Introducing Veronica Mendez

Veronica Mendez has been appointed UTSA Vice President for Business Affairs. Mendez joins UTSA beginning January 6, 2019, bringing her 16 years of experience in higher education to provide leadership in finance, human resources, institutional research, and strategic and business intelligence initiatives. As VP for Business Affairs, Mendez will provide oversight and stewardship of the university’s financial resources. A key member of the UTSA Senior Leadership Team, she will help advance the UTSA vision to become a student success exemplar and nationally competitive research university.

Her initial priorities will include oversight of UTSA’s transition to a new budget model, which will help the university create a strong foundation for fiscal health while laying the groundwork for growth and innovation. The new model began as a year-long pilot on Sept. 1, 2018 and will be fully implemented in fiscal year 2019-2020.

As the university’s chief financial and administrative officer, Mendez will provide leadership in advancing other ongoing initiative, including the Campus Master Plan and the expansion of the Downtown Campus. Additionally, she will oversee business affairs administration, budget and financial planning, business contracts, business information services, facilities, financial affairs, human resources, public safety and purchasing.

Mendez had been serving as vice chancellor and chief financial officer at the University of California, Merced. At UC Merced, the University of California System’s youngest university, Mendez made significant contributions to the success and momentum of the Merced 2020 Project. This four-year, $1.3 billion initiative is adding 1.2 million gross square feet to the university’s campus footprint. She led the development of the project’s comprehensive financial plan and its organizational structure.

Mendez earned her bachelor’s degree in applied arts and sciences – management and her master’s of business administration at UT-Brownsville (now University of Texas Rio Grande Valley). She began her academic career there, spending 12 years in senior leadership roles focused on finance, budget development, facilities, capital planning and project management, overseeing a $3.9 million operational budget.

Throughout her career, she has participated on several boards and has served as president of the Texas College and University Facilities Association. She was recognized as one of Texas’s Outstanding Women in Government in 2010. Mendez looks forward to furthering UTSA’s mission as a nationally recognized research university and Hispanic-thriving institution. She is pleased to return to her home state and to be closer to family.

Mendez succeeds UTSA Vice President for Business Affairs Kathy Funk-Baxter, who served in this role for nearly four years.
Spotlight on Veronica Mendez

If you’re a visionary who wants to grow your university, while ensuring that students succeed, who do you call? In the past five years, Veronica Mendez’s phone has rung with two such offers. She was invited to “dream big,” first at UC Merced and now at UTSA.

The Brownsville native grew up with one foot on each side of the Mexican border. Her grandma instilled in Veronica the can-do attitude she’d sharpened as a field hand near Matamoros. As a first-gen college student, Veronica majored in management at UTB and later earned her MBA there. A true Scorpion,* she joined the “necessarily efficient” UTB staff in 1994, rising to the position of AVP for Facilities and Planning.

She was wooed to UC Merced by the enticement of managing the doubling of its campus size. Veronica, who describes herself as “curious with a love for learning,” welcomes a challenge. So she headed west to take the reins of the Merced 2020 Project.

Veronica attributes her success to the firm grounding and strong Mexican cultural values she picked up from the strong women in her family. And she has passed them along to her own two daughters. The oldest, Cristina, graduated from Baylor in 2012, then joined Teach for America, guiding students from Woodland Academy. Last year she completed her Master’s in Public Policy at UT Austin, making the drive to the capital city from NW San Antonio. Daughter Debbie, who attended UTSA, is a culinary student in Mexico City, honing the family’s cooking traditions.

Veronica is pleased to be back in her home state and the university system that kick started her career. “San Antonio is a terrific city that’s growing into one of the country’s leading urban centers,” she said. “UTSA is the perfect place for me. It’s a Hispanic-serving university that welcomes and nourishes first-generation students as it’s reaching to achieve world-class status. UTSA has become a primary anchor of this city, and the growth in Downtown will accelerate our importance regionally and nationally. We have the potential to do so much more.”

She looks forward to working with the Business Affairs team to support the university’s strategic initiatives and keep us all directed toward our mission.

*the Scorpion was UTB’s mascot. UTB is now part of UTRGV.

Happy New Year and Happy Birthday, UTSA!

