



2018  
*Spring*

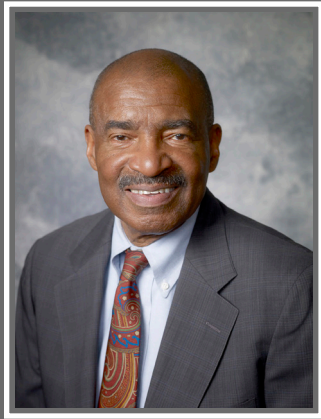
# MOS AIC

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

# ABOUT US

## OUR MISSION

The Office of Diversity and Community Engagement strives to accomplish the fulfillment of the UT Dallas commitment to embrace, enhance and celebrate diversity at all levels of the University and our community through the efforts of faculty, staff, students, the executive leadership and community partnerships. UT Dallas aspires to be a leader in promoting diversity to reach the highest levels of excellence.



**Dr. George Fair**  
*Vice President for Diversity &  
Community Engagement  
Dean,  
School of Interdisciplinary Studies*



**Arthur Gregg**  
*Assistant VP for  
Multicultural Affairs  
Director,  
Multicultural Center*

## Contents

- Pg. 2 - About Us
- Pg. 3 - Community Engagement
- Pg. 4 - Galerstein Gender Center
- Pg. 5 - Multicultural Center
- Pg. 6-7 - ERG
- Pg. 8-9 - Institutional Diversity Initiatives
- Pg. 10 - Student Diversity Advisory Council
- Pg. 11 - Contact Information



Community Engagement



Multicultural Center



Galerstein Gender Center



Institutional Diversity Initiatives

## Contact Us

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# 03 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Teams from Maus Middle School in the Frisco ISD and Barbara Bush Middle School in the Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD faced off in an engineering design challenge at the African American Male Academic Bowl at UT Dallas.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATING SPRING 2018 DIVERSITY SCHOLARS:

Gabriella Anderson	Devante Johnson
Sergio Aragon	Urmi Khatri
Oluwatobi Babayemi	Paola Lozano
Oluwatowo Babayemi	Cintia Martinez
Fidel Coria	Enrique Morales
Sandra Field	Flor Morales
Aaron Fields	Saima Rasheed
Dalia Franco Cortes	Allen Rodriguez
Suzie Ghidei	Aline Torres
Kelsey Jackson	Yared Wondemagegn

## STUDENTS SHOWCASE PROBLEM-SOLVING PROWESS AT ACADEMIC BOWL

**The assignment:** build a race car.

**The materials:** four CDs, two pencils, rubber bands, boxes and tape.

Teams of students in grades six through eight met the 30-minute challenge, part of the “Aiming for the Stars” African American Male Academic Bowl held annually at UT Dallas. Members of the winning team from Barbara Bush Middle School in the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District cheered as their car zoomed past the others to cross the finish line first.

The race car engineering challenge and a math competition were two new categories at this year’s event, held Jan. 27 at the Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center. A team of eighth-grade students from Maus Middle School in the Frisco Independent School District emerged as the day’s overall winner. The Murphy Achievers, a group of students from schools in the Plano Independent School District, took first place in the math division.

The UT Dallas Office of Diversity and Community Engagement hosted the academic competition, partnering with AT&T, the Dallas County Community College District, Project Still I Rise Inc., Texas Senator Royce West and the local chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers. The event is designed to inspire a passion for learning, provide information and allow participants to build relationships that can contribute to their academic success. It featured speeches by guests, including UT

Dallas president Richard C. Benson and Dr. Joe May, chancellor of the Dallas County Community College District.

David Robinson Jr., assistant director of Community Engagement at UT Dallas and founder of the event, said organizers added the engineering and math competitions to the traditional academic quiz-bowl contest to give students a broader range of academic challenges. “We wanted to revise the bowl in a way that would test students in various areas in addition to the memorization of facts that the academic bowl allows. With the addition of engineering design and math competitions, I believe we have done that,” Robinson said. “It also makes coaches teach teamwork and strategy in a different way than in the past. We want to create a culture that assists in the development of well-rounded students.”

Lesley Roane, librarian and academic bowl coach at Maus Middle School, said the students enjoyed the new math and engineering challenges, but the Jeopardy!-style quiz bowl was still their favorite part. Roane said students spent their lunch breaks practicing. The school sent several teams to the event, with three taking the top prizes in the quiz bowl segment of the competition. “The young men on the Maus teams have learned about themselves and others, as well as the importance of teamwork, accountability and sportsmanship. Most of all, these young men have developed a sense of camaraderie that will last a lifetime.”



