Division of Student Affairs
2015-2016 IMPACT REPORT

The University of Texas at Austin
MISSION
As educators, we support students throughout their university experience by providing the best and most innovative programs, facilities and services.

VISION
To be a leader in the creation of a campus culture that engages all students and inspires them to change the world.
DEAR FRIENDS OF THE DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS,

Our work is guided by the core values of our campus: learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity and responsibility. They shape how we work together to fulfill our mission and pursue excellence.

I’m honored to lead a dedicated team of professionals in the Division of Student Affairs. I’m proud to be a part of a team dedicated to these values and to providing a cutting-edge student experience from orientation through graduation, effectively inspiring students to change the world. The university’s core values are at the center of our work. They are what we stand for as we help students, faculty and staff create a safe and welcoming campus with healthy learning environments where students can thrive.

Our 2015-2016 Impact Report illustrates how our nine departments embody our university’s core values. Our daily work is aligned with these principles, supporting students in our 14 on-campus residence halls and their dining facilities; medical and mental health services; new student orientation; recreational sports; two university unions; 1,300 student organizations; student emergency and veteran services; leadership programs and so much more.

Thank you for your support as we continue our work with students to provide the best and most innovative programs, facilities and services.

Hook ’em,

Soncia Reagins-Lilly
Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students
A CARING COMMUNITY, ALL OF US STUDENTS, HELPING ONE ANOTHER GROW.

154
Recovery meetings hosted by the Center for Students in Recovery for the campus community

79%
Students who said group counseling at the Counseling and Mental Health Center helped them improve problem solving and decision making

12,000
Students and parents who participated in Housing and Food Service presentations about living on campus

20,000
Space reservations made by student organizations to facilitate student learning
Making sure the Texas Union is in top shape for an average of 10,000 visitors each day plus 5,000 meetings and events annually is a big job. For David Martinez, it’s work he relishes because of his genuine care for students, inspiring him to provide a caring community for Longhorns to grow and learn.

The El Salvador native’s daily efforts model the university’s core values, especially learning.

“He is the epitome of the ‘behind the scenes’ energy that makes this a university ‘of the first class.’ Through his leadership, the housekeeping staff consistently provides the partnership required to enable the student union to support student success as well as strengthen the services provided by the Division,” noted a University Unions colleague.

In recognition of his commitment, Martinez received a Texas Parents 2015-2016 Staff Merit Award. It’s a well-deserved honor according to one coworker: “He understands how important our customers are, especially the students who utilize the building for studying and events, and how his participation fits into the organizational mission.”

“I hadn’t lifted weights for years, but I went back into the gym after some friends suggested I check out a simple regimen. I started a few months ago. In such a short time I think my life has significantly changed for the better, and I know my law school grades are improved merely by getting to the gym regularly.”

UT AUSTIN STUDENT WHO USES RECREATIONAL SPORTS FACILITIES

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<td>Departments who participated in the Longhorn Neighborhood resource fair at Family Orientation</td>
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<th>98%</th>
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<td>Students who reported that having access to University Health Services helped minimize disruption to their academics</td>
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<td>Student athletes who attended a social responsibility program presented by New Student Services</td>
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EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE AND HUMAN UNDERSTANDING.

“I found an activity that I truly love (swimming) and it has changed my life completely. I have better time management skills, I have a greater mental and physical well-being, and I have more confidence to try new things and in myself. Now exercising is a greater priority to me, and rightfully so.”

UT AUSTIN STUDENT WHO USES RECREATIONAL SPORTS FACILITIES

HornsLink

27,000

Student users of HornsLink, an online student portal connecting Longhorns with student organizations

7,700+

Participants at six Family Orientation sessions and three inaugural Transfer Family Welcome Sessions

44,000

People who attended 147 events hosted by the University Unions
Under the City of Austin’s spotlight, Mayor Pro Tem Kathy Tovo recognized 17 UT Austin student organizations last April who are models for promoting physical activity, nutrition and health among their members.

These groups participated in the inaugural *University Health Services* (UHS) Healthy Student Organization Program. The partnership is the first of its kind in the nation between a university health center and a city health department. The initiative reflects the university’s core values, especially *discovery*.

“It’s really cool to be recognized at the city level. It’s an amazing accomplishment and makes us stand out as a university,” expressed former Texas Nutrition President Helen Yuan, a nutrition major who recently graduated through the program, student organizations competed for the recognition with each group working to earn up to 30 points for healthy behaviors and activities.

For example, Texas Nutrition members earned points by participating in the Longhorn Run and volunteering at UT Farm Stand.

Texas Men of Excellence joined Recreational Sports intramural teams and offered healthy snacks at meetings.

