

# DRIVING THE BLUE ECONOMY TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AT GALVESTON

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY GALVESTON CAMPUS

BOARD OF VISITORS REPORT MAY 2023 Hello Fellow Board Members:

The TAMUG Board of Visitors spring 2023 meeting is May 2. I look forward to seeing all of you on campus as we receive updates on the doings on campus. The training ship KENNEDY has arrived and will change the way the school conducts training. You will find a tour of the ship and a briefing on her capabilities very interesting. Committees have been active since our last meeting and as always progress and plans will need to be discussed. The State Legislature is in its bi-annual session. An update on any actions relating to TAMUG are in order. It should prove one of our more interesting visits to campus and I urge all of you who are able to attend in person.

See you on May 2.



**Chairman Bob Fry**Texas A&M University at Galveston
Board of Visitors



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST BOV MEMBERS



MARK KELLER '74 Vice President Global Business Development

JOHN McDONALD Executive VP & Chief Operating Officer American Bureau of Shipping

MARK WALLER
Chief Executive Officer
PROCEANIC Group of
Companies

### MEETING AGENDA - MAY 2, 2023

8:30 a.m.	Networking with Continental Breakfast [weather permitting], T/S Kennedy		
9:00 a.m.	T/S Kennedy Tour [weather permitting]		
9:50 a.m.	Transition to Aggie Special Event Center		
10:00 a.m.	Virtual Waiting Room Opens		
10:05 a.m.	Call to Order - General Meeting, ASEC 203 Mr. Robert Fry, Chairman		
	Welcome & Campus Briefing COL Michael Fossum		
	Legislative Briefing Mr. Michael Hardy		
10:25 a.m.	Call for Committee Meetings Mr. Jonathan Whitworth, Vice Chairman		
10:30 a.m.	Committee Meetings, ASEC Level I Business Center & Virtually		
	<ul> <li>Industrial Relations (102D)</li> <li>Brandon Neff, Chair</li> <li>Development &amp; Fundraising (102B)</li> <li>Robert Fry, Chair</li> </ul>		
	• Student Affairs (102E)  Jonathan Whitworth, Chair		
11:35 a.m.	Committee Meetings Adjourn, Transition to General Meeting		
11:45 a.m.	Call to Order - General Meeting, ASEC 203 Mr. Jonathan Whitworth, Vice Chairman  Committee Reports  • Industrial Relations  • Student Affairs  • Development & Fundraising		
12:05 p.m.	BOV Executive Closed Session [members only]		
12:15 p.m.	Lunch Buffet		
12:50 p.m.	Shell Seafarer Well Being & Safety Program & Leadership Weekend Event Briefing Mr. Ken Bailey		
1:30 p.m.	Closing & Adjournment Mr. Robert Fry, Chairman		

#### **BOARD OF VISITORS COMMITTEES**

§ Executive Committee Members

Brandon Neff §, BOV Chair Ken Bailey, Campus Chair

Roger Guenther <sup>§</sup> Leonard Hale John Hallmark <sup>§</sup> Amy Hark John Michael Jerry Mohn

L.C. 'Chaz' Neeley Robert Sakowitz Todd Sullivan <sup>§</sup> Kelly Teichman <sup>§</sup> Andy Tirpak



Jonathan Whitworth §, BOV Chair Todd Sutherland, Campus Chair

Greg Binion
Michael Cokinos §
Will Fraser
Pete Huddleston §

Charlie Jenkins
Dale Laine

Keith McFatridge §
Frank Muller §

Betty Massey
Chris Orth §

Chris Orth

Wayne Prescott

Rebecca Watts



Bob Fry §, BOV Chair Jason Tieman, Campus Chair

Tom Farmer §
William 'Will' Jenkins
Chris Johnson

Shrub Kempner Mark Lyons Phyllis Milstein §
Greg Mitchell
Vic Pierson
Terry Ray

Brian Roy

DEVELOPMENT & FUNDRAISING

#### **MEETING MINUTES - OCTOBER 25, 2022**

#### **ATTENDEES**

#### **BOV Members**

Greg Binion, Bob Fry, Roger Guenther, Leonard Hale, Amy Hark, Pete Huddleston, Chris Johnson, Mark Keller, Shrub Kempner, Phyllis Milstein, Chris Orth, Bob Sakowitz, Kelly Teichman, Andy Tirpak

