and the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts is set to transform arts education and experiences for thousands of South Bexar County elementary students and teachers, boosted by a $3.35 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The five-year grant award—the largest federal competitive grant received at Texas A&M University-San Antonio—will support CULTIVAR (Communities Uplifting Learners through Imagination and Vibrant Artistic Reflections), an arts-based education program for K-5 students and teachers throughout San Antonio.

The program officially launched in December at Armstrong Elementary in the South San Antonio Independent School District (SSAISD)—one of seven school districts within A&M-San Antonio’s ASPIRE network—to create a fully immersive arts education program for all students in grades K-5. CULTIVAR will focus on three distinct areas—teachers, students, and community—that will enhance arts education in San Antonio schools and expand community and regional awareness of opportunities for Latinx cultural arts.

An arts-based education program impacts students’ educational experiences, providing opportunities to express their personal, cultural, and linguistic identity. “For students and communities with high levels of poverty and marginalization, a program such as CULTIVAR is rarely accessible and addresses an issue of educational equity,” according to Dr. Carl Sheperis, Dean of the College of Education and Human Development at A&M-San Antonio. “The CULTIVAR project is an example of A&M-San Antonio’s commitment to educational equity in San Antonio and will give historically underserved communities access to meaningful arts education opportunities and resources that often are lacking.”

The DOE grant will support the design and build of an artist’s maker’s studio and an arts garden at Armstrong Elementary and provide art experiences for students, families, and community members in those spaces. The grant also will provide opportunities for all teachers in the seven ASPIRE districts to participate in arts education professional development to increase cross-cultural and community awareness, potentially impacting thousands of students in the San Antonio area.

“We are excited to partner with Texas A&M University-San Antonio to add yet another instructional tool to our ever-expanding educational tool belt,” said South San Antonio Independent School District Superintendent Marc Puig. “Our children will be exposed to a world where artistic expression goes above and beyond any restrictive lines.”

A&M-San Antonio’s partnership with the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts—a renowned arts organization in the center of San Antonio with a mission to promote a diverse range of cultural, educational, and artistic experiences that improve the quality of life in San Antonio—adds a unique element to this project through its Generation NEXT initiative which connects education and the arts and promotes creative classrooms and culturally relevant learning throughout the city. The Tobin Center will be responsible for supporting teachers throughout the ASPIRE network with training on effective ways to integrate the arts in their classrooms.

“Arts integration is more than motivation, diversity, and creativity,” said Dr. Kimberly Stephenson, Director of Education at The Tobin Center. “This grant will contribute to integration of the arts as an act of collaboration, a recognition of strengths from teacher to students, students to teachers, and classmate to classmate that contributes to an increase in confidence. To practice arts integration is to make an investment in a depth of meaning making and retention through individual, lived experiences.”

About the U.S. DOE Arts Education Grant

The CULTIVAR project is being led by Dr. Karen Burgard, Associate Professor in the department of curriculum and instruction at Texas A&M University-San Antonio; Assistant Professors Dr. Elisabeth Krimbill and Dr. Katherine Espinoza and Associate Professor Dr. Melissa Jozwiak—all in the Department of Educator and Leadership Preparation; Dr. Kimberly Stephenson of the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts; and Dr. Michelle Janysek, Dr. Gus Weltsek, and Mr. Justin Korver of A&M-San Antonio.
Access to technology services and support for students and their families across San Antonio Independent School District received a boost this year with the launch of a technology and digital literacy initiative with the San Antonio Independent School District. The program, Connected Beyond the Classroom Help Desk (CBTC HD), is strengthening home-based IT support for more than 25,000 students and their families while also creating a talent pipeline for careers in IT services through its Digital Inclusion Scholars Program. The program has the potential to roll out across the ASPIRE network between A&M-San Antonio and its seven members as well as throughout San Antonio.

The CBTC HD could become a national model to help close the homework gap and tackle digital inclusion. The help desk is part of the Connected Beyond the Classroom project already in place in school districts and communities throughout San Antonio. A twist to staffing the help desk is that students and eventually family members, including parents, will be selected as Digital Inclusion Scholars – trained and mentored by University students and staff to deliver quality home-based, broadband Internet access and support. Eligible University and high school students and parents will be trained in help desk, customer service and basic computer skills necessary to solve common technology issues and enhanced problem-solving skills necessary for successful employment in the workforce and to staff the help desk. Future expansion of the pilot project is expected to connect qualifying households in participating areas across Bexar County, according to Dr. Carl Sheperis, A&M-San Antonio’s Dean of the College of Education and Human Development. Down the road, data assessment related to the impact of the CBTC Help Desk and the Digital Inclusion Scholars Program across a broad array of areas including IT infrastructure, user functionality, student learning outcomes, operational management, access, and community support,” said Sheperis. This will guide future investments, services and support to mitigate the digital divide and improve student performance.

Two grants – $750,000 grant from USAA and $150,000 from Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc. – are helping A&M-San Antonio launch the help desk initiative and scale capabilities to neighborhoods across San Antonio. Both the help desk and Connected Beyond the Classroom initiatives will measure impact and performance on learning and improving academic performance by at least one letter grade over the academic year while increasing confidence in technology use and demonstrating a 90-percent mastery in digital literacy, said Sheperis.

Data capture and analysis are factors in creating a sustainable and scalable model for the CBTC Help Desk, and the Digital Inclusion Scholars Program will also provide A&M-San Antonio and city and county agencies data that will lead to a process model that could be replicated beyond San Antonio, according to Sheperis. “These programs will be necessary to addressing future scenarios, as qualifying students will also be able to receive online instruction should changes in safety and health conditions require that,” said Sheperis.
Taking steps to improve the representation of women of color in tech fields and careers is a focus of A&M-San Antonio. Women seeking careers in cybersecurity and IT are being supported by a new program at A&M-San Antonio through the Texas Two-Step for Increasing Women in Technology program. The program, which received a $224,000 grant from the Texas Workforce Investment Council, is being led by the University’s Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement. Texas Two-Step is one of only 18 workforce skills training and job placement programs from across the state selected as part of $5.5 million in Texas Talent Connection grants awarded by the Texas Workforce Investment Council in Governor Abbott’s Economic Development and Tourism division.

A recent national study released by the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine points to the women of color remaining underrepresented in the tech workforce, as well as numbers of women from some racial and ethnic groups have even declined, the report noted. Black women hold three percent of jobs, Latinx women hold one percent, and Native American/Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander women hold 0.3 percent. Women of color are underrepresented in tech leadership positions, as well (December 6, 2021).

As its name suggests, the aim of the Texas Two-Step program provides tools for career development and financial wellness and technical training through online modules in the areas of asset security, communication and network security, identity and access management, and security engineering and operations – as well as preparation for certifications.

“Throughout the Two-Step program, participants will engage in numerous experiential learning opportunities,” according Dr. Edwin Blanton, associate vice president and executive director of the Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement.

Participants who complete the program will be ready to either enter the workforce through a local employer or enroll at A&M-San Antonio to pursue a degree in computer science, information technology, or cybersecurity while receiving specialized wraparound career and academic services.

The University’s commitment to address digital inclusion was boosted with a $100,000 grant from the John L. Santikos Charitable Foundation. The funds will further support technical assistance to students and their families under our Connected Beyond the Classroom Help Desk project.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN PREPARING FOR IT AND CYBERSECURITY CAREERS

Women of color currently make up 39% of the female population in the United States and are projected to comprise the majority of women by 2060.

According to a recent study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. (December 2021).

Women of color earn less than 10% of the bachelor’s degrees awarded and less than 5% of doctorates.
THE NEXT GENERATION OF SOFTWARE DESIGNERS EVOLVES

Texas A&M University–San Antonio Launch “VisionCoders” with $3.89M Federal Grant

San Antonio middle school students who are in at-risk situations have the opportunity to become the next generation of software coders through an innovative project called VisionCoders, launched by Intercultural Development Research Association (IDRA) and Texas A&M University-San Antonio. The project was kick-started by a $3.89 million, five-year Education, Innovation and Research grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

“We’re excited to partner with A&M-San Antonio and San Antonio-area districts to prepare middle schoolers for careers that haven’t even been invented yet,” said IDRA President & CEO Celina Moreno.