“Before college, it was up to our parents to tell us how to eat healthy. Now with more freedom and food options, your organization members become the family that hold you accountable for healthy habits,” said former Texas Men of Excellence Vice President Xavier Leal, a recent graduate who majored in biology.

“These student organizations use Division programs, facilities and services to emphasize health and fitness on campus,” noted William Mupo, UHS health promotion coordinator, who oversees the program. “We are here to support students in their quest to make UT Austin one of the healthiest campuses in the country.”

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**43**

Presentations to student groups and classes made by the *Center for Students in Recovery*

**84%**

Students who said a *Counseling and Mental Health Center* peer educator workshop about resilience expanded their perception of success

**4,846**

Items sold at the student-initiated UT Farm Stand that featured local, sustainable produce

**8,300**

Students who attended a *UT Orientation* program about diversity, inclusion and safety
“As a graduate student there is tremendous pressure to excel academically. The Center for Students in Recovery has provided me a place on campus where I can be transparent and vulnerable. Instead of having to separate my recovery from my academic fears and successes — I am able to combine the two. Taking these risks has been tremendously healing for me.”

Rachel W., UT Austin Student

“The group was helpful in getting me to share my social anxieties with others who felt similar. It was also helpful in allowing me to make progress toward relieving these anxieties by practicing real life situations in a safe environment.”

UT Austin Student

Receiving group counseling at the Counseling and Mental Health Center
STAFF STORIES

RICK EARLY

Supervising facilities operations for 14 on-campus residence halls plus maintaining 11 dining venues may sound like a daunting task. But according to some of Rick Early’s coworkers, his “can do” spirit makes it look seamless.

Early began his career in Housing and Food Service as a plumber in 1987. He has moved up the ladder, now serving as Director of Residential Facilities Operations. Many staff note that his demeanor personifies the university’s core values, particularly freedom.

“I have seen him develop entirely new ways of organizing space or rethinking processes so that we could create something that would meet the students’ needs,” explained a Housing and Food Service coworker. “Rick is not bound by ‘what has been’ — instead he sees ‘what could be.’”

Another colleague added, “Rick has never avoided a challenge or a difficult conversation with a parent or student. … I remain in awe of how he is able to take them from a place of crisis or anger to a place of resolve … he has such a profound understanding of our role in helping students.”

A winner of Texas Parents 2015-2016 Staff Merit Award, Early says success would not be possible without his team. “I have the opportunity to work with a great staff and I love watching them grow and develop. Housing and Food Service cares about its employees as well as the students. It is encouraging to work for at a place that values all employees.”
FACT

UT Austin received the inaugural Active Minds Healthy Campus Award, honoring the university as one of the healthiest campuses in the nation. University Health Services spearheaded the application.
STUDENT STORIES
ANTHONY LEE

Participating in the Texas Leadership Summit started out as a way for Anthony Lee to get comfortable speaking in front of crowds. He took his talents to the next level by helping plan the 2016 event last February so nearly 250 Longhorns could refine their leadership skills.

“In a bigger sense, it’s about building the student and the student organization,” explained Lee, a senior neuroscience major. “It’s fun to interact with students because it gives me a bigger perspective in getting to know different kinds of people.”

The Summit, hosted by the Leadership and Ethics Institute (LEI) in the Office of the Dean of Students (DoS), is the only free leadership development conference open to all UT Austin students. It’s not the only place where Lee models the university core value of leadership.

He and seven other LEI peer leadership educators also taught 1,100 students how to be ethical, courageous leaders.

His leadership qualities are also appreciated by staff.

“Anthony is deeply committed to helping his fellow students. He often looks to connect his passion for neuroscience and technology to his work as a student leader to help drive change,” noted Katie O’Malley, coordinator of leadership development in DoS.

“When I have the opportunity to go across campus and meet with different groups, it gives me a different view of UT Austin. It’s like looking through a library of different topics,” added Lee.

“The Center for Students in Recovery was incredibly important to me. Being around other students in recovery helped me improve speaking and leadership skills and gave me the confidence to take those skills back into the classroom to be a great student and learner.”

REBECCA W., RECENT UT AUSTIN GRADUATE

87%
Students in on-campus residence halls who say living there helped them learn how to better manage their finances

7
Webinars created by Texas Parents to help families assist their students in being successful

48
Hours that UT Orientation advisors spent in a peer leadership class, learning how to acclimate new students

125
University Unions’ student employees who developed leadership skills while managing building operations
Registered participants in the largest Longhorn Run to-date, hosted by Recreational Sports and students

MANY OPTIONS, DIVERSE PEOPLE AND IDEAS, ONE UNIVERSITY.