Have you seen the new look on campus? Over winter break, crews installed new signs across the UTSA Main and Downtown Campuses to signify the start of UTSA’s 50th anniversary celebration. A giant banner now hangs from the Bauerle Road Garage. Bold orange and blue pole banners, featuring 1969 and 2019, a big 5-0, and an image of the Rowdy statue, line campus walkways on the Main and Downtown Campuses.

If you snap your photo with a banner and post it to social media, you can win a 50th anniversary tee shirt. Learn more.

Budget and Financial Planning Hit the Boards to Celebrate the Holidays

The Budget Department king pins kicked back for some holiday fun by testing their bowling prowess. The group was split: some were real pros, and others, it was obvious, hadn’t bowled in years. Taking on the 10 pins were (left to right):

Joseph and Elizabeth Bay
Brenda and Keith Clarke
Kyle and Paula Pierson
Bernice and Jimmy Villanueva
and Tammy and Jim Anthony.

The other member of the team was spared from the ignominy.

UTSA Budget and Financial Planning
Marching for Peace: Celebrating MLK’s Contributions

Join the UTSA contingent as we honor the memory and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in this citywide march. Registration is open to students, faculty, staff, alumni, and their families. The City of San Antonio has sponsored this march on the east side of the city down MLK Drive since 1987. It is now one of the country’s largest marches calling for peace and equity, with more than 300,000 participants annually.

Register at GivePulse.

Get Dirty at Maverick Creek | Help Clean our Watershed

Basura Bash is a one-day, all-volunteer event to clean the San Antonio Watershed and prevent spring flooding.

Join us for the 25th annual cleanup. Volunteers will collect trash from the banks of area waterways. Items include recyclables, tires, metals, appliances, home items, and more. Trash is carried to our rivers and creeks by storm drainage, run-off, and careless human beings. This causes flooding, which risks lives and damages property.

This is a great, fun group and family activity. Already the Green Society at UTSA and the Honors Alliance at UTSA have signed up to help.

Learn more at the VPBA website. You can join the UTSA crew at Maverick Creek on Main Campus by signing up on GivePulse. Or choose a location close to your home. Questions? Contact Melissa May at (210) 458-4204.

Do you know what to toss in the blue containers?

#UTSARecycles

Plans are under way for the 2019 Recyclemania. This nationwide intercollegiate contest is designed to help universities and communities become better stewards of the environment.

The friendly annual competition runs for eight weeks, beginning February 3. The school that recycles the most material per capita wins the competition—actually, we all win because we achieve a greener environment. The success of our program at UTSA depends on your cooperation!

Please, before throwing away items, consider those recyclable items that can be disposed of in the blue recycling containers. These include paper, cardboard, plastics, and aluminum cans. Items that go into trash bins only include food, liquids, used napkins, plates and facial tissues, coffee grounds, and Styrofoam.

You can reduce your trash footprint by reusing. Keep coffee mugs, water bottles, and cloth bags with you so you’re not tempted to use an item that will end up in a trash can, then a landfill. Contact EHSRM.

Collect your paper for Shredding Day, Wednesday, February 13, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., by Ximenez Garage.

Research Funding Available for Sustainability Projects | Review committee members needed

Have a brilliant idea to improve the environment or strengthen UTSA’s Sustainability efforts? You can apply for funding from the Office of Sustainability to bring your idea to fruition. Submit your project or initiative today!

Mei-Lani Cabico May, CFM, Facilities’ Senior Environmental Planner and Acting Director of Sustainability, announced a Call for Proposals for staff, faculty or students seeking project-based research seed grant opportunities. Past projects funded from a similar program include the hydration stations, Bigbelly smart waste containers, LED lighting and condensate reuse, all of which provided a strong return on investment to UTSA.

Proposals are due February 4. Please share this opportunity with campus community members wishing to advance work on related projects. Reviews of cost estimates for Sustainability funding are required for construction projects. Contact sustainability@utsa.edu. Learn more at Sustainability.utsa.edu.

Want to help review and score these proposals? Apply for the Sustainable Initiatives Review sub-committee, a student led group within the Sustainability Council, which is a president’s standing committee. You can help recommend projects for funding. Those selected to the SIRS-C will not be permitted to submit proposals for consideration during their term. Apply now! Proposal review takes place from February 5 to March 31, 2019.
Kudos to Keith Slater, EHSRM Safety Specialist I, who helped alleviate the concerns of a Student Health Services staff member who requested a biowaste pickup right before the winter break. See email exchange below:

Subject: Biowaste pick up

No worries. I should be able to pick it up today or Friday. I also work next week two days. I will be sure to get the waste. I have 24 hr. access to most buildings with my badge as well as a master key.