These student ‘VisionCoders’ will become leaders on campus and in our future workforce.”

IDRA and A&M–San Antonio are partnering on the design and implementation of an eighth-grade computer science course in which the VisionCoders will create educational games for Pre-K to first grade students. The project will impact more than 1,400 students in 12 schools in the seven Bexar County school districts that comprise the ASPIRE network.

VisionCoders was created with a similar purpose of that of Texas A&M University-San Antonio; to be at the forefront of a strategy to propel regional innovation while creating a pathway for South San Antonio and South Bexar County students to prepare for the future of science, technology, engineering and math careers,” said Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson, president of A&M-San Antonio. Skills such as critical thinking, math and computing will enable them to be successful in educational and employment aspirations in this highly competitive field.

Key to the course are well-prepared and knowledgeable teachers, which is why VisionCoders integrates focused teacher training with a master’s level course through A&M-San Antonio’s College of Education and Human Development. Participating school districts include East Central, Edgewood, Harlandale, Somerset, South San Antonio, Southside, and Southwest ISDs.

ABOUT THE INTERCULTURAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

IDRA, an independent, non-profit organization, led by Celina Moreno, J.D, has a mission to achieve equal educational opportunity for every child through strong public schools that prepare all students to access and succeed in college. The organization strengthens and transforms public education by providing dynamic training; useful research, evaluation, and frameworks for action; timely policy analyses; and innovative materials and programs.

IN THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA ENCOMPASSING THOSE DISTRICTS, LESS THAN 1% OF ADULTS WORK IN COMPUTER-RELATED FIELDS, COMPARED TO THE NATIONAL AVERAGE OF 7%.

TODAY’S FASTEST-GROWING CAREERS ARE TECH-DRIVEN, FROM HEALTHCARE TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS TO AEROSPACE. THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS REPORTS THAT 67% OF ALL NEW JOBS IN STEM ARE IN COMPUTING, AND PROJECTS THAT COMPUTER SCIENCE RESEARCH JOBS ALONE WILL INCREASE 19% BY 2026.
A&M-SAN ANTONIO RECEIVES NATIONAL SEAL OF EXCELENCIA FOR ITS WORK SERVING LATINO STUDENTS

A&M-San Antonio joined the prestigious group of 24 institutions in the nation who are certified with the “Seal of Excelencia” – ensuring America’s future through their unwavering commitment to intentionally serving Latino students while serving all, according to Excelencia in Education.

“These Seal certified institutions have been able to articulate and demonstrate they are modeling the behavior we need to see to accelerate Latino student success. They are having measurable impact in changing the face of higher education,” said Deborah Santiago, co-founder and CEO of Excelencia in Education.

Such efforts include evidence of effectiveness and intentionality in institutional practices serving Latino students; positive momentum for Latino student progress in their data, and dedication to transforming the institution into an environment where Latino students thrive as well as leadership strategies that clearly articulate institutional focus on advancing Latino student success. Of the thousands of colleges and universities across the country, the 135 presidents and chancellors of the 170 institutions in the organization’s network, Presidents for Latino Students Success, enroll one in four of all Latino students in higher education. These institutions account for one in three of all Latino graduates, according to Excelencia in Education.

Excelencia began Seal certification in 2019 as one of the organization’s transformational strategies to lead colleges and universities to go beyond simply enrolling Latino students. The Seal provides the means to use data and practice to instill intentionality in serving Latino students. A&M-San Antonio and the other nine institutions who earned Seal certification this year demonstrated specific inclusive strategies, implementing programs with evidence of effectiveness, and registering results that showed they are intentionally serving Latino students amongst all of their students.

““We are proud that by creating the Seal of Excelencia, we have catalyzed a transformation in higher education. It is gratifying to see that even during a pandemic and national reckoning for social justice, we doubled the number of institutions that were Seal-certified this year. That shows a need and real desire to accelerate Latino student success. Excelencia shows how institutions can lead the way through these challenging times.”

—SARITA BROWN, Excelencia’s Co-Founder and President.

To learn more about Excelencia in Education visit excelenciaineducation.org

MORE THAN 75% OF A&M-SAN ANTONIO STUDENTS IDENTIFY AS HISPANIC AND NEARLY 71% ARE THE FIRST IN THEIR FAMILY TO ATTEND A UNIVERSITY.
FIRST-GEN FORWARD DESIGNATION; NATIONAL HONOR RECOGNIZES COMMITMENT TO FIRST-GENERATION STUDENT SUCCESS

The First-gen Forward designation recognizes institutions of higher education that have demonstrated a commitment to improving experiences and advancing outcomes of first-generation college students, according to Dr. Mari Fuentes-Martin, Vice President for Student Success and Engagement. This recognition includes professional development support, community-building experiences, and a first look at the research and resources of NASPA’s Center for First-generation Student Success.

“The center is so pleased to welcome A&M-San Antonio into the 2021-22 First-gen Forward cohort. Through the application process, it was evident that A&M-San Antonio is not only taking steps to serve first-generation students but is prepared to make a long-term commitment and employ strategies that foster an environment of success for this important population,” said Dr. Sarah E. Whitley, assistant vice president, Center for First-generation Student Success.

Among the support first-generation students receive from A&M-San Antonio is assistance finding the right people, departments and resources they need throughout their college journey through the University’s First Generation Center, part of the Student Academic Success Center. Services include help navigating the admissions process through applying for graduation and everything in between. •

A PERFECT MATCH – UNIVERSITY-SPONSORED ZOO EXHIBIT LAUNCHES LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is the sponsor of the recently-renovated Neotropica habitat at the San Antonio Zoo. The habitat includes the Pantera Walk, a sky bridge providing space for a pair of jaguars, Arizona and B’alam, to roam. The partnership between the University and the San Antonio Zoo will provide new opportunities for student internships and student and faculty research in the years ahead in addition to supporting broad educational experiences about endangered species and their habitats for thousands of visitors each year.

“A&M-San Antonio is committed to community partnerships and building pathways that support educational knowledge, internships, and research opportunities for students. We are thrilled to share the A&M-San Antonio jaguar spirit with all K-12 children and schools that visit the San Antonio Zoo each year,” said President Cynthia Teniente-Matson. The sponsorship also helps to advance A&M-San Antonio’s visibility in the community in support of enrollment goals. •

APPROXIMATELY 71% OF A&M-SA’S STUDENTS ARE FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS.
A&M-SAN ANTONIO SELECTED FOR NATIONAL INITIATIVE TO CLOSE EQUITY GAPS

Closing the equity gap is among the priorities of Texas A&M University-San Antonio. The University was recently named one of only 15 universities from across the nation to lead a new initiative to accelerate closing the equity gap for student success in a program launched by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU).

The two-year, team-based learning journey accelerates institutional transformation by providing customized support for making data-informed decisions grounded in students’ realities. The program is designed to help institutions eliminate race, ethnicity, and income as predictors of student success. Campus leaders will learn best practices to close equity gaps and achieve student success goals for Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and low-income students.

Among the participants—representing rural, urban, and suburban areas across the country—are seven Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs); three historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and Predominately Black Institutions (PBIs); and three Asian American and Native American Pacific-Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs).

In other AASCU news, Texas A&M University-San Antonio President Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson assumed the chair of the association’s Board of Directors during AASCU’s annual meeting in early November 2021. A San Antonio native, Teniente-Matson has more than 30 years of higher education experience in Alaska, California, and Texas. In 2016, she oversaw Texas A&M University-San Antonio’s transformation from upper division to a comprehensive master’s university, in addition to achieving the U.S. Department of Education Hispanic Serving Institution designation. Under her leadership, the university has developed strategic initiatives to improve and enhance student learning and degree attainment, especially for first-generation students. AASCU is a Washington, D.C.-based higher education association of nearly 400 public colleges, universities, and systems whose members share a learning- and teaching-centered culture, a historic commitment to underserved student populations, and a dedication to research and creativity that advances their regions’ economic progress and cultural development.

