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UTSA Media Source Guide: 81st Legislative Session
January 13, 2009-June 1, 2009
UTSA Expert Sources

Lawmakers, journalists and citizen pundits alike will be following the discussions of Texas' 81st Legislative Session over the next six months. As you prepare for your individual assignments, please know that the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) is available to help if you need career researchers or faculty experts in the following "hot topic" areas:

School accountability

Belinda Flores, Ph.D., Professor, College of Education and Human Development

(210) 458-5969 | belinda.flores@utsa.edu

Professor Flores is principal investigator for UTSA's Academy for Teacher Excellence. She has testified before the U.S. House about the negative effects of state standardized testing and opposes the No Child Left Behind Act. She serves as the only Texas member of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities panel, "Hispanic Higher Education Research Collective." The panel's work will improve success for Hispanics in higher, elementary and secondary schools.

Sharon Nichols, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, College of Education and Human Development

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Education professor Sharon Nichols recent completed a study of the No Child Left Behind Act and co-authored the book "Collateral Damage" with David Berlinger in 2008. She concluded that high-stakes testing erodes education practice, undermines the professionalism of teachers and creates a climate of uncertainty, corruption and distortion. She offers alternative methods to track student accountability.

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Access to Healthcare/Health Workforce

Karl Eschbach, Ph.D., Associate Professor, College of Public Policy, and Texas State Demographer

(210) 458-6530 | karl.eschbach@utsa.edu

The director of the Texas State Data Center at UTSA, Professor Eschbach is a widely published Texas demographer. He is prepared to speak with members of the media about health care and Texas' health work force from a demographic perspective. His research specialties include the demography of racial and ethnic populations, immigration, neighborhoods and health, and population health and health disparities.

Dana Forgione, Ph.D., Professor, College of Business, and Janey S. Briscoe Endowed Chair in the Business of Health

(210) 458-6318 | dana.forgione@utsa.edu

Professor Forgione, an expert in Medicare, Medicaid, and healthcare financing and accounting, oversees UTSA's College of Business concentration in the Business of Health. Since 2000, he has served as the managing editor of *Research in Healthcare Financial Management*. He will speak about President Obama's new health plan, once unveiled.

Prison Security

J. Mitchell Miller, Ph.D., Professor, College of Public Policy

(210) 458-2535 | jm.miller@utsa.edu

Professor Miller is the chair of UTSA's Department of Criminal Justice. His research interests include crime and delinquency, drugs and society, and prison program evaluation. He recently completed a prison visit to investigate security and other issues. He has co-authored or edited a number of textbooks on criminology, including most recently "Crime and Criminals: Contemporary and Classic Readings in Criminology Theory" (Oxford University Press, 2008) and the upcoming "21st Century Criminology: A Reference Handbook" (Sage Publications, 2009).

Michael J. Gilbert, Ph.D., Associate Professor, College of Public Policy

(210) 458-2683 | michael.gilbert@utsa.edu

A widely published criminal justice and corrections researcher, Professor Gilbert has served on UTSA's faculty since 1991. His work experience includes service as a correctional administrator, a correctional consultant, and a corrections staff development and training officer. In addition, he has held various positions with the U.S. Army and Navy.

Business Tax

Robert McKinley, M.P.A., Associate Vice President of UTSA's Institute for Economic Development

(210) 458-2450 | robert.mckinley@utsa.edu

Robert McKinley's specialties include small business, economic development and minority businesses. A few years ago, he led a UT System research team that published the effect of the UT System on the Texas economy. The second iteration of that study will be published next month. He is prepared to speak with the media about the proposed business tax changes under consideration by this year's Legislature.

New Flagship University/Top 10% Rule

Karl Eschbach, Ph.D., Associate Professor, College of Public Policy, and Texas State Demographer

(210) 458-6530 | karl.eschbach@utsa.edu

The director of UTSA's Institute for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research, Professor Eschbach notes the top 10 percent rule was instituted as a race-blind way of including underrepresented populations although it has since had unintended implications. He is also prepared to discuss flagship issues as they address questions of disparities in access.