#### **BOV Members - Virtual**

William Fraser, Dale Laine, John Michael, Jerry Mohn, Frank Muller, Brandon Neff, Wayne Prescott, Mark Waller

#### **BOV Members - Absent**

Mike Cokinos, Tom Farmer, John Hallmark, Charlie Jenkins, Will Jenkins, Mark Lyons, Betty Massey, John McDonald, Keith McFatridge, Chaz Neeley

#### **Galveston Campus Attendees**

Donna Lang, Susan Lee, Antonietta Quigg, Grant Shallenberger, Todd Sutherland, Jason Tieman, Debbie Thomas, Cari Bishop, Kathey Walker

#### Guests

Dr. Sam Brody, Dr. Yoon Lee, Chastity Carrigan

#### **NOTES**

Chairman, Bob Fry, called the October 25, 2022, Board of Visitors meeting to order. Each member introduced themself. Chastity Carrigan introduced Mark Keller with Edison Chouest.

Todd Sutherland welcomed everyone to campus and expressed regrets on behalf of COL Michael Fossum at being unable to be present. Despite a national shortage in HS graduate cohorts shrinking, our admissions have stabilized and increased thanks to the Engineering programs. We have a new Computer Science degree which we hope will help us continue to increase our enrollments. Howdy Week, SALT Camp, and O-Week saw good growth. Student organizations have seen increases and engagement. He discussed the tremendously successful summer sea term although there are always improvements and adjustments to be made.

There are challenges with growth creating shortages in housing. We released upper classmen from the requirement to live on campus and within a couple weeks, the students returned saying they couldn't find anywhere to live off campus. Air B&B's have bought up properties and the cost of apartments has increased making it problematic for students to afford to live there. We went to privatized apartments across the street and leased every available spot. Investigation into the purchase of this property is underway. College Station continues to reorganize following the MGT Report. with expected changes to impact our campus. Marketing & Communications, Human Resources and Technology Services now report directly to College Station. President Banks was here about a week ago. The MGT study and report completed for our campus is not yet published. Our campus, like that national industry,

is addressing Sexual Assault issues head on. This has been seen across the Maritime Academies. He discussed the anonymous report that was made directly to MARAD just as the ship was set to sail last May. It was thoroughly investigated, and the ship was released to sail on time. Family Weekend and Aggieland Saturday have just been held with great crowds. Career and Counseling Services just held a Career Fair with records numbers from industry represented.

Debbie Thomas introduced herself, having been with A&M since 2004. She shared her vision with the BOV. Her dream is for the world to know that this is the premier institution of choice – a destination of choice for work and scholarly impact. She expressed the need for all components to be on board to include Marketing and Communications, Career Center to make sure that the graduates connect their incredible skills through their resumes. How rewarding our degree programs are needs to be shared more clearly. The worker needs of the Blue Workforce economy are currently unmet. We need to produce more graduates. There is an immense opportunity for our campus to take the leadership role in addressing the world priority for healthy urban seas. Much of this hinges on strategy and philanthropic opportunities. Questions arose about the Career Fair and industries pleading for more graduates and what kind of graduates are needed. Sutherland stated that license option graduates and Engineers were in need. Engineers can expect to enter a career making \$200k annually right out of college with overtime due to the current demand.

The co-location of an academic institution with a premier research destination; co-located with startups and spin off's where there are pioneers and industry leaders in autonomous and surface and underwater vehicles...the vision and the strategy are to identify the emerging niche economy. She and Dr. Quigg are working to pull together with experts from College Station to think about what we can bring to the new ventures and the R&D for the Blue Economy. Kempner reminded her that there is a group here in Galveston working on this very idea and that it would be sensible to work with the GEDP.

