

LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

INSTITUTIONAL ENHANCEMENT



**NON-FORMULA SUPPORT ITEM REQUEST
SUPPORTING UTSA'S ACADEMIC & RESEARCH
ENTERPRISES**

ANNUAL FUNDING REQUEST

\$1,788,839 per year | \$3,577,678 over biennium

OVERVIEW

Institutional Enhancement funding enables UTSA to recruit world-class scholars to the university, while simultaneously reducing student-faculty ratios in light of rapid enrollment growth. Continued funding for this item is critical to attracting and retaining excellent faculty by ensuring that teaching and advising loads remain in balance, courses are readily available to students, and class sizes are optimal.

THE CHALLENGE

During the last legislative session, UTSA's Institutional Enhancement special item was trimmed by 28%. Further cuts would have adverse effects on UTSA's student success initiatives, curbing the university's ability to maintain current student-faculty ratios and detracting from instructors' capacity for personal engagement with students. This would also affect UTSA's efforts to attract nationally-recognized scholars—and their federally funded research—to San Antonio.

THE IMPACT

UTSA's ability to recruit and retain top-notch faculty is having a significant impact on the university's ability to serve as a model for student success and research excellence. Faculty "cluster hiring" efforts over the last few years have resulted in the recruitment of world-class scholars in high-demand fields, including five new faculty in brain health, six in cybersecurity, and 11 in analytics and data science. Institutional Enhancement funding is needed on a permanent basis to capitalize on this momentum.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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