Keith Slater

Hello Keith, You’re so awesome!!! Thank you for getting here so early to pick it up! You go way beyond your duty; you’re exceptionally great. Thank you so much for being so accommodating.

Happy Holiday,

Patrick W. Kinnamon, BA, LVN, UTSA Student Health Services

Kudos to Scott Swetnam and John DeLaHunt, EHSRM

I want to give an extra loud shout-out to John and Scott for “creating positive change.” During the break/skeleton crew days, John and Scott organized, reconfigured, and improved our space in SFB 1.104 (Fire, Life Safety, & Risk Management Trailer). We now have better use of the office space and can do some touch-up work that is long overdue. The changes to the space will allow for a reception area and extra working spaces for incoming employees in EHSRM or employees who need a landing place for a short-time.

We appreciate them taking on this task, and I think they had fun doing it! We are very excited to see what we can do with this space.

Thank you, John & Scott!!

Kristee Phelps
Director of Environmental Health Safety & Risk Management
Occupational Health & Wellness Manager

Facilities’ Rock Whitney and Gilberto Perez earn "We Partner to deliver excellent customer service" GPCCs

Rock and Gilberto took the lead on ensuring that UTSA Downtown Campus’s holiday lighting ceremony campus was a success. On a short notice, they collaborated with others, working diligently to light the entire campus. They wanted to do this for the students, and it was a great success.

Kudos and GPCCs to Carlos Sandate and Brent Tyroff

Yesterday morning the compressor for the air-conditioning unit at the Utilities Operations Building failed. As you know, we are a 24/7 operation with critical monitoring computers that must be maintained in a controlled environment. Carlos Sandate and Brent Tyroff responded to troubleshoot the A/C unit and were able to identify the problem quickly. They were then able to locate and obtain a replacement compressor in town and have it installed before the end of the day. This is another example of the excellent service provided by Facilities every day.

I want to recognize Carlos and Brent for the excellent service they provided to repair and restore the sole air-conditioning unit at the Utilities Operations Building. Many thanks to Matt May and his team for their quick response!

James Jinks
Assistant Director of Utilities Operations
New Year Challenge: Health for the Holidays

Health for the Holidays is a four-week challenge that draws on creating a whimsical holiday scene by accumulating snow. Build your scene by tracking your steps or exercise and by practicing good nutrition habits for the New Year. Your goal is to pile up 15 inches of snow each week (60 inches total) by recording exercise, nutrition habits, and a simple and important well-being activity.

All UTSA employees, retirees, spouses, and dependents age 18 and above, who are covered by the UT SELECT Medical Plan, are eligible to participate. If you do not have UT SELECT, please contact the Wellness team at wellness@utsa.edu for an alternative way to join this program.

Registration opened on January 2. You can log your activities January 14 through February 10 at www.utlivingwell.com. Participate on your own or join or form a team by January 22. You may be one of the lucky 50 participants to receive a paid registration for the Diploma Dash on February 23. All participants who complete the challenge will receive a prize.

Heart Walk 2019

Mark your calendar for the 10-minute Heart Walk, Friday, February 8, at 10 a.m. Join your fellow Runners at the North Paseo Building to walk the short route. The event reminds us of the importance of exercise, diet and healthy habits in protecting ourselves from heart disease and stroke. Read more.

Platinum SABGH Winners Again

UTSA’s Rowdy New U Wellness Program received its sixth straight Healthy Workplace Recognition Award. This year the team received the highest level award, Platinum, for the second time. They accepted the trophy on Friday, December 14 at the award ceremony.

The Healthy Workplace Recognition Program is an initiative of the San Antonio Business Group on Health and the Mayor’s Fitness Council. The program recognizes local employers for their worksite wellness efforts. Employers are awarded bronze, silver, gold or platinum-level recognition. Worksite wellness programs are assessed based on culture, health promotion and education, physical activity, nutrition, smoking and tobacco cessation, and value-based benefits and design.

