13th Annual
Diversity Awards
Honoree Dinner

Shining the Light:
Promoting Inclusion through Unity

June 9th, 2022
5:30 - 7:00 PM
Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center
Greetings Colleagues, Students, and Friends:

On behalf of the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI), it is my pleasure and honor to welcome you to the 2022 Diversity Awards Celebration. One of the key strengths of UT Dallas is that we recognize our excellence is achieved, in part, as a derivative of the differences we all bring to the community from our various backgrounds, identities, cultures, disciplines, and experiences.

I’m honored to celebrate the accomplishments of all of our awardees and the excellence in which you all operate on a daily basis. Having agency for DEI across the university, not only in ODEI, strengthens us as we strive to become “a place where all members of the community from all backgrounds are welcomed, treated fairly, and encouraged in their pursuit of excellence.”

Please join me in thanking Mrs. Rosie Peterson, Ms. Jasmine Johnson and their team in the Department of Institutional Diversity Initiatives for organizing this event, along with our partners, co-sponsors and presenters for their support. This evening would not be possible without you.

Thank you to everyone in attendance for joining us to celebrate our community members who lead us in being United Through Diversity.

Yvette E. Pearson, Ph.D., P.E., FASCE
Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
UT System Regents’ Outstanding Teacher
Dr. Alicia Makaye (the "A" in GXA) is a philanthropist, entrepreneur, and co-founder of GXA. This IT Solutions provider helps other businesses take command and control of their IT. Dr. Makaye is a U.S. Air Force Veteran and a graduate of UT Dallas with a Ph.D. in Public Affairs. She is also an alumna of Goldman Sachs’ 10,000 small businesses entrepreneurship program (cohort of 10). Dr. Makaye most recently served as a Tech Titans judge, helping to nominate some of the best IT industries for 2018. She frequently speaks and participates in activities that foster youth development and encourage youth to consider a profession in Information Technology.

Introduction of Host

Dr. Yvette E. Pearson is Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) at the University of Texas at Dallas. A Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Pearson is recognized globally for over 25 years in higher education, particularly for her work to advance sustainability, justice, equity, diversity and inclusion. Her efforts have led to over $30M in funding for initiatives to support DEI in STEM and changes to policies and practices of global engineering organizations. Among her awards and honors are ABET’s Claire L. Felbinger Award for Diversity and Inclusion, ASCE’s Professional Practice Ethics and Leadership Award, University of Texas Regents Outstanding Teaching Award, the Society of Women Engineers’ Distinguished Engineering Educator Award, and ASCE’s President’s Medal. Pearson is a registered Professional Engineer, a Commissioner on ABET’s Engineering Accreditation Commission, and host of Engineering Change Podcast, which has audiences in over 70 countries on six continents.

Welcome

Dr. Richard C. Benson is the fifth president of The University of Texas at Dallas. With purpose and passion, he is leading UT Dallas in its pursuit of Tier One status as an innovative research university positioned to make a difference around the globe. President Benson is committed to growing student enrollment, expanding the research portfolio, strengthening ties across Dallas-Fort Worth and the state, enhancing campus infrastructure, and hiring dynamic faculty and staff members.
Entertainment

The Jazz Bytes is a subset of the full 18-piece Texins Jazz Band. The Texins Jazz Band is composed of members with STEM degrees. The Jazz Bytes quartet consists of Paul Westbrook (B.S. Mechanical Engineering), Dr. Gerry Burnham (Ph.D. Electrical Engineering), Ron Iovine (B.S. Computer Science), and Bill Sallee (M.S. Electrical Engineering).

For more information, please visit: enerjazz.com/jazztech

Student Organization Award

Zaina Syed on behalf of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)

“Doctors Without Borders,” UT Dallas Chapter

Zaina Syed is a rising junior at UT Dallas majoring in Psychology, she currently works as a hearing screener for Pediatrix and plans to go to medical school or graduate school for Psychology. She is serving as an officer for the UT Dallas student organization: Friends of MSF, which is the student chapter of the international organization Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders).

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international, independent medical humanitarian organization, and translates to Doctors without Borders. They provide medical assistance to people affected by conflict, epidemics, disasters, or exclusion from healthcare. Their teams are made up of tens of thousands of health professionals, logistic and administrative staff—bound together by their charter. Their actions are guided by medical ethics and the principles of impartiality, independence and neutrality. They are a non-profit, self-governed, member-based organisation.

MSF was founded in 1971 in Paris by a group of journalists and doctors. Today, they are a worldwide movement of nearly 65,000 people.

