Division of Student Affairs

ELEMENTS OF EXCELLENCE

2014-2015 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 Alumni, Faculty, Students, Staff and Friends,

Excellence is not something we “check off” a list, then sit back and relax. Excellence is the sum total of what we do each day, all year long. It’s a marathon, not a sprint. One of our strategic goals in the Division of Student Affairs is to “create a shared culture that values and includes all students.” One of the goal’s outcomes is that the Division “will develop a defined culture of excellence that supports individual students.”

As we worked to define this culture of excellence, Division staff agreed that these four elements will guide our work: Partner, Participate, Progress, Purpose. So, how has our collective habit of excellence evolved during the 2014-15 academic year?

This Impact Report will show you how our nine departments use these elements to set high standards as we strive to provide our students the best and most innovative programs, facilities and services.

Our work supports students through these elements of excellence in our 14 on-campus residence halls and their dining facilities, medical and mental health services, new student orientation, recreational sports, student activities (including 1,300+ student organizations), parents’ association, two university unions and much more.

We inspire student success both in and out of the classroom as they prepare to change the world. As we continue our quest for excellence, we thank all of you for your support as we support our students.

Hook ‘em,

Gage E. Paine

Vice President for Student Affairs
When we participate, we practice excellence as we extend support, increase involvement, share expertise, expand visibility and promote inclusion.

- **1,672** Number of crisis appointments provided by the Counseling and Mental Health Center
- **1,147** Volunteer service hours performed by scholarship recipients of the Center for Students in Recovery
- **19** Years Housing and Food Service has hosted cultural dinners, exposing thousands of students to authentic cuisine, music & dance

Students who said Recreational Sports contributed to their sense of community at UT Austin

76%
SUPPORTING STUDENTS

MARGUERITE ELLIOTT

Whether helping students create, budget and manage events — or just giving them the room to explore their own ideas — Marguerite Elliott has influenced the lives of thousands of Longhorns.

For 26 years, this quiet, unassuming leader was an advisor for Campus Events + Entertainment (E+E), the student programming area of the University Unions. During her tenure, she worked with the group on around 1,500 events, garnering participation of students, faculty and staff. Elliott retired last May.

“She was a person who would actually listen to what I was thinking, saying and feeling on a daily basis,” said Kevin Kalra, who graduated in 2008 and considers Elliott a close friend long after his time with E+E. “Having that confidant, that surrogate parent, really helped me through the university experience."

When she began working at UT Austin in 1989, Elliott wasn’t sure what to expect. What she discovered was a group of inspiring professionals with a shared purpose.

“It was wonderful to find a place where people wanted to share information and ideas in order to do something for a bigger cause . . . working with students,” recalled Elliott.

She made great progress partnering with students to create popular events like 40 Acres Fest, the Madrigal Dinner and Texas Revue.

“She’s our number one supporter,” said recent graduate Matt Hill. “She’s constantly there for us . . . . She always went out of her way to make sure not only our events were successful, but that we felt all things were possible.”

55,000
Hours of community service performed by 6,000+ students in 72 sororities & fraternities

8,680
New Longhorns who received Bevo is Not a Cow, a New Student Services guide to help them transition to college

4,543
Members of the Texas Parents Facebook group who shared information to support their students

166
University Health Services student volunteers who worked 9,456 hours to build a healthier campus
Recreational Sports significantly impacted my college life by changing the way I interact with people and gave me a chance to meet a lot of people through playing intramural sports with them. In addition, the availability of a gym on campus made it easier for me to live a healthier lifestyle.

UT AUSTIN STUDENT

When we **partner**, we reach for excellence when we improve access, elevate quality, increase efficiency, optimize resources and share information.

**FACT**
The UT System Board of Regents approved expanding recovery programs at all of its academic institutions, building on the **Center for Students in Recovery** model.