Wellness Champions Named

Rowdy New U named its new Wellness Champions, representing all UTSA campuses. They serve as liaisons between Rowdy New U and university departments. The primary role of a Wellness Champion is to enthusiastically promote and encourage participation in Rowdy New U wellness programs. Thank you to our volunteers!

Aimee Laun       Erica Sosa       Olivia Gonzalez
Amanda Perez     Jennifer Silver   Patrice McElfresh
Andrea Chavez    Judith Espinoza   Rosa Varela
Anne Hardgrove   Kaye Steinhour   Ryan Schoensee
Carin Norton     Lisa Vigil        Sarah Remmert
Debbie Salas     Lorena Claeys    Sylvia Mansour
Diane Gutierrez  Melissa May      Tamala Boyd
Edward Riojas    Michelle Fahlgren Teresa Dion
Quarterly wellness assessments: Wellness assessments help you keep your fitness goals on track. Every three months you will receive an email reminder to schedule your assessment or come to our walk-in hours. At your assessment, you will step on our bioelectric impedance scale that provides 9 different readings, such as fat percentage and muscle mass. We will also measure your chest, waist, hips, and blood pressure. We will compare past and current results so you can see how your body changes over time.

Educational classes: Periodically we will offer classes on nutrition, chronic disease, bone health, pain management and other health topics. You will be the first to hear about these events via email, our website, and social media.

UT System Living Well Challenges: Living Well challenges are part of your Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance plan. There are 2-3 challenges each year that allow you to compete individually or on a team against your co-workers and other UT System Institutions. These challenges are typically 4 weeks long and include a combination of tracking your steps, water consumption, sleep, nutrition, and other behaviors to help you live a healthier lifestyle. You must have UT SELECT insurance to compete online against your peers and other institutions. If you are not on UT SELECT and would like to participate, contact the Wellness team for a self-tracking card. See page 5 for information on the winter challenge.

Leave for Wellness Incentive: You can find details regarding the Leave for Wellness Incentive policy in the UTSA HOP 4.20 Section T. There are three different incentives in this policy. Download info here.

Ergonomics: Ergonomics is the science of fitting the job to the employee. In an ergonomics assessment, we examine an employee’s relationship to work, work tools, and the work environment. The goal is to achieve maximum efficiency of the human body while minimizing the risk of injury. If you would like to schedule an appointment for help in making your campus or home telecommuting office fit you, please complete the Ergonomics Self-Evaluation.

Stress Reduction Resources: Below are several resources to help reduce your stress at work. If you would like any further information about stress reduction in the workplace, please send us an email.

These mindful breathing videos are a great way to step back and take a short break from your work. Listen to the 3 minute video and the 10 minute video when you need to recharge.

The Headspace App is a free app that teaches you how to meditate and gives you reminders to take a break.

The Hawthorne Room (SU 2.01.34) is a meditation room open to all UTSA faculty, staff, and students. You can find class dates and times in the events or the activity calendar in the documents.

Learn how you can make your space a relaxing place to be with the “Reduce Your Stress at Your Desk” document (right).

UTSA Training and Development offers a wide variety of personal development classes throughout the year. You can find a list of classes on their website.

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) offers a variety of confidential counseling, referral, and consultation services to assist you and your family on or off campus. Check out the Deer Oaks website for ideas on getting help for you or a dependent.

Follow Rowdy New U on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.
Emergency Preparedness at UTSA

The UTSA Office of Emergency Management (OEM) would like to remind you of a few simple ways you can engage yourself in emergency preparedness. This is a great time of year to get everything in order so you and your family can be ready when seconds count!

First things first—prepare an emergency kit! To respond to any type of emergency, you are advised to put together an emergency kit for your home, car, and office/workplace. Why is it important to have 3 kits? You never know where you will be when a local emergency happens, and having the essentials to get you through the moment is important to your safety and well-being. Items to include in your kit include, but are not limited to, water/sports drink, snacks, medications, first-aid kit, important documents, change of clothes, flashlight, batteries, cell phone charger, and personal hygiene products. Although this is not an extensive list, these basic items will ensure you have a level of comfort when normal resources are not available. As part of your checklist, include a test of your smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, and other safety equipment—replace old batteries or other materials as needed, and mark the date on your checklist.