The general meeting broke for committee meetings until 10:30 a.m. Jonathan Whitworth asked each committee chair to return to the general meeting with one ask and one idea of what they can work on.

The general meeting BOV resumed. Committee Chairs came forward to provide a report from their respective committee meetings.

Chris Johnson spoke for **Development and Fund Raising** – The committee will 1) work to get COL Fossum in front of the Council of Foundations (to be provided by Office of Development) 3) Chris Johnson to spearhead setting up an internal committee to work with the Development folks to ensure there is a message that clearly spells out the campus needs and establish a consistent message.

Brandon spoke for **Industry Relations** and discussed their two accomplishments 1) getting career fair back on track with addition of new representation (13 Marine Science Companies) from industry and a good showing from (326) students. 2) getting Col Fossum in front of Industrial Leaders in Houston and the region (Coronado Club in January with the support of Bob Sakowitz) and speaking in front of Chamber in March. These efforts raise awareness in the region. By leverage the success of the career fair by helping those firms who expressed interest to improve the brand on campus by setting up

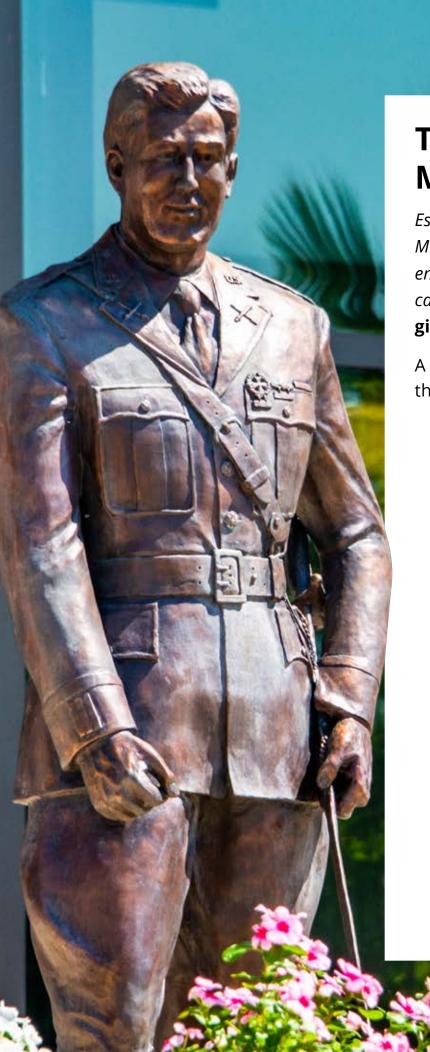
opportunities and making sure companies are aware of the opportunities to raise their brand through scholarships and other giving opportunities. The request is that if a vision is created that the committee is made aware of events that highlight giving in or around the Career Fair. It isn't well known that as little as \$25K will endow a scholarship. They feel the greater board should lean into an event of this nature to help get the information out to the companies and make it possible for them to give. Jonathan spoke about the number of buildings on main campus that have names on them and brought up the fact that we don't see that on the Galveston campus and we need to.

Student Affairs Committee report provided by Jonathan Whitworth. Todd Sutherland was asked to speak to the committee about where the temperature is rising on campus with students. Unfortunately, the answer was mental health issues being on the rise. The school is already doing a great deal. The committee was blown away by what is already is being done. They have had many lessons learned from issues across the country. In the restroom, there are stickers explaining how to reach out to CARE, an initiative (group) on campus which meets every two weeks. The group encourages students to be comfortable reaching out to get assistance. A short time ago, the campus gave away free gift cards to students who would download the app. In spite of the campus' tremendous efforts with CARE, addition of another campus counselor and a variety of other programs, the committee believes there are still holes. He stated that Safety, for example, is an issue that no one has any problem talking about and sharing information about. There are ship or marine operator companies dealing with the same mental health issues (Shell, BP, Maersk, etc.) that have programs addressing these issues. The take-away for committee is to reach out to companies offering these programs and arrange to bring them to campus to meet with Todd's team in an effort to leverage what they are doing and possibly share what we are doing and exchange best practices.