**THE NUMBERS**
Campus partners who hosted **Longhorn Welcome** events & college liaisons who trained **Orientation Advisors** on degree requirements

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**UT AUSTIN STUDENT**
SUPPORTING STUDENTS

COUNSELORS IN ACADEMIC RESIDENCE

Stress can be a key hurdle to academic success. Without adequate mental health support, students are less likely to progress, meet their academic goals and graduate. That’s where the Counselors in Academic Residence (CARE) Program can help.

The Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC) partnered with the Provost’s Office and six colleges to create the CARE Program. Counselors have offices within the colleges, bringing mental health services closer to students in a familiar environment.

“The convenience of it being within my own college is great,” shared one student, who also appreciates “the perspective and understanding that stems from that.” Of students who saw a CARE counselor, 76% said having the counselor “in house” was important to help them attend counseling sessions.

“Graduating in four years is challenging for lots of reasons, and that is why the academic and non-academic sides of the house work together as partners at UT Austin,” said David Laude, Senior Vice Provost of Enrollment and Curriculum Services. “It is the university’s responsibility to provide this access to all of the students who need it.”

Dr. Mike Andorka provides mental health counseling for students in the School of Undergraduate Studies. “I am on the same floor at Jester with most of my referral sources. We see each other daily, helping form strong partnerships that benefit students.”

And it’s working; 95% of students who considered withdrawing from UT Austin report that counseling at CMHC or through the CARE program helped them remain in school. Combine CARE with CMHC’s other services and students have access to valuable resources to help them succeed.
As we progress, we aspire to excellence when we inspire innovation, increase sustainability, champion diversity, think creatively and foster improvement.

I was amazed at the leaps The University of Texas at Austin has taken to ensure the comfort of students of all backgrounds, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, gender, etc. By addressing the issues upfront, the university has made it a challenge to all students to defy the past and make a brighter future.

As a graduate student and single mother in long-term recovery from substance use disorder, having social support has been crucial to my success. When managing classes, assignments and my other responsibilities in life, the staff and students at the Center for Students in Recovery helped encourage me that recovery was possible.
How is senior nutritional sciences major Nicolet Finger changing the world? By putting her academic research and out of classroom activities to work, her purpose is to create a safer and healthier campus.

Last March, she established the Round Up Recharge Station, the result of classroom research on Round Up, a spring weekend of off-campus, unofficial events organized by sororities and fraternities. Finger conducted an ethnographic study in her Healthyhorns Peer Educator class with the Department of Kinesiology and University Health Services (UHS). It focused on understanding risk behaviors such as the over consumption of alcohol, lack of hydration and low food intake during the event.

“I have a strong passion for nutrition and overall health and wellness, which is what pushes me in the direction that I am headed,” said Finger. Her efforts are part of a broader campaign to change the culture of drinking at the university.

She partnered with several groups to offer phone chargers, free food, clean restrooms, bottled water, food trucks, giveaways and other activities so students could still have fun while staying safe at Round Up.

Finger also conducts nutrition research and promotion in residence halls, serves as a Safety Education Peer Educator for the Office of the Dean of Students, researches birth defect prevention at the Dell Pediatric Research Institute and facilitates body acceptance workshops. Through these activities, she is progressing toward her goal to become a medical doctor.

Honoring her commitment and participation in creating a healthier campus and community, UHS presented Finger with the 2015 Outstanding Student Health Leadership Award.

The sport club program has made my college experience so much better. I’ve gotten valuable leadership skills and learned how to communicate better to a group.

UT AUSTIN STUDENT
When we have **purpose**, we seek excellence as we connect to our strategic goals, inspire responsibility, engage the campus, support core values and provide service.

**Element of Excellence**

- **1,300+** Student organizations supported by Student Activities, which provides leadership & organizational training.

**The Numbers**

- **92%** Students who said the Counseling and Mental Health Center’s stress management workshop would improve their academic performance.
- **500** Students employed by Housing and Food Service, which offers opportunities for responsibility, leadership & involvement.
- **10,000** New students who learned about the university’s core values at UT Orientation’s Longhorn State of Mind program.
- **2 & 4** Outstanding student & Division staff award winners honored for excellence by Texas Parents.
Instead of sleeping in late or binge watching Netflix, Julia Scamardo spends her weekends with Recreational Sports’ Longhorn Stream Team. It’s on the river where the environmental science sophomore conducts real world science and builds the skills she needs to change the world.