Next on the path to preparedness is to develop an emergency plan. Preparing a plan ahead of time will assist you during an emergency and lessen the stress of figuring out what to do and who to contact. Your plan should include emergency contact information, phone numbers of family members and emergency services, important personal information for emergency responders (medical allergies, doctors, etc.), and other basic preparedness information. Much like an emergency kit, a plan should be developed and stored at home, at work, and a brief plan/card in your wallet. A good resource to easily develop a plan is to visit the Texas Prepares website www.texasprepares.org.

Lastly, stay informed! Know the hazards that surround you at all times, and learn about how you can respond to different types of emergencies. For certain types of emergencies, such as severe weather, there is time to gather information and act appropriately. But, as is the nature of the beast, emergencies can jump out at you without warning. Therefore, listen to the news, monitor weather conditions, research local threats, and most importantly, share this information with your family, friends, and coworkers. Also, enroll in the new EP 457 – Emergency Preparedness online course via the HR Training and Development site to enhance your knowledge and skill sets.

Together, we can build and sustain a safe campus community. The UTSA Office of Emergency Management is committed to providing quality and accurate preparedness information to our campus family, and we hope you take steps to ensure your personal and family preparedness needs.

For more information on emergency preparedness, visit the Campus Alerts website at alerts.utsa.edu, call OEM at (210) 458-6851, or email BePrepared@utsa.edu. Be Rowdy Ready, UTSA!

Celebrate the Cultures of Asia

The UTSA Institute of Texan Cultures celebrates the annual Asian Festival, observing the Lunar New Year and celebrating the many rich cultures of Asia.

The daylong event—10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on February 9—features authentic foods, music, dance, martial arts, shopping, games and entertainment from China, to the Indian Subcontinent, and the island nations of the Pacific.

The Festival features two stages, a martial arts demonstration area, children’s hands on crafting area, anime activities, bonsai and ikebana displays, mahjong table and more. Tickets are available online.

We thank the many Business Affairs employees who will help present this wonderful event.
New Year, New Training Ahead!

The Spring 2019 Class Schedule and Newsletter is now available online. Training and Development hopes everyone is enjoying the easy accessibility of this resource.

Remember, as you decide on your professional development selections, you can sign up for a class by choosing classroom training from the website and navigating to your class choices, or use the catalog. Either way, make your scheduling choices for spring classes before they fill up!

Please remember that the Newsletter is subject to change, and the most current and up-to-date information is located here: https://mytraining.utsa.edu/classroom. To view, or to print the Newsletter from the HR website, please click http://training.utsa.edu/documents/newsletter.pdf.

Welcome to Jennifer Gamez, Program Coordinator, HR Training and Development, who can be reached at (210) 458-4658, or -4947. While staff in the Training Department will begin telecommuting this month, they will continue to offer classroom trainings and deliver excellent customer service, just as they have always done. They are available to serve you and provide high quality training programs to advance team and individual professional development. They look forward to working closely with UTSA staff and to continuing to serve our training needs in the new year!

Please call ext. 4658 with any questions or concerns. If you have any technical issues, please click on the following link to submit a ticket: http://training.utsa.edu/support.html.

We look forward to seeing you in a class this spring!!!
Public Safety Recognizes Its Stars

On December 13, the UTSA Department of Public Safety held its annual Promotion & Recognition Ceremony/Luncheon in the Business Building. The ceremony started with opening remarks by the Associate Vice President for Public Safety and Chief of Police Gerald Lewis, Jr. and master of ceremonies Lieutenant Shawn Smith. The UTSA Police Department Honor Guard posted the colors, and the invocation was given by Officer Mark Smith.

The ceremony is held every December to honor and recognize members of the department who were promoted during the year and to present special awards to employees nominated by their peers. Members of the community were also recognized as recipients of the “Golden Whistle Award,” which may be awarded by the Office of the Director of Police or the Chief of Police to civilians outside the Police Department who have exhibited exceptional effort and have significantly contributed to the operation of the department. More than 150 members of the department, family members and special guests attend the ceremony and later enjoyed a lunch of pasta, lasagna and salad. Individuals recognized were:

PROMOTIONS
To the Rank of Assistant Chief of Police
Daniel Kiley
To the Rank of Captain
Thomas Calucci
To the Rank of Lieutenant
Shawn Smith
To the Rank of Sergeant
Veronica Rangel
Director of Environmental Safety, Health, & Risk Mgmt.
Kristee Phelps
Cleary Compliance Coordinator
Amanda Swaney
Access Control Lead
Gilbert Pastrano