Tuition Deregulation

Lisa Blazer, Ph.D., Assistant Vice President for Student Financial Aid and Enrollment Services

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Lisa Blazer is UTSA's Assistant Vice President for Student Financial Aid and Enrollment Services and has nearly 20 years of experience in financial aid. She is the immediate past president of the Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (TASFAA). Prior to joining UTSA, Blazer was director of student financial aid at the University of the Incarnate Word. Before moving to Texas, she served as admissions counselor at Missouri Baptist College in St. Louis and director of financial aid at Missouri Technical School. Blazer holds a B.A. from Missouri Baptist University and a Master's degree and Ph.D. in Education from the University of Incarnate Word.

Immigration

Patricia Sanchez, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, College of Education and Human Development

(210) 458-6461 | patricia.sanchez@utsa.edu

Professor Sanchez has served on UTSA's faculty since 2004 and specializes in research related to globalization and transnationalism; immigrant children, families and schools; Latino communities and education; ethnic epistemologies; and urban youth and social change.

Iliana Alanis, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, College of Education and Human Development

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Professor Alanis' primary research interests center on issues pertaining to English Language Learners' academic achievement as well as dual language curriculum and program development. She has served on UTSA's Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching faculty since 2005.

Raquel Marquez, Ph.D., Associate Professor, College of Liberal and Fine Arts

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Professor Marquez specializes in a variety of topics related to immigrant incorporation and assimilation, including migration and immigration to the U.S./Mexico Border, race and ethnic relation, Latino studies, qualitative research methods, community development and neighborhood formation.

Viviana Rojas, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, College of Liberal and Fine Arts

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Professor Rojas taught at the Universidad de Chile and Universidad Diego Portales in Santiago, Chile before joining UTSA in 2002. Her teaching areas include communication theory as well as intercultural and international communication. She is currently working with teams in three pilot studies for NIH grant proposals, including a study about the international migration of U.S. retirees to less developed countries.

Richard Harris, Ph.D., Professor, College of Public Policy

(210) 458-2843 | richard.harris@utsa.edu

Professor Harris has served on various academic faculties since 1976, when he graduated from Cornell University with a Ph.D. in Sociology/Demography. His areas of research interest include demography, gender roles, social stratification and gerontology. He is the author of “The Politics of San Antonio: Community Progress and Power,” a book published in 1983 by the University of Nebraska Press.

Rodolfo Rosales, Ph.D., Associate Professor, College of Liberal and Fine Arts

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Professor Rosales teaches urban politics, political philosophy, and Chicana/Chicano politics at UTSA. He is the author of “The Illusion of Inclusion: The Untold Political Story of San Antonio,” published by the University of Texas Press, 2000. His research includes (1) a study of San Antonio Latinos and (2) citizenship from a transnational perspective among other topics. The latter project looks at the impact that nation-states and their borders have had on the ability of workers to negotiate their participation in a political economy that recognizes no borders.

Richard C. Jones, Ph.D., Professor, College of Liberal and Fine Arts

(210) 458-5612 | richard.jones@utsa.edu

Professor Jones has been at UTSA since 1977. He teaches human social geography, economic geography, the geography of development, Texas and Mexico geography and spatial research methods as well as a graduate seminar. Professor Jones is currently researching international migration with a particular focus on Mexican migration to the U.S. and has published on the topic as well.

Lucila Ek, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, College of Education and Human Development

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A 2002 Stanford graduate with a doctorate emphasizing language and literacy, Professor Ek is an expert about many issues related to immigration, including language and identity, literacy/biliteracy in social practices and Chicana/Latina education. Her academic experience includes UCLA, UC Berkeley and UC San Diego as well as time in the Los Angeles city schools. In 2008, she received a grant to study “Latino/a Immigrant Students’ Views and Experiences of Immigration and Education.”