“This inaugural semester of Stream Team has taught me a multitude of skills that I wouldn’t normally have the chance to cultivate in the classroom,” said Scamardo. With 250 miles paddled this past year, she’s “started to see a real world application of all the formulas and concepts we have learned [in class].”

“The Longhorn Stream Team helps students build both outdoor and leadership skills while collecting scientific data to support conservation efforts and academic research,” explained Chris Burnett, a senior assistant director at Recreational Sports. The team established 75 new water quality monitoring stations in partnership with the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It’s all part of Recreational Sports’ Civic Engagement Program, which hosted 40 events like these trips last year.

As part of this program, the team melds community outreach with valuable service learning experiences. It was on one of these trips that Scarmardo realized the team’s purpose. “You learn all about chemistry and biology, and then you go out and realize how it all works… I found myself thinking about what my professors have taught me and realizing the gaps that I would like to fill in on what I already know.”

As UT Austin looks to “transform lives for the benefit of society,” Scamardo is doing just that as a scientist, an individual and a leader.

The fact that I can communicate with my doctors over email, get my lab results over email, schedule appointments online and get all my services taken care of in one building is incredible. I couldn’t be happier with my University Health Services experience.

UT AUSTIN STUDENT

It means a lot to me to get the chance to do well in school and the Center for Students in Recovery (CSR) supports me in my personal pursuits. In a way, what makes CSR so special is that its purpose goes beyond a recovery meeting place.

UT AUSTIN STUDENT

The time we spend at the university is an opportunity to engage in self-discovery in a way that is not available either before or after that time. For me, and for thousands of other students, that self-discovery was enhanced and accelerated by involvement in the myriad activities of the Texas Union.

H. RAD EANES, BA ’66, MA ’69, PHD ’71
UNIVERSITY UNIONS ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER
Thanks to our alumni, students, staff and friends. Their support inspires us to innovate and think creatively as we serve the university community.

THE NUMBERS

28 Alumni, family & friends who created the Center for Students in Recovery Alumni Endowment

$33,000 Crisis support provided to students thanks to gifts to the Student Emergency Fund

33 Student groups who participated in the 40 Hours for the Forty Acres fundraising campaign, receiving gifts from 130+ students
A true champion of the Division of Student Affairs, William P. (Bill) Frisbie II (B.J. ’84) generously supports its innovative programs, facilities and services. “My parents were both educators and the value of education was impressed upon me at an early age,” said Frisbie, who established a Recreational Sports scholarship.

“Creating a scholarship helps working students remain in school and alleviates the pressure of balancing an academic schedule with a weekly work load,” he added. “I continue to use RecSports on a daily basis decades following my graduation.”

Frisbie also supports the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC) with gifts to fund staff education and appreciation initiatives as well as general operational expenses.

“I support CMHC because I became concerned about the number of suicide attempts across college campuses. Simply put, I want to help keep students alive,” he stated. “I am also concerned that so many students drop out of school, or discontinue their education entirely, due to a debilitating mental health condition.”

“I want to help make sure the university provides exemplary mental health care to its students,” noted Frisbie. “It is equally important that we nurture, support and provide outstanding care for caretakers and optimize continuing education opportunities.”

The first Sharon H. Justice Leadership Scholarship was awarded to economics major, senior resident assistant and Orange Jacket Christina Kent. She created the Austin Microfinance Group in partnership with local communities to educate low-income families about personal finance.

Former Dean of Students Sharon Justice and Christina Kent, BA ’15

The creation of “Transforming Texas Greeks,” funded through a generous donation, allowed 350 sorority and fraternity leaders to attend Ladders of Risk training. Over 90 percent of attendees said that the training would increase their organization’s adherence to nationally recognized risk management policies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO MAKE A GIFT:

Please contact Maureen Brown at mbrown@austin.utexas.edu or (512) 475-6134.
# Core Values

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.

The 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.

The 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.

The 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.