RECOGNITIONS
Police Supervisor of the Year
Corporal Daniel Ramirez
The “Dan Peña” Officer of the Year
Officer Charles Reyes (right)
Rookie Officer of the Year
Officer Tracie Jones
Public Safety Officer of the Year
Public Safety Officer Joanna Von Bon
Department of Public Safety – Employee of the Year
Mr. Michael Sullivan
Department of Public Safety – New Employee of the Year
Ms. Roseanne McSweeney
Chief’s Commendation Award
Sergeant Heather Walleck
Sergeant Eric Weber
Dr. Lorenzo D. Sanchez
Jacqueline Silva
John Yanez
Community Service Award
Corporal Maranda Tupper

Golden Whistle Awards:
- Ms. Anne Jimenez, Assoc. Dean of Students, UTSA Student Conduct & Community Standards
- Dr. Barry McKinney
  Assoc. Dean of Students, UTSA Student Activities
- Mr. James Rodriguez
  Lead Parking Assistant, UTSA Campus Services
- Mr. Michael Egbuna, UTSA student
  Chief’s Appreciation Certificate
- Sergeant Joseph LoBrutto
- Officer Robert Major
- Corporal Edward Gonzales
  Special Recognition
- Mr. Sam Gonzales, Vice President for Student Affairs
  Chief’s Courage Award
- Ms. Amber Skripka
Dennis Layman wins Staff Appreciation Award for November 2018

Congratulations to Dennis Layman, Business Analyst II in the Office of Business Information Services, for winning November’s Staff Appreciation Award.

Dennis Layman survived a surprise attack on December 19 when six members of the UTSA Staff Council stopped by a meeting to present him with the Staff Appreciation Award. Dennis supports users of, and troubleshoots a range of challenges presented by, the systems managed by the department and their users. He patiently serves clients and develops innovative solutions to streamline their workdays.

Carlos Gonzales, Director of Business Information Services, nominated Dennis in part based on a letter from Pamela C. Smith, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies (below). He participated in the recognition event with Dennis’s supervisor, Rene Paniagua, BIS Applications Services Manager.

“Dennis is one of the more than 100 members of Business Affairs who are telecommuting,” said Facilities’ Mary Alice Morizen, who serves as UTSA Staff Council’s Staff Appreciation and Scholarships Chair for 2018-2020. “Working from home, he continues to make a huge contribution to the UTSA community. He effectively collaborates with departments and individuals, while utilizing the resources offered by UTSA in his home office. This is a perfect demonstration of how a diligent and committed worker can continue to deliver exceptional service while telecommuting.”

“When we began the transition to telecommuting, BIS made it a point to try to exceed our level of customer service,” said Carlos. “Dennis has set the bar for our team by continuously exceeding customer expectations and going the extra mile. The kudos he continues to get are a testament to his commitment to our goal. He consistently demonstrates his adherence to Business Affairs Guiding Principles.”

“Thank you to Business Information Services and UTSA Staff Council for this award,” said Dennis following the ceremony. “BIS is a great team, and I enjoy being a part of this wonderful family. I’d also like to thank Pamela Smith, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, for the beautiful thank you she sent. It is a pleasure working with the various departments at UTSA to assist with PeopleSoft and Rowdy Exchange.” The UTSA Staff Council recognizes one person or team per month from October through May. To nominate a full-time staff member or team of staff members who deserves recognition, click here.

Reward your colleagues who are going above and beyond to deliver excellent service to our campus community. Here are a few ways to recognize your colleagues:

- **University Excellence Awards**: Submit nominations for awards by Jan. 25 or Feb. 15
- **Staff Council’s Staff Appreciation Award**
- **Business Affairs Celebrating Excellence Award**
- **Business Affairs Guiding Principle Cards**
- Your department’s award program: Promoting Excellence in Facilities; HR Shining Stars; UTSA PD Annual Awards; and Financial Affairs’ BRAVO Awards.
West Campus BSA Restrooms Renovated Over Winter Break

Thanks to the hard work of the Facilities Construction Team (FCT), renovation of the west campus Business Service Annex (BSA) restrooms was completed over the winter holiday break. Low cost and highly effective epoxy-based flooring, wall tile, and partition resurfacing treatments were used to transform the look of the restrooms.