Voter Photo Identification

Amy Jasperson, Ph.D., Associate Professor, College of Liberal and Fine Arts

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Professor Jasperson's research includes political psychology, campaigns and elections, political communication, media coverage and its influence on public opinion, and political advertising. She is the director of UTSA's [Media & Elections Studio](#).

Gangs and Organized Crime

J. Mitchell Miller, Ph.D., Professor, College of Public Policy

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Professor Miller is the chair of UTSA's Department of Criminal Justice. His research interests include crime and delinquency, drugs and society, and program evaluation. He has co-authored or edited a number of textbooks on criminology, including most recently "Crime and Criminals: Contemporary and Classic Readings in Criminology Theory" (Oxford University Press, 2008) and the upcoming "21st Century Criminology: A Reference Handbook" (Sage Publications, 2009).

Marie "Keta" Miranda, Ph.D., Associate Professor, College of Education and Human Development

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Professor Miranda, a member of UTSA's Department of Bicultural-Bilingual Studies, is a researcher on the topic of Latina gangs. She is the author of "Homegirls in the Public Sphere" (University of Texas Press, 2003).

Michael J. Gilbert, Ph.D., Associate Professor, College of Public Policy

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A widely published criminal justice and corrections researcher, Professor Gilbert has served on UTSA's faculty since 1991. His work experience includes service as a correctional administrator, a correctional consultant, and a corrections staff development and training officer. In addition, he has held various positions with the U.S. Army and Navy.

Texas Innocence Commission

Michael J. Gilbert, Ph.D., Associate Professor, College of Public Policy

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A widely published criminal justice and corrections researcher, Professor Gilbert has served on UTSA's faculty since 1991. His work experience includes service as a correctional administrator, a correctional consultant, and a corrections staff development and training officer. In addition, he has held various positions with the U.S. Army and Navy.

Roger Enriquez, J.D., Associate Professor, College of Public Policy

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Since 2001, attorney Roger Enriquez has taught in UTSA's Department of Criminal Justice. Professor Enriquez's research strengths include indigent criminal defense in Texas and the rights of non-English speakers in the criminal justice system. He is prepared to speak about issues pertaining to the evaluation of the Texas Youth Commission.

A. Derral Cheatwood, Professor, College of Liberal and Fine Arts

(210) 458-5646 | adrian.cheatwood@utsa.edu

Professor Cheatwood has served as a sociology professor on various college and university faculties in New York, Maryland and Texas since 1970. His primary research interests include criminology, violent behavior and homicide, and images of crime in mass society. He is the co-author of “The Geography of Execution” (1997) which offers a geo-historical perspective on capital punishment.

Water

Weldon Hammond, Ph.D., Associate Professor, College of Sciences

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Geology professor Weldon Hammond is the director of UTSA’s Center for Water Research. He holds the Amy Shelton and V.H. McNutt Distinguished Professorship in Geology. His strengths include ground-water exploration, ground-water management problems, recharge enhancement studies, solid waste site location, water flood projects, and mineral exploration and development (oil, gas and uranium gravel). He is a seventh-generation Texan.

Richard French, Ph.D., Professor, College of Engineering

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Engineer Richard French specializes in hydrology and the study of semi-arid lands. He holds professional registrations in California, Nevada and Arizona.

Energy

Efstathios (“Stathis”) Michaelides, Ph.D., P.E., Professor, College of Engineering

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Professor Michaelides, an engineer specializing in energy-related disciplines, serves as the chair of UTSA’s Department of Mechanical Engineering. His areas of research interest include thermodynamics, energy systems and energy conservation as well as the flow of particles and environmental fluid dynamics. Professor Michaelides recently received a 24-month grant to study fossil fuel combustion from the U.S. Department of Energy. He also is the American editor of the “Journal of Non-Equilibrium Thermodynamics.”

Kyle Murray, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, College of Sciences

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Professor Murray is an expert in geological engineering, has extensive hydrologic modeling experience and a GIS background. He is prepared to speak with the media about algae-based fuels and the possibilities they offer as an alternative energy source.

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