Partnerships with impact are at the forefront of Texas A&M University-San Antonio’s strategic plan: Transforming Tomorrow Together. In fact, it’s one of the five goals with a focus on engaging in collaborations and activities that meaningfully impact the student experience, advance our community and region, and boost institutional visibility and reputation. Goal 4 of the University’s Strategic Plan focuses on impact and engagement through an institution-wide strategy to advance A&M-San Antonio’s reputation through partnerships and recognitions that elevate its distinctiveness, according to Dr. Jeanette DeDiemar, immediate past Vice President for University Relations and Advancement and Goal 4 champion Communicating through a compelling, action-driven strategy that fosters engagement with the community, alumni, and donors. Such action will support excellence and equitable access to education, community health and economic development and the institution’s commitment to equity and social justice. The university serves as an anchor partner in relationships to lift collective impact.

Texas A&M-San Antonio’s participation in this inaugural cohort speaks to our campus-wide commitment and continued focus on student success and closing the equity gap that impacts student success. We are honored to be part of the national effort and to contribute to the collective impact.”

—DR. MARI FUENTES-MARTIN, Vice President for Student Success and Engagement at Texas A&M-San Antonio.

SELECTED INSTITUTIONS PARTICIPATING SERVE 120,525 STUDENTS (FTE), WITH AN AVERAGE PELL ELIGIBILITY OF 48%
UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE 2022

VISON FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Community Partnerships

Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-SA) envisions a pioneering Public Health Initiative premised on several key foundations: Health Equity, serving the Underserved, and Sustainability. We will accomplish this vision through a multidisciplinary, community-engaged teaching and research initiative.

As an emerging university located in a federal opportunity zone, now is a critical time to collaborate with Bexar County University Health System to develop health sciences careers and a research infrastructure targeted at a historically under-resourced area. There is currently a critical shortage of trained public health professionals that has been documented over the past decade. A study by the de Beaumont Foundation found that only 17% of the workforce presently has formal public health training. The University is well-poised to offer classroom training and field experiences that can prepare future leaders to enter and grow in public health organizations and agencies, appropriately filling the notable part of the workforce gap. Current and anticipated public health workforce gaps require not just a replacement, but a recalibration of the workforce. To meet the more complex challenges and opportunities they face, agencies need workers with new and different skills and a broader background that includes health informatics, cultural competence, global health, communication, policy, community participatory research, and disaster preparedness, in addition to skills in the core disciplines of public health. A&M-San Antonio has a competitive advantage as the sole public university in San Antonio with an immediate proximate location to a large historically underserved community that has suffered from longstanding population health inequities.

Now is the ideal time to create a collaborative partnership between Texas A&M University-San Antonio, the Texas A&M Health Science Center, and University Health System, while University Health is building a new 256-bed hospital at the western entrance of the campus. The choice of A&M-San Antonio for University Health’s first hospital on the south side of San Antonio is a watershed moment in their commitment to high-quality compassionate patient care. The A&M-SA Public Health – University Health partnership is a product of our shared vision to improve the health of our community through education, innovation, and discovery. This new hospital opens the door to limitless potential for interdisciplinary research and unprecedented opportunities in public health and health-science enrollment, workforce development, and career opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. This is a significant competitive advantage in recruiting and retaining our students.

Bexar County and South Texas have for decades experienced deeply entrenched health disparities. Texas A&M University-San Antonio’s public health initiative aims to become a leader in not just understanding the mechanisms and reasons for existing disparities, but being a primary force in seeing a reduction in these inequities. We envision Texas A&M University-San Antonio to be a leader and collaborator in improving the health and lives of people in the region and beyond.

ENGINE OF TRUST

I had the privilege to stand before nearly 400 of our College of Arts and Sciences graduates during the December 2021 commencement. No doubt these students have heard that they are the creators of a new normal, that they are entering the adult world in a time of unparalleled uncertainty, and that their creativity will shine.

I told our graduates: The world NEEDS you. The future will always need the human skills that the liberal arts promote, abilities that are needed now more than ever: communication, interpretation, linking and synthesizing domains of knowledge, and imbuing facts with meaning and value.

If they remembered nothing else, I asked them to remember: they were trained for this moment. The College of Arts and Sciences is the academic heart of the University, not simply because of the size of the college, but because this is where arts, humanities, and natural, mathematical, social, and behavioral sciences can and do converge in unique and unexpected ways.

As a chemist, I have personally seen this confluence. Chemistry and art are often thought of as polar opposites. While art is viewed as creative, expressive, and fluid, chemistry is analytical, precise, and staid. Yet, there is a significant crossover between the two.

I met a woman, a retired chemist who spent her entire career in a laboratory, at an art exhibition in Indianapolis. She created art by floating paint on the surface of water. While this technique has been used for centuries, this scientist-artist used her knowledge of science to alter the density of the water and viscosity of the paint. The result: beautiful works of art that uniquely combine science and creativity. The result was truly beautiful, and I thought of all the wonderful ways the arts and sciences can and should come together.

We must challenge accepted definitions, classifications, and expectations. Our faculty provide that knowledge to our students.

From the science faculty, our students learned that uncertainty is the norm. Experiments begin with uncertainty and even when they are successful, the results are only one step in our quest for knowledge. Our students now know that uncertainty has
value - value for the individual researcher and value for society. From the social science faculty, students learned that coping with uncertainty must be a collective effort. They now understand the complexity of the world we live in—a world in which people face one another across gulfs of geography, language, and nationality.

The arts and humanities are engines of trust. From the arts and humanities faculty, students learned how to think critically and use daring imagination, thereby developing an amazing capacity for an empathetic understanding of the human experience. The ability to adapt and thrive in a world certain to keep changing is not based on the training for the specific jobs of today, but in developing long-term qualities of mind: inquisitiveness, perceptiveness, the ability to put a received idea into a new purpose, and the ability to share and build ideas with a diverse world of others.

Many of our students are first-generation college graduates. They are the first in their family to meet the challenges of college life and they prevailed. Every success, every perceived failure, every high, every low. I challenged our graduates to continue to use their unique talents in the places where they show up - in the community, in the board rooms, in their actions, in their heads and in their hearts.

While these graduates’ lives will now go in many directions, what I know is —at a time when the world desperately needs their rigorous thinking, their creativity and courage, and their compassion—they are well-prepared to deliver and to confront whatever lies ahead.

Dr. Rohan Christie-David
Dean, College of Business

**DYNAMIC SHIFT**

Business education across the globe is changing to adapt to the dynamic shifts in industry, finance, technology, and human capital, and most recently, the pandemic.

The vision of the College of Business at Texas A&M University-San Antonio is to become THE school of choice for students as we serve the city of San Antonio and beyond. Our mission is focused on educating students who are valued by industry and our community. Since my arrival in June 2020, the faculty and staff in the College of Business are drivers of change and delivering on a strategy to advance the quality of business education and to become a leader in business education delivered through diverse perspectives, innovative mindset, and a focus on making a difference. Our strategy is threefold:

Prepare for accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AASCB), also known as AACSB International. The College’s accreditation will be reviewed in fall 2022. For over 100 years, the AASCB has been recognized as the highest global standard for excellence in business education. This accreditation will also provide the College of Business will connect our students and faculty with a network of 1,700 organizations and more than organizations and 900-plus accredited business schools worldwide of educators, students, and businesses to achieve a common goal: “to create the next generation of great leaders.”

Serve our students to compete in the global marketplace including developing and delivering market-driven graduate and undergraduate programs that meet the demands of industry and provide students with the experience that best prepares them for the skills employers are seeking. For example, at the graduate level, the College will offer a full-time 11-month MBA program starting fall 2022. The program includes the opportunity for students to engage in meaningful work experiences in the form of competitive internships. A global business experience is woven into the curriculum and available to all students. Flexibility is necessary for many graduate students – to address this need, the College is offering an online version of the MBA, without the internship or global business experience components. At the undergraduate level, we launched two years ago a degree in Cybersecurity and Cyber Engineering Technology.

Transition the College of Business into the new state-of-the-art facility opening in the summer of 2022. The building brings together for the first time our faculty benefitting our students, faculty, and staff providing a technology-driven environment including a trading room, a behavioral lab, and classrooms equipped with the latest technologies that will facilitate the learning process both on and off-campus.

I invite you to be a part of this dynamic vision by supporting internships, making a gift to the College of Business, and sharing your expertise with our students and alumni.