Epoxy resin treatments provide durable bacterial resistant surfaces that are easy to maintain, and, since the process includes repairing and recoloring existing surfaces, no additional costs are typically associated with renovations such as demolition, material purchases and installation. The result of epoxy resurfacing treatments is a long-lasting upgrade at a fraction of the cost. Due to its success, this project will serve as a prototype for other restroom renovations throughout the university.

Facilities Implements Mobile Device Management

UTSA Facilities took a proactive approach to information security in 2018 by implementing a mobile device management (MDM) system last fall. This system is designed to manage the security and software configurations on mobile devices such as iPhones and iPads. The Information Technology (IT) team for Facilities manages 125 mobile devices, including approximately 100 Apple iPhones issued to maintenance, operations, and project management employees.

The MDM software was selected by the team after an extensive review of alternate solutions for maintaining the security of the university-issued devices. The requirements included enforcement of UTSA’s information security policies, prevention of unauthorized installation of apps on the university devices, and the ability to manage versions of authorized apps in use. The system also locates misplaced or stolen devices and protects stored information by remotely erasing the device and marking it as unusable by anyone outside of the university’s approved user list.

John Flores, Senior Information Technology Associate, headed up the acquisition, installation, and implementation of the system with assistance the IT team’s Moses Gomez and Walter Zuniga. The trio completed an online training program for system administration and took a second online certification course to expand their knowledge of the system. Walter Zuniga recently completed a third course in more advanced administration of the MDM system.

Now that all Facilities-issued mobile devices are under management, the IT team will continue to provide support to those personnel requiring these devices for their job and will work closely with the Office of Information Technology to support UTSA’s information security goals.

MH Third Floor Corridors Get New Carpet over Holiday Break

The winter holiday break is a busy time for Facilities because it is the best time to work on major projects with minimal disruptions. This winter break the Facilities Construction Team (FCT) took advantage of the holiday closures to give the MH third floor corridors a much-needed makeover. The team replaced the worn and damaged carpet with low-cost plank carpet tiles that look great, provide long lasting wear and are easy to clean. Plank carpet tiles come in a range of colors and patterns that can influence the visual impact of the floor. The result, according to Roy Garza, FCT Senior Project Manager, is “spectacular.”
The Office of Financial Affairs is mourning the death of one of their own—Bradley Jones, Training Coordinator. He joined Financial Affairs in July 2017, and previously worked in the Office of Instructional Technology (OIT) for six years as a Training Specialist and an Instructional Development Specialist. Jones was at UTSA for a little under eight years, and left a lasting impression on those who worked with him.

"Brad was known around the office for being kind and friendly," said Sheri Hardison, Assistant Vice President of Financial Affairs and Controller. "He will be deeply missed by many of us."

A UTSA alumnus, Jones received a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies and a minor in Geography. He received a Master of Education in Curriculum & Instruction from Houston Baptist University.

"Brad brought new and exciting changes to Financial Affairs’ training classes," said Diane Gomez, Financial Affairs Communications Manager. "As we looked to make the classes more interactive, Brad introduced new platforms and activities to reinforce training materials. He was passionate about teaching and technology, and that was evident when he worked closely with subject matter experts to revamp several courses. As his supervisor, I was fortunate to get to know more about Brad and his life outside UTSA. He was a storyteller, and as storyteller myself, our weekly meetings tended to go longer than the one hour. He was an avid learner, and was always looking for the next great teaching tool. He made me want to be a better supervisor—a better person. There was a kindness about him that was sincere and touching."

Jones first joined UTSA in 2008 and trained faculty, staff and students on Microsoft programs as a OIT staff member. He was promoted in 2012 to oversee the development of curriculum and assessment tools for diverse projects and training. Jones’ career focused on education through technology, including at the middle school and high school levels. He served as a mentor to new middle school teachers and to UTSA graduate students in training and instructional technologies.

Jeanette Francovich, Enrollment Services Associate III, enrolled in several classes Jones taught during his time at OIT. "I took several of Brad's courses throughout my years at UTSA and found him to be an outstanding trainer. Brad was patient, took his time with those who may not know how to navigate the application, and made you feel that he was truly interested in achieving his goal and yours. Brad was an added asset to any position because of his empathy, patience, knowledge and customer service skills."