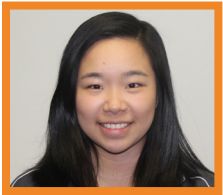
# 04 GALERSTEIN GENDER CENTER

## NEW GGC STUDENT LEADERS ON THE BLOCK

The Galerstein Gender Center (GGC) is proud to highlight our new student leaders. We have four community educators who focus on gender equity and LGBTQ+ advocacy, programming and education efforts at UT Dallas. This is a theory-based approach to student development that prioritizes professional development opportunities for our student leaders. Each community educator will have the opportunity to lead student-driven programming and intentional relationship building within the UT Dallas campus community.

### SELENA LI

Community Educator for GGC Initiatives



Li is a senior in accounting. She hopes to use both her strengths and weaknesses to develop skills she can use in her future career.

Why is gender equity/LGBT+ activism important work to you? “Growing up, I had friends who were verbally abused for their sexual orientation and gender identity. I have seen how it affects them in a social and mental way, and I have made a promise to myself and my friends to provide knowledge to the community that no one should be judged the way my friends were.”

Favorite Quote: “A wise person does at once, what a fool does at last. Both do the same thing; only at different times.”

### CAROLINA REYES

Community Educator for Arts and Media



Reyes is a graduate student in aesthetic studies. She hopes to bring color and fun to the Galerstein Gender Center. She thinks the public underestimates the power of the arts and humanities, but they are an essential part of living. Ultimately, she would like to get more people interested and excited about the

Gender Center through the use of art and social media.

Why is gender equity/LGBT+ activism important work to you? “I think that attending and paying attention to gender equity and the needs of the LGBTQ+ community is a step closer to having a more efficient way of living, meaning that it will be much easier to confront other issues like how we recover from natural disasters and the cure for cancer because once we take care of everyone’s basic needs—like the right to be acknowledged for who we are, and to be and FEEL safe—then we can focus on major needs of humanity as a whole.”

Favorite Quote: “Don’t judge someone based on your limited experience” - Carl Sagan

### MELODIE SAUCEDO

Community Educator for Women’s Programs



Saucedo is a senior in sociology and gender studies. She hopes to implement new levels of equity, inclusion and intersectionality amongst the Galerstein Gender Center’s events and services. She wants to assist in the advancement of a campus community that empowers its students to

both embrace their individuality and change the world.

Why is gender equity/LGBT+ activism important work to you? “The work that the Gender Center does is important to me because it is both personal and pressing. As a queer womxn of color, the advancement of myself, people like me, and the beautiful communities that we form will always be close to my heart and guide my actions. Further, I recognize that gender equity and LGBTQ+ issues are just two facets of a much larger system of social justice that must be embraced in its entirety in order to promote real change.”

Favorite Quote: “Like wildflowers, you must allow yourself to grow in all the places people never thought you would.” - Lorde

### AUDRA CROW

Community Educator for LGBTQ+ Programs



Crow is a junior in information technology and systems with a focus in business intelligence and analytics. She hopes to spread education that enables people to understand why gender equity and LGBTQ+ activism are so important. She has a desire to help prevent discrimination against all people, including LGBTQ+ individuals. Her hope is to help equip LGBTQ+

persons and allies with the tools to continue promoting an affirming and inclusive environment on the UT Dallas campus so that its impact spreads much farther than our campus alone.

Why is gender equity/LGBT+ activism important work to you? “When every individual is treated with dignity and is able to be genuine about their identity, we are all better because of this. Every person deserves the right to have what they need to receive the same chance for success as others. This is why equity is so important. Helping to educate people, especially students, with the knowledge and desire to cultivate an atmosphere that is supportive and inclusive to all persons is one of the most rewarding things I have ever had the privilege of being a part of.”

Favorite Quote: “Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.” - Ruth Bader Ginsburg



## MULTICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT CEREMONY

One of the brightest moments on campus is during commencement season. With that brings many celebrations and ceremonies that recognize the graduating class. This year, the Multicultural Center introduced a new ceremony, the Multicultural Achievement Ceremony that kicked off the commencement season, specifically for the underrepresented student community and their families.

“Offering a program like this to graduating seniors was a major goal for our center this year,” said Monica Williamson, assistant director of Student Success and Outreach at the Multicultural Center. “We have been able to recognize students before with our end of the year banquets, but families were left out of the festivities. With this program, we have been able to formalize this milestone, collaborate in ways we haven’t before and truly celebrate our amazing students.”

On the evening of May 7 in the Student Services Addition auditorium, the first Multicultural Achievement Ceremony recognized just fewer than 100 graduating seniors representing the class of 2018. The Undergraduate Success Scholars from the Office of Undergraduate Education, the Diversity Scholars Program within the Department of Community Engagement, and cultural student groups supported by the Multicultural Center made up the honorees.