Dr. Rohan Christie-David
Dean, College of Business

Dr. Carl Sheperis
Dean, College of Education

**ADVANCING COMMUNITY VITALITY**

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to transforming tomorrow together. Our faculty and staff members envision a world where our graduates advance the prosperity and well-being of their communities. Over the last year, we have been engaged in several meaningful and reciprocal partnerships with our community and key stakeholders that are helping to make our vision a reality. The first key partnership has been the advancement of our SB 1882 in-district charter
provide for intergenerational arts opportunities throughout the community. CULTIVAR will focus on three distinct areas - teachers, students, and the community - enhancing arts education in San Antonio schools and expanding community awareness and opportunities for Latinx cultural arts regionally.

These are just three examples of the amazing work being done in the COEHD and in our surrounding communities. Hopefully you can see the commitment we have to community engagement and making a difference. We truly are transforming tomorrow together.

Dr. Carl Sheperis
Dean, College of Education and Human Development

ON A MISSION FOR INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

The Office of Equity and Inclusive Excellence was established in 2021 at A&M San Antonio after President Cynthia Teniente-Matson set a vision for equity and inclusion for the campus. While many organizations and institutions of higher education emphasize the importance of equity and inclusion, for Texas A&M University-San Antonio there are deeper implications in establishing equitable practices at this institution.

Historically, the area of the city where the campus is located continues to be underserved and economically deprived when compared to other developed areas of the city. As with many cities around the nation impacted by redlining practices, the area where A&M-San Antonio is located serves communities that have seen slow urban/suburban development and infrastructure. Although redlining practices have been outlawed, inequities in public services and housing still persist. Moreover, students at A&M-San Antonio were deeply impacted as colleges closed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Elements of concern among the students and their families related to food insecurity, childcare, loss of jobs, and mental health as our professors/researchers demonstrated. In alignment with research demonstrating a strong correlation between the pandemic challenges in underserved areas and its effects on its population, many of our students were disproportionately impacted by a digital divide, especially in adjacent counties where families may own smart phones but may not own internet access.

Coming Back to Campus

Not only students— and in some cases, faculty and staff were equally challenged to make adjustments when coming back to campus in the fall of 2021. The President’s Commission on Equity (PCOE) met during a retreat, prior to the fall activities. As the pandemic continued, and educational institutions were to open, expressions of loss and trauma were shared in PCOE sponsored and endorsed spaces for continued conversations about trauma, race, gender, and difference.

On a Mission towards Equity and Inclusive Excellence

As a true Hispanic Serving Institution, the University also achieved the Seal of Excellence. In an area with a 90% percent representation of Hispanics and a student population of 80% Latinx, A&M-San Antonio has been on a mission of impact— not just the educational landscape— but also the advancing the area. In addition, training and the development of excellence in the academic and institutional efforts means that everyone is learning to adapt to these new times.

These facts guide the Office of Equity and Inclusive Excellence to focus on shared equity leadership— a framework that helps students, faculty, and staff to implement equitable practices based on an understanding of our individual values. The mission continues as faculty, staff, and administrators dedicate their efforts in establishing the future of students and preparing them to be informed about local and national issues—and in fostering a vision for the future of students and their families—as part of a larger societal fabric in which we can all actively participate and thrive.

The Office of Equity and Inclusive Excellence and the PCOE provide institutional and educational resources to create a just and equitable environment for the A&M-San Antonio community. We welcome your visit at the Central Academic Building Suite 423 or at tamusa.edu/equity.

Dr. Elizabeth Murakami
Special Assistant to the President for Diversity Equity and Inclusion
Office of Equity and Inclusive Excellence

Dr. Elizabeth Murakami
Texas A&M University-San Antonio’s location, in the middle of the state’s south-central hub for Advanced manufacturing, is leveraging workforce development partnerships, even in the midst of the ongoing pandemic. The need and expediency for a skilled and available workforce is priority number one throughout the United States and the San Antonio region.

These relationships are part of an intentional approach to supporting the region with the nimbleness to adapt to the socio-economic changes and provide an educational experience for our students to be competitive while also addressing the talent pipeline that employers desire.

Our motivation is fueled by our Strategic Plan, particularly Goals 3: Access and Affordability and 4: Impact and Engagement.

WE KNOW TALENT IS UNIVERSAL; OPPORTUNITY IS NOT.

Texas A&M-San Antonio is creating the opportunity. When I joined as the Director of Workforce Development and Community Partnerships in July 2021, I saw every interaction as an opportunity to build relationships for our students and to enhance workforce relations.

My role, coordinating and implementing workforce initiatives, creating partnerships, and community engagement, targets diverse populations seeking to upskill, reskill or gain mastery in new areas, including short-term credentialing and long-term educational goals.

THIS TAKES ALL OF US

This work relies on the collaboration of a collective of university partners including the institution’s Cisneros Institute for Emerging leaders, Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement, the ASPIRE network, and the A&M System to develop educational programs, strategic initiatives and align funding streams comprised of faculty, staff, campus constituents, alumni, students, and others.

CONTENT EXPERTISE & WORK EXPERIENCE

Our work in this area is essential to enhance our regional workforce ecosystem. This will advance educational attainment, increase regional socioeconomic mobility, and address inequity. Together, we establish partnerships programs that focus on guided paths, align with workforce needs and professional development.

We do this by internship placements and research opportunities, adapting to scheduling needs, making connections from schools in the ASPIRE network to higher education to the workforce as well as creating opportunities for our students to have access to jobs earlier in their college career.

Some of our work has accomplished a partnership with the Workforce Solutions Alamo Consortium, Engaging in SA Ready to Work Program, Higher Education coalition with Greater SATX, we are building community relationships within the College of Business with micro, small, medium, and large businesses. One example is the new partnerships with the SA Zoo providing research and internship opportunities for our students.

The creativity, hard work, and dynamic team collaboration of our partners and university collaborators and workforce development programs and partnerships will certainly Transform Tomorrow Together.

Rebecca Viagran
Director of Workforce Development and Community Partnerships

BY THE NUMBERS:

- **From spring 2020-Summer 2021:** 182 students completed academic-based internships. This figure includes students who participated in clinical teaching experiences.

- **Summer 2021:** Funding to launch the Texas Two-Step program (a workforce development program focused on upskilling/reskilling women interested in the technology industry).

- **December 2021:** Mays received funding from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for the “Accelerating Credentials of Purpose and Value Grant Program” funded by (GEER II). Funding to be used for workforce training programs leading to postsecondary industry certifications and credentials for high-demand fields. A&M-San Antonio’s project focuses on developing credentialing curriculum for a high-demand Data Analytics Certification. For example: Offering a Data Analytics Certificate in fall 2022 including partnership opportunities.

- **By August 2026:** 50% of our undergraduate students will complete at least one internship, research experience, or other work-based learning experience by graduation.

- **Kinesiology** is A&M-San Antonio’s most subscribed internship program (includes Pre-PT and Exercise Science)

- **Throughout the pandemic:** College students in San Antonio prevailed – earning 32,557 two- and four-year degrees. While completion rates dropped across the country, our region increased degrees earned by 3% from 2019 to 2020. (SAWORX Jobs Report Q3 2021)
Texas A&M-San Antonio’s world class faculty continue to be recognized through their research, creativity, and service as well as are sought after by the media to provide their insights and expertise to breaking news, trends and culture. Here are a few highlights of the awards, recognition and distinctions that celebrate a faculty who provide who deliver academic success through exceptional teaching, mentorship, and program delivery.

Three who recently were awarded tenure by the A&M University System Board of Regents: Stephen Lenz, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Counseling, Health, and Kinesiology, College of Education and Human Development; Davida S. Smyth, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biology, Department of Life Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences; and Charles M. Watson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biology, Department of Life Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences.

ISCP Received Chancellor’s Academy of Teacher Educators

The Institute for School and Community Partnership (ISCP), housed in College of Education and Human Development, received the inaugural Chancellor’s Academy of Teach Educators, which honors university teams who are making noteworthy and exemplary contributions to quality, innovation, and continuous improvement in teacher preparation:

- Dr. Henrietta Muñoz, Executive Director
- Dr. Michelle Janysek, Deputy Director
- Dr. Socorro Garcia-Alvarado, Faculty in Residence
- Dr. Tasha Vice, Faculty in Residence
- Dr. Diana Wandix-White, Faculty in Residence

ISCP’s mission is to transform students through innovative practices, research, and policy. The model includes school system transformation, improving services to children for early intervention, and PK-12 district partnerships that prepare students for college and high-demand careers – creating a hub of excellence for understanding and impacting child and youth development through innovative student-centered approaches, career-ready models student-led research, and high-demand workforce opportunities for all students.