Jones was a FY18 third quarter BRAVO Award recipient for his work with the Web Team to create a new Financial Affairs training website. Jones was elected to serve on the UTSA Staff Council in 2010. He was an active member of his church having served a greeting ministry coordinator. He also volunteered with the San Antonio Conservation Society as a booth chair for A Night in Old San Antonio.

Jones leaves behind his girlfriend of five years, Jennifer Roosa; his sister Delisa Jones Reynolds; two nephews and one niece. A Celebration of Life service was held at Oak Hills Church (Crownridge Campus) on Saturday, January 12.

Mileage Reimbursement Rate Increases to 58 Cents

The maximum state mileage reimbursement rate for state employee travel in a personal vehicle will increase from 54.5 cents to 58 cents per mile, effective Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2019. This rate is consistent with the Internal Revenue Service’s standard mileage rate.
New Year’s Resolutions

Help the Community: Join the SECC President’s Advisory Committee. Email secc@utsa.edu

Get Healthy: Join Rowdy New U and do the Health Challenge (p.5)

Heart Walk, February 8, 10 am, NPB

Diploma Dash, February 23

Please join the Office of Facilities in congratulating

ENOS JONES

on his retirement from The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Friday, December 14, 2018
3:00 p.m. - FSB 1.212
IN HONOR OF UTSA’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY: ROADRUNNER DAYS SPRING EDITION! FOCUS ON SUCCESS, INVOLVEMENT, COMMUNITY SERVICE & FUN!

FRIDAY JAN 11
8a - 5p  Residence Hall Move-In
         Various Residence Halls

SATURDAY JAN 12
3p   Men's Basketball vs. North Texas
     Convocation Center

WEEK 1 NEW CLASSES & STUDENT SUCCESS

MONDAY JAN 14 - FIRST DAY OF CLASSES
All Day  UTSA Swag Day: Wear UTSA Gear

10a - 2p  Spring Welcome & 50th Anniversary Kick-Off
          Student Union Paseo

TUESDAY JAN 15
7:30p  Roadrunners Rumble
       Convocation Center

WEDNESDAY JAN 16
2-4p   Roadrunner Success Walk
       Visit utsa.edu/roadrunnerdays for location information

THURSDAY JAN 17
10a - 2p  A New Year, A Better You - Health & Wellness Event
          Sombrilla & Central Plaza

7p   Women's Basketball vs. Middle Tennessee
     Convocation Center

FRIDAY JAN 18
11a - 2p  Huge Networking Social
         H-E-B SU Ballrooms

6p & 9p  UCinema: Selma
         SU Retama Auditorium

SATURDAY JAN 19
12p  Rowdy Crew Tailgate
     In Front of the Convocation Center

1p  Women's Basketball vs. UAB
    Convocation Center

7p  UCinema: Selma
    SU Retama Auditorium

WEEK 2 STUDENT INVOLVEMENT & COMMUNITY SERVICE

MONDAY JAN 21 - MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY (NO CLASSES)
10a  City of San Antonio MLK March
     Visit utsa.edu/roadrunnerdays for participation information

TUESDAY JAN 22
10a - 2p  Involvement Fair
          Sombrilla & Central Plaza

WEDNESDAY JAN 23
10a - 1p  Volunteer Fair
          Student Union 1st & 2nd Floor Corridors

4p  Gallery 23: Shades of Brown
    Opening Reception
    Student Union 1st Floor North Corridor

THURSDAY JAN 24
10a - 2p  Downtown Campus Involvement & Volunteer Fair
          Buena Vista 1 338

11a - 1p  Live at the Lounge
          Student Union Window Lounge

6p  SU Leisure Arts: Hand Knitting
    Student Union Mesquite Room

7p  Men's Basketball vs. Charlotte
    Convocation Center

FRIDAY JAN 25
6p & 9p  UCinema: Venom
         SU Retama Auditorium

SATURDAY JAN 26
3p  Men's Basketball vs. Old Dominion
    Convocation Center

7p  UCinema: Venom
    SU Retama Auditorium

UTSA.EDU/ROADRUNNERDAYS
#UTSARRDays