For more information, please visit: www.msf.org
Student Award

Josue Fonseca  
*JAMP Ambassador, Health Professions Advising Center*

From Houston, Texas, Josue Fonseca graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Healthcare Studies. He served as a Peer Advisor for University Housing, Service Chair for the scholar organization, Student Delegado for the Center for US-Latin American Initiatives, Joint Admission Medical Program-HPAC Student Ambassador, and a Contact Tracer for Dallas County Health and Human Services. He has volunteered in his community through various volunteering opportunities, notably as a Spanish Translator for Hope Clinic McKinney - a free medical clinic for the uninsured. He participated in the Clark Summer Research Program, Teaching Apprenticeship for Biology lab, internships at Baylor College of Medicine and UT Southwestern Medical School, and the Last Writers Program. Josue loves to be outside, eat good food, dance, and dance even more! Josue will be attending The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine participating in a dual MD/MPH degree with UT Health School of Public Health. He plans on serving the refugee and immigrant population on the U.S./Mexico border.

Community Champion Award

Laura Ramirez  
*Founder & CEO, Three DEI & ERG Consulting*

In her previous role at Invitation Homes (IH), she created the Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) function from scratch. She led all D&I initiatives. Her efforts around D&I helped to elevate employee engagement, employee experience, external brand, attracting diverse talent, fostering an inclusive company culture, and retaining talent. Laura partnered with all internal stakeholders, she influenced and supported all D&I priorities. She was privileged to lead all Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) at IH. Laura implemented an anti-discrimination policy, ERG framework and launched six new ERGs. She empowered her ERGs towards being best in class. As an active influencer, she helped to elevate Invitation Homes.

Prior to joining Invitation Homes, Laura successfully built out the D&I function from Ericsson North America. She helped Ericsson gain recognitions such as Forbes List of “2019 Top Employers of Choice for Diversity”, US Veterans Magazine, and ranked in “Top 100 for Diversity” by Mavens. During her time at Ericsson, she also launched four new ERGs and co-created their first acceleration program R.I.S.E. Before Ericsson, Laura spent 17 years at AT&T. At AT&T, she held numerous roles within various organizations at AT&T.
Corporate Award

Capital One

- Lifetime giving of $573,000. Capital One’s current philanthropic focus is on advancing equal opportunity through racial equity, affordable housing, small business support, workforce development and financial wellbeing.

- Capital One professionals have volunteered for the Young WISEI Program as mentors and research competition judges.

- Capital One has been a consistent supporter of Young WISEI, and most recently donated $22,500 to the program in 2021. They have also donated to the ECS student organization, Women Mentoring Women.

- They support the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and have sponsored several capstone projects including the InnovateHER program to encourage young women to enter business and entrepreneurship.

- Girish Bachani, Senior VP and Divisional Chief Financial Officer, serves on UTD’s executive board.

- Most recently, our primary contact at Capital One has expressed an interest in connecting ERGs with our first-generation student programs. They would like to provide ongoing volunteer and fundraising support.

HUB Vendor Award

Logotricity is proud to have partnered with UTD for nearly 30 years, helping buyers select impactful promotional products, apparel, and awards to promote brand loyalty and recognition. In the past ten years alone, we have worked with over 700 different buyers across many departments. Jordan is our point of contact for UTD buyers—he has received numerous accolades and praises from them for his dedication, swift response, and continued commitment to get them their products—perfect and on time.

Jordan Payne
on behalf of Logotricity

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Employee Resource Groups

Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) can be beneficial to the culture within an organization and its bottom line. Many of these groups often start because of an employee's need to network with other employees with similar interests and needs. These groups can also become a model of service for the institution in the area of recruitment of talent, morale boosting, retention and professional development.

In an effort to attract and retain a diversity of talented people at all levels, it is important for the ODEI to support activities creating a welcoming campus climate in which to promote and celebrate diversity at UT Dallas.

If you would like to have more information on ERGs at UT Dallas, please see the back of the brochure for extended contact information, otherwise contact:

Rosie Peterson at (972) 883-4560 in the Department of Institutional Diversity Initiatives.

Current ERGs

- Black Faculty & Staff Alliance
- Latino Faculty & Staff Association
- QuTD
- Asian-American Pacific Islander ERG (In Progress)
- UTD Counseling & Advising Network
- Military & Veteran ERG
- Universal Access ERG
- Young Professionals ERG
- UT Dallas Women ERG

Diversity Advisory Council

The Diversity Advisory Council is made up of prominent leaders from local community and industry partners. They support the University’s goals and strategic initiatives—providing guidance through financial support, awareness and advocacy, and expertise in diversity and inclusion.