Military Affairs receives state-wide recognition

The Department of Military Affairs was one of 14 institutions in the state to receive the inaugural Veteran Education Excellence Recognition Award from the Texas Veterans Commission’s (TVC) Veterans Education Program. The award recognizes universities and colleges that provide excellence in education and related services which significantly contribute to the academic success of student veterans and military connected students.

A&M System Regents Professor’s Award

Dr. Edward B. Westermann, professor of history, received the 2021 Regents Professor Award, which honors individuals who have provided exemplary service as faculty members their university as well as community, state of Texas and/or at the international level.

Westermann, whose research interests include the Holocaust and genocide studies, Nazi Germany, World War II, and air power, received his doctorate from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, has published extensively on the Holocaust and military history including Hitler’s Ostkrieg and the Indian Wars: Comparing Genocide and Conquest (Oklahoma, 2016). Hitler’s Police Battalions: Enforcing Racial War in the East (Kansas, 2005), Flak: German Anti-aircraft Defenses, 1914-1945 (Kansas, 2001) and the co-editor of Expeditionary Police Advising and Militarization: Building Security in a Fractured World (Helion, 2018) and Air Force Advising and Assistance: Developing Airpower in Client States (Helion, 2018).

The member to receive the Regents Professor Award was Dr. Akhtar Lodgher, honored in 2018 with the Regents Professor of Computing and Cyber Security in 2018. Akhtar, a member of the College of Business faculty, is the director of The Center for Information Technology and Cyber Security (CITCS), which is part of the Texas A&M University-San Antonio NSA/DHS National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education.
Special Legislative Session results in $45M funding for A&M-San Antonio

A&M-San Antonio received approximately $45 million in funding through Senate Bill 52 during the Texas Legislature’s third special session was the announcement that, supporting a new building to house A&M-San Antonio’s College of Education and Human Development and programming in the area of public health. The funding further strengthens opportunities for experiential and applied learning, as will recently announced plans by University Health System to build a hospital adjacent to our campus.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

The nation comes to A&M-San Antonio

University hosts the country’s premier organization for Arts and Sciences

"Arts and sciences colleges represent more than half of the undergraduate instruction offered at higher education institutions across the United States, and many CCAS member institutions are responsible for a wide spectrum of master’s and doctoral degree programs."

This summer Texas A&M University-San Antonio is the new host institution for the Council of Colleges of Arts & Sciences (CCAS). Founded in 1965, CCAS, the national association for deans of colleges of arts and sciences, is charged with providing professional development programming for its member deans and sustaining the arts and sciences as a leading influence in American higher education. As a national association, CCAS serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas and information among its member deans and represents the liberal arts and sciences at a national policy-making level. The council actively supports programs, activities and resources to improve the intellectual stature and public understanding of the disciplines represented by colleges of arts and sciences. Collectively CCAS members include more than 800 deans and more than 1,200 associate and assistant deans of colleges of arts and sciences at more than 500 institutions of higher learning in the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada, Greece, Kazakhstan, Kuwait and Qatar.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio’s selection as the host institution for the Council of Colleges of Arts & Sciences speaks to the growing reputation of our University and the caliber of our College of Arts and Sciences. The University’s location – in the seventh largest city in the United States – provides an abundance of opportunities for CCAS, according to Debra Feakes, A&M-San Antonio’s Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The College of Arts and Sciences is supporting CCAS in its advocacy, policy-making and professional programming as well as deans and academic leadership from across the nation.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

The department of computer science and cybersecurity announced new undergraduate programs in cyber security. Bachelor of Science in cyber security and cyber engineering including a master’s degree in cyber security following approval in the next two years.

Business Faculty Contribute to Texas Regional Ethics Bowl

Nov. 13 COB faculty members from the department of management and marketing volunteered at the Texas Regional Ethics Bowl, an intercollegiate
Students from the Supply Chain Management and Operations Management (MGMT 3320-903) toured Arvin Sango, Inc., a supplier of Toyota Manufacturing Plant in San Antonio. The visit, organized by Nonie Cabana, adjunct faculty member, provided students with a first-hand view of Kanban center, a lean method to manage and improve work across human systems to manage work by balancing demands with available capacity, and by improving the handling of system-level bottlenecks.

Accounting Department

Texas A&M University-San Antonio students majoring in accounting are assisting the San Antonio Police Department’s Financial Crimes Unit with forensic accounting investigations of alleged white collar crimes. The internship program, under the direction of Gilbert Barrera, clinical assistant professor of accounting, and Lieutenant Marcus Booth, continues to provide experiences in analyzing and documenting accounting misstatements and irregularities involved in active cases within San Antonio.

Finance Department

The department of finance recently developed a course of study that leads to a Certificate in Investing. The program includes study in the areas of corporate finance, financial markets, and investment portfolio management. The “capstone” to this certificate is an experiential project in which students investigate and analyze specific publicly-traded firms, using their findings to create investment portfolios.

STUDENTS WITH INTELLECTUAL LEARNING DISABILITIES PURSUE DREAM OF COLLEGE EDUCATION

$2.1M grant from DOE to support the program

For some young adults with intellectual disabilities, a dream to earn a university degree is insurmountable due to limited resources and support. An innovative program at Texas A&M University-San Antonio designed for high school graduates is addressing this need for high school graduates from Burleson with support from a $2.1 million grant from U.S. Department of Education and a donation from a private donor.

Dr. Vicky Elias, associate professor of sociology, was honored at the Texas A&M University System during the Second Annual Chancellor’s Summit on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Through the PCOE², Dr. Elias advocated for inclusive excellence in the delivery of courses and programs. Her research focus on gender, race, and ageism in research and the classroom speaks to her commitment to equity and inclusive excellence.
A&M-San Antonio’s College of Education and Human Development through the Transition University for Career Advancement and Successful Adulthood (TU CASA) program is helping to bridge an equity gap for individuals with intellectual disabilities by providing a pathway for them to engage in a higher education experience or get the support they need to successfully navigate a degree program.

In partnership with seven south San Antonio school districts, the University is providing equitable opportunities across districts and enhancing social mobility, income growth, and career readiness for south Bexar County. The partnership also tackles persistent challenges across the region such as the digital divide according to Mariya T. Davis, PhD, assistant professor of special education and lead coordinator of the educational diagnostician program in the College of Education and Human Development.

TU CASA is providing individual support and services for academic and social inclusion for students with intellectual disabilities including academic courses, extracurricular activities and other aspects of attending college. Addressing critical educational needs in our community and closing the equity gap leads to improved employment outcomes and overall quality of life for these young adults, according to Dr. Carl Sheperis, dean of the college of education and human development.

Five students who graduated from Burleson School for Innovation and Education (Burleson) in South San Antonio began their academic experience this month. The five student, ages 19 to 21, share the common dream of having the opportunity to attend a university. The students have faced educational challenges but, in some cases, medical challenges as well.

The First Cohort

Dylan Salazar, Alejandro Mauricio, Gabrielle Eady, Nicholas Lopez, and Yxaiah Gomez were the first group of students selected to participate in the TU CASA program.

Last fall, Salazar, 19, had the goal of joining recreational sports and is still undecided on his employment path after completing the program. He will graduate from the program the same semester as his brother, a student at Texas A&M-College Station.

First-generation college student, Eady, 20, was looking forward to meeting new people and experiencing college. Working at the coffee shop on campus will help prepare Eady for a career in retail after completing the program.

Mauricio, 21, has aspirations to join gaming at Texas A&M-San Antonio and to work as a school bus aide after graduating from the program. His sister graduated from Texas A&M-San Antonio in 2019.

Since middle school, Nicholas Lopez, 21, has dreamt of attending a university. He has an unstoppable will and determination, pushing through recent obstacles on his path to accomplish his goals.

Gomez, 21, a first-generation college student, is interested in joining recreational sports. He has worked at the 13th floor, a haunted house in San Antonio, and hopes to work full time at Ripley’s Believe It or Not.