Teams that competed in the College Unions Poetry Slam International competition hosted by University Unions

Student clients who said Office of the Dean of Students’ legal services significantly increased knowledge of their issue

Students enrolled in HealthyhornsTXT, a text-based health promotion program through University Health Services

Residents who participated in on-campus residence hall events ranging from socials to diversity programs
“The Center for Students in Recovery provided me with a place where I felt safe. They made me feel welcome and that’s what makes it such an important place, offering stability and allowing us to thrive, becoming our very best selves.”

DEWAYNE T., RECENT UT AUSTIN GRADUATE

“The most valuable resource is being able to call the Texas Parents office when I need help. As an out-of-state parent, it is my one resource for helping us navigate a very large university in a place where we have absolutely no connections.”

UT AUSTIN PARENT

“The opportunities that UT has given me this past year as a freshman have been very diverse, and I have been able to decide my own path in life. Being a UT Orientation advisor helped me figure out what I want to do when it comes to the future.”

MARIA FLORES, INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FROM MEXICO

Working at the Counseling and Mental Center (CMHC) is not considered just a job for Michelle Rivera, but a calling. The UT Austin alumna now relishes being on the other side. She’s sharing with students what she discovered as a student and helping give them the tools they need to be successful.

As administrative associate/group scheduling coordinator, Rivera manages referrals from clinicians and students for 20 groups every semester — supporting diverse student needs from mindful eating to grief and loss.

In striving to model the university’s core values, Rivera explains how she tackles her work: “There are always several things to be done — from working on calendars to scheduling students. I want to contribute to a wide variety of areas and tasks. I like to feel that I did my part to help clinicians and students get something accomplished.”

Through her work, Rivera models the importance of embracing individual opportunity on the Forty Acres.

“Michelle is very attentive to the factors impacting not only her work, but also the mission of the entire agency and the experiences that students are having on campus. She is dedicated to fairness and social justice issues, as evidenced by her participation on our Diversity Awareness and Education Committee,” explained one colleague.

For her efforts, Texas Parents honored Rivera with a 2015-2016 Staff Merit Award. Nominators shared that her attitude helps students who need mental health services feel they have made a positive choice by coming to CMHC.
Students who after attending a Counseling and Mental Health Center suicide prevention program would recommend mental healthcare resources to someone contemplating suicide 90%

87% Freshmen who said after UT Orientation, they learned more about opportunities to get involved beyond the classroom

Students who say living in on-campus residence halls has enhanced their ability to resolve conflicts 83%

TO SERVE AS A CATALYST FOR POSITIVE CHANGE IN TEXAS AND BEYOND.

90% Students who after attending a Counseling and Mental Health Center suicide prevention program would recommend mental healthcare resources to someone contemplating suicide.

87% Freshmen who said after UT Orientation, they learned more about opportunities to get involved beyond the classroom.

50,000 Hours of community service reported by student organizations working with the Office of the Dean of Students.

$38,000 Student Organizations Grants awarded by Texas Parents to 41 student organization and department projects.

RESPONSIBILITY
What began as an outdoor adventure turned into a life-changing leadership experience for some UT Austin students.

As part of the Recreational Sports (RecSports) Outdoor Recreation Program, 11 Longhorns set out to backpack the Grand Canyon last spring break. However, the trip took a twist and their lives transformed when they helped rescue a lost hiker.

“We never expected anything like this to happen. I’m grateful RecSports taught me these wilderness skills and then gave me the opportunity to apply my training. We felt like heroes,” said senior architectural engineering major Sara Beirne, who planned the trip as one of three guides.

The students learned about the hiker when a man approached their campsite seeking their help. They called the National Park Service and then sprang into action, splitting up to help look for the lost hiker. The group’s efforts reflected many of the university’s core values, with a focus on responsibility.

“It was eye-opening and intense,” shared trip guide Devon Dorn, an educational administration graduate student who helped by placing the call on a satellite phone. “When there’s a missing hiker, you don’t know what to expect.”

Beirne, and Kyle Morris (a civil engineering major who graduated after the trip) located the woman near a creek. They reunited the man and woman just as search and rescue teams descended in a helicopter.

“Being a Longhorn is about integrity, confidence and doing the right thing,” added Morris. “This was a chance for us to apply the university’s core values outside of the Forty Acres.”

FACT

The Center for Students in Recovery partnered with University High School to host the 2016 National Association of Recovery Schools Conference, placing the university at the center of the recovery in education movement.

FACT

The University Unions’ Freshman Leaders in Progress (FLIP) won the award for outstanding program from the Association of College Unions International (ACUI) Region II.
THANK YOU

to our friends, alumni and staff whose generosity embodies our core values, helping empower our students with the spirit that nothing is impossible.