Dr. Manuel Quevedo-Lopez, professor of materials science and engineering, electrical engineering, chemistry and physics and president of the Latino Faculty and Staff Association (Employee Resource Group) was the evening’s keynote speaker. Within his address, Dr. Quevedo-Lopez spoke about embracing and remembering culture even as students move forward in their lives.

As a token of appreciation of their hard work and dedication to UT Dallas and the Multicultural Center, each senior recognized was presented with a ceremonial stole or cord that they were encouraged to wear during their commencement.

# 06 EMPLOYEE RESOURCE GROUPS (ERG)

## BLACK FACULTY STAFF AND ALLIANCE (BFSA) ERG

BFSA hit the ground running this semester with community service events throughout the DFW community.

Members Tynee Sims, Jaleah Williams and Crystal Favors ended Black History Month with a bang by serving at the Goodwill in South Dallas. The ladies sorted through toys and books and worked with community members to help make items easier to obtain for the families with the most need.

On April 7, Lorre Antoine, Carmen Tanner and Tynee Sims volunteered at the UJAMAA Family Festival at Fair Park, assisting with set-up, registration and helping guests with questions throughout the day.

The UJAMAA Family Festival was an event designed to connect the DFW Metroplex with key community leaders and small, Black-owned businesses in the area. Attendees of all ages enjoyed food, exciting performances and much more.



## UT DALLAS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Feed the City volunteer event – February 17, 2018 (Frisco, TX)

- 6 ERG members volunteered (2 made monetary donations in absence of their attendance)
- 6,892 meals made for those in need



# QUTD

[utdallas.edu/qutd](http://utdallas.edu/qutd)

QuTD at the Dallas Pride Parade



## LATINO FACULTY AND STAFF ASSOCIATION (LFSA)

On October 3, 2017 the Latino Plaza Fundraising Event for victims of the earthquake in Mexico took place. The event collected \$700 that were given to the Red Cross, Televisa foundation, and Ucaring for Oaxaca. Many LFSA members supported this event.



## UT DALLAS WOMEN ERG

These are the events the UT Dallas Women ERG has put on over the last fiscal year:

- Holiday potluck and social.
- Preparing for your Annual Performance Review presented by HR.
- Campus resources for women presented by Galerstein Gender Center.
- Self-care and work-life balance presentation by Trillion Small.
- End-of-Year potluck and social.

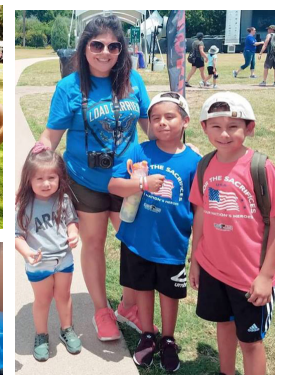


## MILITARY AND VETERAN ERG

[utdallas.edu/mverg](http://utdallas.edu/mverg)

Multiple members of the Military and Veteran ERG (MVERG) participated in the Carry the Load, Dallas Memorial March on May 28. This annual event recognizes and honors the military service members who died while serving in the Armed Forces. The UT Dallas team had 35 members and was a joint effort with the MVERG, UTD Center for BrainHealth, UTD Military and Veteran Center, and the Veterans of UT Dallas, a chapter of Student Veterans of America.

Money raised for this event is distributed to veteran and first responder programs, including the Center for BrainHealth. Overall, \$3432.19 was raised by the UT Dallas team.



# 08 INSTITUTIONAL DIVERSITY INITIATIVES

## DIVERSITY AWARDS

### *Ceremony and Soirée*



On April 19, 2018, The UT Dallas Office of Diversity and Community Engagement hosted its ninth annual Diversity Awards Ceremony and Soiree. The theme was, “UT Dallas: Advancing Diversity through Inclusion and Leadership.” The ceremony was held in the newly opened Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center Auditorium and Inspiration Hall.

The event featured Ms. Cleo Greene, news reporter and weekend morning anchor of WFAA News 8 Daybreak. When asked about her current position at WFAA, Greene said:

*WFAA is a legacy station, and it has evolved to reach every generation. The newsroom is full of smart, innovation and dynamic people who strive to think outside of the box. I appreciate that there is a focus to heighten social media engagement. More importantly, WFAA is full of different ages, races and cultures, which makes me feel excited to be a part of the team.”*

The celebration benefits the Diversity Scholarship Program, which was created in 2010 to increase the diversity of students enrolling at the University. UT Dallas offers 15-20 diversity scholarships each year to support students in a variety of fields including accounting, computer science and electrical engineering. Performances included Rachel Dupard, the Diversity Poetry completion winners, the Bangladesh Student Organization, Dancing 4 My Life Dance Company, Mariachi Caporales Dallas, and the Jazz Engineers.