“We’re excited our students and families have this opportunity,” said Sarah Minner, special education 18+ transition coordinator at Burleson School.

Salazar, Mauricio, Eady, Lopez, and Gomez will forge a path for fellow students to follow during their year and a half at Texas A&M-San Antonio. During their time at the University taking two courses per semester as well as continue to develop employment and independent living skills. Upon completing the TU CASA program, students will be awarded a University Career Experience Certificate, which recognizes the student’s achievements.

A&M-San Antonio was among the nation’s top-producing universities of bachelor’s degrees awarded to Hispanic students, ranking 64th in the country and 13th in Texas, according to Hispanic Outlook’s Top 100 College and Universities for Hispanics. 📚
A SEASON OF FIRSTS AND CELEBRATIONS
Jaguars hit the competitive field

Texas A&M University-San Antonio’s intercollegiate athletics program is making an impact. Since its launch in 2021, the program has successfully established an infrastructure, launched several sports including softball, Men’s golf, Women’s and Men’s soccer. Each sport is raising awareness of the university while fast becoming an opportunity for the campus and community to gather, cheer and experience intercollegiate athletics competitions.

The program has reached several milestones including: the softball team’s first varsity home event in A&M-San Antonio history March 29, 2021; defeating the University of the Southwest (N.M.) 7-2 at the Tejeda Sports Complex; men’s golf competed against top programs across the state of Texas and the country; and expansion of A&M-San Antonio’s identity at the regional and national level.

Men’s and Women’s soccer launched in the fall of 2021. Both programs were the first intercollegiate athletics sports to compete on A&M-San Antonio’s campus in school history. In addition, their first home game on campus was against A&M System and conference rival, Texas A&M University-Texarkana. This was the first competition against a conference opponent and another System institution on A&M-San Antonio’s campus in school history.

On the horizon is the expansion of our sports programs and facilities as the Jaguars advance a competitive stance within our conference and on a national stage. As a San Antonio native, I am honored to be a part of this unique opportunity as we guide our student athletes and build an exceptional athletics program. You can watch this progress as well as join in the excitement of South Bexar County’s first intercollegiate athletics program at tamusasports.com.

Go Jaguars!

Darnell Smith
Director of Intercollegiate Athletics & Recreational Sports

Competing at the Association of Independent Institutions (AII) conference tournament (now known as the Continental Athletics Conference) May 3–5, 2021.

Texas State Representative Leo Pacheco throws out the first pitch at the first home softball game against the University of the Southwest March 29, 2021.

The Women’s soccer team celebrated after a hard-fought game against Louisiana State University-Shreveport (LSUS) resulting in a 0-0 tie Sept. 25, 2021.

Men’s Soccer celebrated their first win in their program’s history against Texas College Sept. 16, 2021.

Esports athletes established a strong competitive record in 2021 competing in, or placing in, the following games: Overwatch, Call of Duty, Super Smash Bros. Ultimate (SSBU), EA Sports, Hearthstone, Rocket League, Valorant, and Rainbow 6.
THE DISCIPLINE OF GIVING: ERNEST HERNANDEZ

A veteran of the U.S. Navy, when Ernest was looking for a University he wasn’t looking at who the professors were, but what the mission and vision of the institution was. He wanted a school that could tell him who he could become with an education, not just who would be teaching him. Graduating with a Bachelor of Arts and Applied Sciences in 2018, Ernest has become an engaged alumnus who is leading the way with his giving. The first alum in Texas A&M University-San Antonio history to commit to making a planned gift, Ernest believes that giving is a discipline that he is called to participate in. By committing to a gift that will go to A&M-San Antonio after his passing, he knows that his generosity will continue on. He says that he finds staying engaged with A&M-San Antonio as a graduate is important in raising the profile of the whole school and something he hopes his planned gift will help with in the future.

THE VALUE OF SERVICE: AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. SANDI WOLFF

Q: Why do you give your time to Texas A&M University-San Antonio?
A: I volunteer at A&M-San Antonio because I believe in the mission that education can absolutely transform lives. As a former high school educator, I have always been motivated to advocate for higher education learning.

Q: Why do you think it’s important to support A&M-San Antonio through charitable giving?
A: When people give to A&M-San Antonio, it goes directly to support our students. Donations help to propel inclusivity – making sure a college education is accessible – which is not only a core value of A&M-SA, but personal to me. I would not have been able to start my own higher education journey if it wasn’t for the scholarship generosity of university foundations.

Q: There are many ways to make a gift to the University. Why is planned giving such an important one?
A: I love planned giving programs. Planned giving is a way to fully commit to a future gift, regardless of your personal financial situation. We do not know what the future holds for any of us, so planning ahead is a convenient and meaningful way to support the university and its future.

Q: If someone is not ready to consider a gift, such as a planned gift, what are some opportunities for them to support the University?
A: I really like being a sustained giver. Making the same gift every month, works easily into a personal budget and is a wonderful way to support the University community. Gifts of any amount help the next generation of students.

UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION’S GIVING TUESDAY GARNERS RECORD SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

This year’s Giving Tuesday, held November 30, in support of Giving Tuesday garnered an outpouring of support for A&M-San Antonio students, approximately 98 percent of whom receive some form of financial aid.

$37K RAISED
73 GENEROUS DONORS
30% INCREASE COMPARED TO 2020
Access to a college degree received a significant boost with a $1M gift from USAA to launch an innovative initiative, La Familia. The gift, the second from USAA in the past two years, will impact the University’s strategy to strengthen the school to college pipeline for students and their families. La Familia will provide support to young students and their families in the critical stages of pre-college through family programming as well as providing scholarship support for those pre-college students to attend A&M-SA, according to Brandy McLelland, vice president for enrollment management. “USAA’s support and commitment to increase access to a college education coupled with A&M-San Antonio’s mission to provide equitable access is supporting the aspirations of many families into life-changing realities,” said McLelland. The program, launchings later this spring, will initially target the seven school districts in South Bexar County impacting nearly 64,000 students and their families.

$25K FROM DR. BILL AND MRS. PAT GORDON TO ENDOW A NEW SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENTS WHO PLAN TO PURSUE MEDICAL SCHOOL.

$5.8K RAISED FOR THE GENERAL’S STORE

Providing hundreds of pounds of food each week to A&M-San Antonio students, their families, and our community—will fund approximately 40,500 meals. A&M-San Antonio alumni winter social, held the same day as Giving Tuesday, collected another 100 pounds of direct food donations that will provide roughly 84 meals.

2K LAPTOPS DISTRIBUTED TO STUDENTS THROUGH LIFT PROGRAM.
More than 1,500 Texas A&M University-San Antonio graduates in the Class of 2021 joined a network of nearly 14,000 alumni across the nation. From entrepreneurs to recruiters to military service to firefighters, these newly-minted alums share a mission to define the future, a passion for service and extraordinary resilience and flexibility required during a global pandemic. Here are three such students.

**Taryn Deppe** was excited to wear her first-generation stole to collect her bachelor’s degree in Psychology, with a minor in Women’s and Gender Studies. Joining her was **Gustavo De La Fuente**, also a Psychology major, with a minor in Criminology. He recently finished an internship for the Office of U.S. Congressman Henry Cuellar. Bachelor of Business Administration in marketing major **Juliann Garcia**’s sister and mother were in attendance to celebrate her degree completion.

**First in Her Family**

Taryn Deppe is among the more than 70 percent of A&M-San Antonio students who are the first in their families to attend college. And, like many A&M-San Antonio students, she’s made time to give back to her community. Throughout her academic journey Deppe volunteered hundreds of hours each year, earning one of the nation’s top honors, the Gold Presidential Volunteer Service Award three years in a row.

Deppe describes her volunteer interests as “all over the place” – serving as an on-call puppy sitter for puppies in training and as a general support volunteer for Guide Dogs For The Blind, Inc., as well as a guest coach and tournament official for various events with the Greater San Antonio United States Bowling Congress. The latter has been a natural fit with her talents. A graduate of San Antonio’s Madison High School, Deppe bowled competitively on the school’s varsity team all four years, and starting her second semester of college has served as an assistant coach and now Assistant Head Coach for the MacArthur High School bowling team in San Antonio.