$3,185,220  Amount raised from 5,944 gifts to the Division of Student Affairs

Gifts made by students to the Division of Student Affairs for programs like Voices Against Violence

$12,349

Funds raised for student veteran scholarships

$22,000

45, 19 & 6

States, countries and continents from where donors gave to the Division of Student Affairs

79

Endowments providing $644,656 to support opportunities for students like the Back to School Bash
ALUMNI CREATE ENDOWMENT

Cal and Clare Buie Chaney have deep connections to UT Austin and to the Division of Student Affairs. They were active leaders on campus, participating in numerous activities, organizations and student government. They met during a joint service project of the Orange Jackets and the Tejas Club.

They married and raised two more very active Longhorns leaders, Brent and Clark. Brent served as Student Government President in 2004-2005. The couple continue to be leaders as alumni with the creation of the Cal and Clare Buie Chaney Endowed Scholarship. The Chaney’s scholarship not only focuses on academic achievements, but also on involvement outside the classroom, helping create opportunities for students to embody the university’s core values.

“Our campus activities were life-shaping training grounds that resulted in lifelong friendships. We hope our scholarship encourages recipients to engage enthusiastically in the rich environment of the UT Austin experience and provide leadership that positively impacts student life on the Forty Acres.”

CAL CHANEY, BS ’75, JD ’78, AND CLARE BUIE CHANEY, BS ’75, PHD ’81

PARENTS GIVING BACK

“We are delighted to contribute to the caring staff and services of the Division of Student Affairs. Health and wellness needs greatly impact so many students at UT Austin, and we know our contribution will be put to good use in funding additional services.”

Longhorn parents Bill and Jane McDonald from Denver, Colorado were thankful for the care their daughter received on campus at University Health Services and were motivated to give back.

YOUNG ALUMNUS MAKES FIRST GIFT

“When I look back on my college experience, the things that mean the most to me are student affairs programs.”

Former campus leader, Liam O’Rourke (BS ’11) made his first gift to UT Austin during the 40 Hours for the Forty Acres event. His gift to the Division of Student Affairs honored Interim Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Soncia Reagins-Lilly for her mentorship and impact on his life.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO MAKE A GIFT

Please contact Maureen Brown at mbrown@austin.utexas.edu or (512) 475-6134.
The Division of Student Affairs is guided by our commitment to students via the university’s core values and code of conduct.

**LEARNING**
A caring community, all of us students, helping one another grow.

**DISCOVERY**
Expanding knowledge and human understanding.

**FREEDOM**
To seek the truth and express it.

**LEADERSHIP**
The will to excel with integrity and the spirit that nothing is impossible.

**INDIVIDUAL OPPORTUNITY**
Many options, diverse people and ideas, one university.

**RESPONSIBILITY**
To serve as a catalyst for positive change in Texas and beyond.
The **Counseling and Mental Health Center** provides individual, group and crisis counseling; psychiatric consultations; and prevention services that facilitate students’ academic and life goals.

**Housing and Food Service** oversees 14 on-campus residence halls, university apartments and 11 dining and retail venues. By engaging students in an inclusive community that fosters learning outside the classroom, they encourage student success and well-being.

**New Student Services** oversees orientation for thousands of incoming students each year, ensuring they successfully transition, both academically and socially, to the university. The department also leads programs throughout the year to promote student engagement and support academic success.

**Office of the Dean of Students** engages beyond the classroom to enrich learning through leadership training and by supporting the membership of 1,300 student organizations. Office services for students also include legal, conduct, emergency, veteran, research and other support.

**Recreational Sports** promotes physical fitness, healthy habits and balanced behaviors through an array of facilities, programs, services, special events and student employment opportunities. Features include eight indoor and outdoor recreation facilities and six program areas.

**Texas Parents** serves all students’ families who need assistance navigating university resources. The Texas Parents Association, the university’s official parents’ association, provides benefits to members to support and promote student success through graduation.

**Center for Students in Recovery** provides a supportive community where students in recovery and in hope of recovery can achieve academic success while enjoying a genuine college experience free from alcohol and other drugs.

**University Health Services** is an on-campus, accredited healthcare facility that includes general medicine, women’s health, sports medicine, urgent care, allergy/immunization clinics, nutrition services, physical therapy, a 24-hour Nurse Advice Line, radiology, lab services and a health promotion office.

**University Unions** provides a wide array of student services, leadership development opportunities, study and event spaces, and food venues to enhance the student experience through our unique and multi-faceted facilities as well as a vibrant student organization.