For more information, please visit:
https://diversity.utdallas.edu/partners/DAC/council.html

Current Members

- Helen Dorsey
  Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas
- Drew Walls
  Collins Aerospace
- Mohammed Farshori
  AT&T
- Laura Ramirez
  Three DEI & ERG Consulting
- Chris Bhatti
  UT Dallas
- Mohammed Farshori
  AT&T
- Mitch Dean
  Baylor Scott & White Health
- Alicia Makaye, Ph.D.
  GXA
- Lindsay Bedard
  Lennox International
- Vanessa Randall
  The Tradition Senior Living
- Felicia Johnson
  The Gatson Group
- Mohammed Farshori
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- Mitch Dean
  Baylor Scott & White Health
- Alicia Makaye, Ph.D.
  GXA
- Lindsay Bedard
  Lennox International
Staff Award

Aurora Becerra  
*Academic Support Coordinator*

Currently, Aurora serves as VP of Staff Relations for the Latino Faculty & Staff Association. With the help of her fellow LFSA cabinet members, she spearheaded, sought funding, and organized the virtual appearance of bestselling Latinx Author and Poet, Elizabeth Acevedo, to speak to the UTD community during Hispanic Heritage Month (HHM) 2021. She was later made the HHM 2021 Kickoff Speaker.

In addition, she serves as a Co-facilitator of the #BLM Planning Committee and has co-led, organized, and executed multiple UTD community engagement programming centered on social justice and fighting racism and anti-blackness. Furthermore, she serves as a member on the A&H teach-ins which is a social justice and social awareness group on campus. They put on programs like the #BLM Planning Committee and Ms. Becerra has partnered with them on various occasions over the past two years. As an MPA student, she serves on the Graduate Advisory Council for EPPS providing guidance to the dean on the betterment of the school from a student perspective.

Overall, her mission in life is to better the world through social justice programming centered around diversity, equity, and inclusion issues. As a leader, she is very effective in elevating the voices of marginalized individuals and minorities that do not receive the attention or support that they deserve. Through her leadership, she wants to make a lasting impact by raising the consciousness of injustice within the UTD community and beyond.

Inclusive Teaching Award

Shawn Carraher, Ph.D.  
*Clinical Professor, Organizations, Strategy and International Management*

Shawn M. Carraher, received his Ph. D. from the University of Oklahoma and was awarded the Oxford Journal Distinguished Research Professorship at the University of Cambridge. He has served as Division Chair of the Management History and Technology & Innovation Management Divisions as well as past President of the Small Business Institute & the SouthWest Academy of Management as well as Dean of the Counsel of Endowed Chairs and Past Division Chairs within the AOM TIM Division. He is Clinical Professor of International Business at the University of Texas at Dallas. In 2015 at the Said Business School Shawn was named one of the top 50 Outstanding Global Business Educators and then in 2016 was named among the dozen most impactful professors in Business in the world in Switzerland. In 2022 Research.com named him one of the top 550 professors in terms of academic impact in Business & Management in the USA. He supports the academic potential of his students without regard to their background and is one of two faculty in the School of Management identified as mixed race.
Sponsorships

Thank you to our 2022 Diversity Awards Honoree Dinner sponsors!
For more information, please visit: giving.utdallas.edu/DiversityAwards

Prizes sponsored by:

AT&T Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Vanessa and Clark Randall

Credits to the Production Team

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Thanks to all volunteers, as well as:
- Student Diversity Advisory Council
- Diversity Advisory Council
- Committee for the Support of Diversity and Equity
- Academic Bridge Program
- Academic Senate
- Staff Council
- All UTD Employee Resource Groups
Contact Information

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Building: SS.23
Director: Bruce August Jr.

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Building: HH.2406
Director: Raul Hinojosa Jr.

Galerstein Gender Center
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Webpage: gendercenter.utdallas.edu
Building: SSB.41
Director: Matthew Winser-Johns

Additional Contact Information
Department of Institutional Diversity Initiatives
didi.utdallas.edu/
Student Diversity Advisory Council
didi.utdallas.edu/about/student-diversity-advisory-council/
Diversity Advisory Council
diversity.utdallas.edu/about/standing-committees/diversity-advisory-council/
Employee Resource Groups (ERGs)
diversity.utdallas.edu/erg/about-ergs/

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Thanks for attending!