As a student, Deppe also participated in every Choose-Act-Impact community volunteer service activity sponsored by the University’s Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement. From clearing invasive trees with the San Antonio River Authority to preparing boxes for food insecure senior citizens with the San Antonio Food Bank, she enjoys giving back. “I take every opportunity to represent the University well, because it has given me so much.”

Deppe credits the supportive mentoring relationship with her academic success coach and others who have played a role in helping her determine her strengths and interests. She has paid that forward, working one-on-one with students as a peer coach for freshmen in her student worker role with the University’s Student Academic Success Center.

“The pandemic also provided an opportunity for lots of self-reflection about where I see myself in the future,” says Deppe. Part of that includes continued her education. Deppe is in her second year of pursuing a Master of Arts in English program and is looking forward to her next chapter in life. In addition to pursuing graduate studies, Deppe’s near-term future also involves a new career opportunity and volunteer plans that include stepping into the Lead Mentor position with the University’s First Generation Center and a goal of participating in at least the next six Choose-Act-Impact events.

**Honing Leadership Skills**

Gustavo De La Fuente walked the stage during the 2021 Spring Commencement with his mom and sister in attendance. De La Fuente, commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, already has a long-term goal in mind to work within government, perhaps with the FBI. De La Fuente plans also to pursue graduate school in public policy and perhaps go to law school.

De La Fuente was part of the first cohort of students to live on campus in Esperanza Hall, which opened in 2016, recruited to join the University’s ROTC program from his home town of San Benito, Texas. He credits his residential experience with helping him to engage in student organizations and student government. Among other activities, De La Fuente served as an intramural assistant and a First Year Experience peer leader.

“A big reason I chose A&M-San Antonio is that this is a campus where you can really get involved and develop your leadership skills,” says De La Fuente. “There is so much potential here to be engaged.” In addition to several leadership awards from the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, he held the Speaker of the House for the University’s Student Government Association. This summer he will participate in a 10-week paid “Zero Hunger Internship” through the Congressional Hunger Center, which immerses college students and recent graduates in anti-hunger work around the nation.

**Growing a Support System**

Born and raised on the South Side of San
Antonio, Julianne Garcia has always had a passion for learning – and beauty. Her dream is to someday own her own business and enroll in a cosmetology program to become licensed.

A graduate of Burbank High School, Garcia applied to several universities and chose A&M-San Antonio “because of how welcoming everyone is.” Garcia served in various student worker roles including orientation leader, programming coordinator and marketing coordinator in the Office of Student Success and Engagement, where she helped create an Instagram student life page.

With an older sister who also graduated from A&M-San Antonio (fall 2020) with a bachelor’s degree in Education, and a mother who is an elementary school administrator, Garcia always saw herself going to college. What she couldn’t fathom was actually finishing college.

She is proud of completing her degree in four years – especially after a year of living through a global pandemic that made it much harder to feel connected. “In part, my student worker job kept me engaged and motivated. With others around me who maintained their optimism, I decided to take charge and help build a support network for others by face-timing with friends, texting, calling and even driving by their houses and standing in their front yards so we could talk with our masks on,” said Garcia. “It’s important during tough times like this to think about how to help others who might be having an even harder time than you.”
In this issue of The University Magazine, we’re introducing a new feature, Class Notes, to provide news about alumni milestones and successes, professional and personal. An expanded list of Class Notes is published in the digital edition.

2006
Julie Ruiz is a compliance specialist with South San Antonio’s Independent School District’s Head Start program for the last 15 years, which she helped start and build. Her BS in interdisciplinary studies has proven very beneficial in her career. She, who started at A&M-San Antonio when classes were held in portable buildings on the Palo Alto campus, “will never forget the great professors and classmates” she met.

2009
The Hon. Ben Zeller is running unopposed in the primary and general elections this year for a third term as Victoria County Judge. Zeller, elected in November of 2014 as one of the youngest County Judges in Texas, received the 2018 University’s Inaugural Distinguished Alumni Award.

2010
Anthony Alcoser celebrated his fifth anniversary as St. Mary’s School of Law Director of Development. The anniversary coincides with the culmination of St. Mary’s “Defining Moment” Comprehensive Campaign, launched in fall 2017, which raised $150 million. Alcoser began his career at A&M-San Antonio in 2009 in the Office of Advancement.

Melissa Ortiz ’10, ’14 expanded her private counseling practice, which includes several therapists and administrative staff. Ortiz, certified in treating postpartum mood disorders, practicing TF, CBT, and EMDR therapy, is currently training in biofeedback, and hopes to be one of the only Latina-owned businesses to offer this to her community. Her next goal is for the center to become HUB-certified and bid on Federal and Government Contracts. After completing the Latina Leadership Institute program, Ortiz raised almost $6,000 in scholarships for the next cohort. As a first-generation college student and single mother of four, she proudly became the first in her family to purchase a larger home and be fully self-employed. She calls it a privilege to have been able to establish a $500 scholarship for an A&M-San Antonio student, the Melissa Sanchez Award.

Steven Torres’ professional background includes personal training, coaching, and teaching physical education. He is the owner/CEO of Texas Top Prospects. For the past 10 years he has provided individual and group training for young athletes, focusing on strength and agility training. In addition to his BS in kinesiology with a focus in education, Torres, certified in TRX, Trigger Point Therapy and NCSF, currently works as a P.E. coach in NISD.

2011
Reynaldo Castilleja, manager of admissions and student services at the Good Careers Academy (GCA) at Goodwill Industries of San Antonio, recently completed a Master of Education in Higher Education Administration at Texas Tech University. Castilleja’s fundamental role and responsibilities include outreach, recruit and assist with admitting students into the four vocational tracks: medical assistant, nurse’s aide, pharmacy technician, and commercial driver’s license programs.

Ali M. Euresti is building an online community for mothers with her blog - Instagram: guiltfreeomommin, which was inspired by her daughter Kalani’s birth last year. Working from home, she also offers bookkeeping and tax prep/planning services as a sole proprietor.

Melissa D. Lopez used her degree BAAS to help her husband with his welding business and is currently building a facility to house her own tamale business.

Angelique D. Taylor graduated from Texas A&M School of Law in May 2021 with a Master’s of Jurisprudence thanks to help from A&M San Antonio’s Dr. Amy Porter and Lisa Berg of Jurisprudence in health law, policy and management.

2012
Gil Dominguez published his latest book, This Used to Be San Antonio, last October. The collection of 194 vignettes focuses on historic features of the Alamo City. The book is available at Barnes & Noble area bookstores and online sources including his St. Louis-based publisher (books@reedypress.com) and Amazon. Dominguez has been signing books and presenting at local San Antonio libraries and the Twig Bookstore at the Pearl.

Mike Fernandez was named president and chief executive officer of Texas National Bank effective December 31, 2021.

Frank Radi is now owner/social media manager of Candlelight Creative, a San Antonio-based graphic design firm. View the agency’s portfolio at sacandlelight.com.

2013
Armando Prado Jr. is director of graduate law admissions, overseeing the Master of Laws and Master of Jurisprudence programs at St. Mary’s University School of Law.

Eugenia Sumpter joyfully welcomed her first grandchild, Hazel Rose Sumpter (Zelly) and says “Our hearts are full!”

2014
Genevieve A. Compean, a licensed professional counselor (LPC), is a therapist with Counseling 4 Life LLC. She also started a dog treat business called Wiggle Bottoms Treats & Pupcakes LLC. She recently came across a low with cancer and cares for two daughters (8 and 15) and three dogs with help from her husband Joshua.

Irna Iris Durán de Rodríguez is the community initiatives program administrator for the City of San Marcos, TX, where she oversees dozens of programs supported by $33 million in federal funds. Previously, she worked 15 years with the City of San Antonio. Durán de Rodríguez. She was selected as the presidential appointee for the San
Antonio Fiesta Commission serving as an ambassador for the Commission and advisor to the executive committee.