Among the honorees, Dr. Raj Seekri, Community Champion awardee, fully understands the power of education as a path for students to change their lives. Considering the financial burden of earning a college degree, Seekri endowed a scholarship at UT Dallas. The Ram Lal Seekri Endowed Scholarship, for which he gave \$25,000 to the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, supports first-generation students in the Academic Bridge Program. The scholarship is a memorial tribute to his father’s lifelong commitment to education and his tireless efforts to improve his community.

UT Dallas is committed to becoming a nationally competitive, prominent research University. As part of this development, a commitment to diversity and community engagement is vital. We are concerned with recruiting a diverse faculty, staff and student body, and we recognize that this can be accomplished only if we build significant partnerships with the diverse populations we serve.





**Student Diversity Award**  
Alireza Nourani-Dargiri  
Student, mechanical engineering



**Inclusive Teaching Diversity Award**  
Zsuzsanna Ozsváth  
Professor, Leah and Paul Lewis Chair of  
Holocaust Studies



**Staff Diversity Award**  
Barbara Boyd  
Advisor, Enrollment Services



**Diversity Slam Poetry Competition  
winner**  
Danny Dunn  
Student, Psychology



**Corporate Diversity Award**  
Fluor



**Student Organization Diversity Award**  
National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)



**Community Champion of Diversity Award**  
Raj K. Seekri



**Dancing 4 My Life Dance Company**



**Rachel Dupard**



**Mariachi Caporales Dallas**



**Bangladesh Student Organization**



**The Jazz Engineers**

# 10 STUDENT DIVERSITY ADVISORY COUNCIL



Student Diversity Advisory Council volunteering at MLK Day of Service Meal Packing event

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the advisory council is to provide the students' perspective, input and advice to the Office of Diversity and Community Engagement.

The council addresses the elements of student diversity, concerns, activities and programs to increase awareness and understanding of each other, and to move beyond simple tolerance to embrace and celebrate the rich dimensions of diversity contained within each individual.



Stefanie Polderman, VP of SDAC  
Graduating Senior



## DIVERSITY IS UT DALLAS

On May 30, 2018, a few of the Office of Diversity and Community Engagement staff and students attended the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in New Orleans, LA. Jasmine Johnson was selected to present, “How to Build a Diverse Student-led Advisory Council on a College Campus.” Johnson discussed the importance of making sure that the mission and objectives of the council aligned with the departmental goals. It was an interactive session that gave the participants a unique opportunity to learn about the ways in which the ODCE Student Diversity Advisory Council is helping to tell the story of the University and providing vital feedback/support to the Office of Diversity and Community Engagement at UT Dallas. Johnson was accompanied by student presenter Ayesha Ahmad, who discussed her first-hand experience as the chairperson of the Student Diversity Advisory Council. Together, they gave examples of the council’s lunch-and-learn style, student-led, student-focused conversations on race, ethnicity and intersectional identities and their governing structure.

## GOALS

- To provide student perspectives on key school issues.
- To highlight major institutional diversity achievements and concerns at UT Dallas.
- To support new diversity programs, initiatives and projects.
- To improve public perception of diversity at UT Dallas.
- To create effective communication with the multiple campus organizations at UT Dallas.

# THE OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Department of Institutional  
Diversity Initiatives

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[www.utdallas.edu/multicultural/](http://www.utdallas.edu/multicultural/)

The Galerstein Gender Center  
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Phone: 972-883-6555  
Fax: 972-883-6558  
Office: SSB 4.300

[www.utdallas.edu/gendercenter/](http://www.utdallas.edu/gendercenter/)



For more information contact Rosie Peterson at  
[rpeterson@utdallas.edu](mailto:rpeterson@utdallas.edu)

The University of Texas at Dallas is an Equal Opportunity/  
Affirmative Action University. Individuals who need special  
accommodations to attend, please call The Office of Diversity  
and Community Engagement at 972-883-4566.

Texas Relay Operation: 1-800-RELAYTX.

The background of the entire page is a vibrant, stylized pattern of tropical leaves and branches. The leaves are in various shades of yellow and light green, while the branches and some leaves are in a teal or turquoise color. The pattern is dense and layered, creating a lush, jungle-like feel.

*Save the Date*

*THE 10TH ANNUAL*

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**DIVERSITY AWARDS  
CEREMONY AND SOIRÉE**

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April 18, 2019  
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

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The Davidson-Gundy  
Alumni Center