2015
Blaine G. Beckman ‘15, ‘17 and his wife welcomed their third child, a daughter, Eisley. Their son Citzen and daughter Indi (7 and 4) are delighted with their new sibling. While the household may get crazy, Beckman says, “It’s the kind of crazy that makes life beautiful.” He is thankful for the support of his beautiful wife, Mimi, who also is an A&M-San Antonio graduate. He is thankful for his A&M-San Antonio education, which he credits for his business success. Beckman, who joined F.A. Nunnely nearly a decade ago, says his past field experience and valuable lessons taught by his professors at A&M-San Antonio contributed to his promotion to president. His team grew from 18 to 32 employees and annual revenue quintupled. To keep his mental health in check, he continues to also write and release music with his band, Our Waking Hour, on all streaming platforms.

Victor A. Fernandez started How to Shoot LLC, a new business where he teaches beginner and intermediate gun safety and marksmanship courses.

2016
James S. Anderson completed an internship at Sage Social Services and previously worked at the Ecumenical Center in San Antonio as a licensed professional counselor, prior to starting his private practice just as the pandemic hit. He is the owner of SA Counseling, PLLC (www.sacounselingpllc.com), where he works with adolescents, adults, couples, and the elderly. He published four books on topics related to religion and counseling including Monotheism and Yahweh’s Appropriation of Baal (New York: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2015), Manifesting Peace: 12 Principles for Cultivating Peace, Healing &Wellness Distilled from the World’s Spiritual Traditions and Psychology (Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2019) and Extolling Yeshua (Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2019).

Jacob Sanchez is completing his sixth year at Devine ISD, where he teaches 6th and 7th grade science and coaches middle and high school level football, basketball, and track/field. He received a Teacher of the Month award for the past five years.

2017
Dolores Cortes and her husband own two Airbnbs in the San Antonio’s Southside area and are thankful their business remained steady throughout the pandemic. She draws on her communications degree (an emphasis in public relations and minor in English) to run the promotional, communication, and marketing side of the business. Cortes, who had an associate degree when she began her journey at A&M-San Antonio, had been out of school for nearly 30 years. Her full-time job necessitated starting with just a few classes, and by her senior year she was able to attend full time. Cortes says she adjusted well among the younger students and enjoyed great support from her professors.

Gabrielle M. Herrera began a new job as a marketing manager, customer and partner data and processes, at HubSpot in November 2021. She also serves as a school council member for Blessed Sacrament Catholic School for the 2021-2022 school year.

Samantha Lazcano began working at Elm Creek Elementary in the Southwest ISD in the fall of 2017 as a 3rd grade general education teacher and is currently teaching 5th grade at the same campus. Last July she earned a Master of Education from A&M-San Antonio. Lazcano received the Teacher of the Year award at her campus for the 2021–2022 academic year and was one of the top three finalists for District Teacher of the Year (elementary level).

Roberto Yanez, Jr. opened a new photography business called Apollo L Photography.

2018
Emily Guerra chose A&M-Corpus Christi to earn an MBA in 2020 and welcomed her first baby girl in 2019. She was promoted to work for the district office of KIPP Texas Public Schools. She says, “It has been a journey and I’ve grown personally, professionally, and most important spiritually.”

Tiffany L. Reichert welcomed baby Anson Wagemann on May 28th of 2021.

2019
Maija Arthur worked in human resources at UPS after graduation prior to becoming a care manager at The Center for Health Care Services. She is currently enrolled at the University of Texas at San Antonio pursuing a Master’s in clinical mental health counseling with the goal of eventually opening her own practice.

Karl V. Mitchell is a counselor education doctoral student at A&M-Corpus Christi working with students as an academic success coach, licensed professional counseling associate LPC-A, and licensed chemical dependency counselor LCDC. Mitchell hopes to be a fully-licensed LPC clinician and counselor educator within the next two years.

2020
Estefanía Benítez married her high school sweetheart last year. She is a human capital coordinator at NatureSweet and owns a dog named May.

Sarina T. Fedelin and her partner moved to Chicago last spring. She is a loan processor apprentice with Cross Country Mortgage, LLC. While not the field she had intended to pursue, the company offered her a position to professionally grow quickly. She works with “an amazing team with powerhouse leadership.” One of her favorite places in the Chicago so far is the Buckingham Fountain just across the street from the shore of Lake Michigan.

Jovana Flores is finally working her dream job as an English teacher in Seoul, South Korea. Having graduated during the start of the pandemic when everyone switched to remote learning, she was concerned about the uncertainty of the future and debated leaving the U.S. Now, with her one-year contract almost up and having been asked to renew it, Flores is glad she took that huge leap of faith.

Priscilla Rodriguez published two children’s books, both of which are available on Amazon Kindle and paper format. She has also been part of the NISD pre-K bilingual team for two years.

Dani R. Vidal, her husband, and eldest daughter Joanna welcomed their second child, Ava Grace, in September. In her academic life, she has been editing her paper, San Antonio’s Tex-Mex Food Culture: The Chili Queens and the Beginning of the Traditional Cuisine, to be published the paper in 2022. The paper received first place in the Caldwell Memorial Awards for Excellence in History upper division in 2021. Vidal thanks Dr. Amy Porter for her support and Lisa Berg, of The Texas State Historical Association (THSA).
2021
Zachary Bullard recently started a new role with the training team at corporate offices of The Center for HealthCare Services. He had been on the direct care since 2013.

FROM ALIEN ABDUCTION TO CRIME THRILLERS
A&M University-San Antonio graduates turn their hobbies into film and TV careers

Nathan Gershon ’13 a professional actor and police officer, recently appeared on the hit show “Fear the Walking Dead” and in the season finale of VH1’s new show “My True Crime Story.”

He appears in the feature film “Homebody” and will star in three new movies due to be released over the next year or two. They include: “Evil for Dinner” where he plays an evil cowboy cult leader that has come to town to settle some scores with his family; “Vicemares, about a man whose life is falling apart as he straddles the line between being a flawed man and a bad man; and “Friday Night Delight” where he stars as a former Marine that some area teenagers think has a treasure that could solve all their problems. In addition to several projects in the works, he has a small role in a “pretty big movie” but reserves mention of that for next year. He is and remains a proud A&M-San Antonio Jaguar. A patrolman for the City of La Vernia Police Department, Gershon received the State of Texas Master Peace Officer license in 2021, the highest recognition an officer can receive in the state. He also serves as a public affairs officer for the Commemorative Air Force, the world’s largest flying museum in the world, which restores, maintains, and flies historically significant aircraft and serves veterans and local communities.

Like Gershon, Brett Wilson ’16 has turned a hobby into dramatic twist. Last year he entered in a film festival in India receiving the “best actor” award for his role in his film “Havoc 114.” The film also received several awards at festivals in Chicago and Paris including Best Cinematography, the work of Wilson’s daughter. After directing a few short films, he is now wrapping up his first feature film, “Abduction of the Fourth Kind,” in the UFO/alien abduction genre – anticipated for release in 2022. With the backing of a producer with a small budget, the production welcomed well-known local actor, Jonathan Joss to the cast, according to Wilson. Joss, who has been in blockbusters such as Magnificent Seven” and “True Grit” joined actors from San Antonio also cast in Wilson’s film. Check out the trailers at:

Four enthusiastic Jaguars are helping make San Antonio a better place. Employed in the Plan Review division within the City of San Antonio’s (CoSA) Development Services Department, they are responsible for coordinating residential and commercial development throughout the City. Their mission is to partner with the community to build and maintain a safer San Antonio and enhance its vibrant quality of life. They are proud of the fact that the tools and skill sets they developed at A&M-San Antonio are helping advance in their roles.

Pictured (left to right) are Juan Alvardo ’16, plans coordinator, and senior development services specialists Mia Sara Carranza ’18, Bryan Garcia ’19, and Alexis Sanchez ’16.
One of the world’s favorite family board game and Texas A&M University-San Antonio joined this year via the Monopoly: San Antonio Edition – featuring the institution prominently on the box and game board.

The San Antonio Edition, which was the first for North America’s city game version, immortalizes San Antonio’s city’s education institutions, culture, and world-renowned Missions, among other notable cultural and architectural features.

The unveiling of the San Antonio edition gathered civic, community, business, and education leaders including newly crowned Mr. And Ms. A&M-San Antonio and General — who gave the board a test run. The Monopoly: San Antonio Edition is available to purchase. 100 percent of the proceeds of sales during the launch benefitted A&M-San Antonio student organizations.