Chair, Bob Fry, introduced Dr. Samuel Brody to provide an update on the work of the Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas (IDRT) and the Eye of the Storm report. [See Attached Report] Brody introduced Dr. Yoon Lee. This work began with a scientist's idea, Bill Merrell, moving out to become a major legislative decision / project for the United States. He took an idea from the Netherlands and imported it to the United States. (TAMU) and Dr. Quigg (TAMUG). Following Hurricane Harvey, Chancellor Sharp was appointed as the sole Commissioner for the Commission to Rebuild Texas. A team of 24 people was established who completed the mitigation analysis and the data analytics and ultimately compiling forty-four recommendations to the state, forty-three of which were approved. One of the recommendations was the creation of an institute. IDRT was born to serve the state through all disasters. Dr. Brody's group will never be large enough to do all the work themselves. Their partners are grounded in research and science and bring that to bear in their decision making. The guiding principle of the Institute is for things to get from data to decision analytics and visualization of data. IDRT strives to not lose input from students as they are the lifeblood of what they do. They currently have 18 funded projects in a smattering of focal areas. There are projects they hope to take the Federal level to help people achieve their goals and reach underserved communities. Much of this came out of coffee talk level conversation.

Bob Fry thanked each of the speakers and participants before adjourning to a closed meeting of the Board of Visitors members. Everyone was invited to lunch and a Q&A over lunch with Dr. Brody.





# THE GEORGE P. MITCHELL SOCIETY

Established in honor of George Phydias Mitchell '40, the spirit of the GPMS is to enhance the growth of the Galveston campus of Texas A&M University.

give.am/GPMSMembership.com

A special thanks to our members for their support.

Michael Cokinos Gen. William Fraser III '74 John Hallmark '97 Will Jenkins Chris Johnson '06 Shrub Kempner Mark Lyons Keith McFatridge, Jr. John Michael '98 B. Greg Mitchell Jerry Mohn Frank Muller, Jr. '65 **Brandon Neff** Vic Pierson Wayne Prescott '69 Brian Roy, Jr. '82 **Todd Sullivan** Kelly Teichman '91

Jonathan Whitworth '89



March 28, 2023



On behalf of AWO Chairman Clark Todd and Vice Chairman Rick Iuliucci, I'm delighted to share the good news that last week, the AWO Executive Committee unanimously approved the nomination of of Kelly Teichman, Chairman of the Board of T&T Marine and current AWO Southern Region Chair, as AWO's next Vice Chairman of the Board. Kelly's nomination will be considered by the full membership at AWO's Annual Membership and Board of Directors Meeting on May 10 in Washington, DC, in conjunction with the Spring Convention and Barge-In.

New members of the AWO Board of Directors who were elected at the recent annual meetings of the AWO regions in February and March will be formally enrolled and take their seats at the May meeting, along with AWO's national and regional affiliate members of the Board who, as provided by the AWO Constitution, were elected by the Executive Committee. The incoming 2023-2024 Board of Directors list is available here and Clark and Rick join me in congratulating and thanking all new and continuing Board members for their willingness to lead and serve our industry. We also thank the members of the regional nominating committees for their thoughtful consideration in placing such a strong slate of nominees before the membership.

It's a privilege to serve you and to work alongside such dedicated, committed member leaders to carry out AWO's mission as the tugboat, towboat and barge industry's advocate, resource and united voice for safe, sustainable and efficient transportation on America's waterways, oceans and coasts.

Take care,

Jennifer A. Carpenter President & CEO The American Waterways Operators

#### OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

#### **SUCCESSES**

### LAUNCHING MARITIME BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION IN McALLEN, FALL 2023

A&M Galveston will welcome the first class of new students pursuing the Bachelor of Science in Maritime Business Administration at the Texas A&M Higher Education Center at McAllen this fall. The new program will allow students to gain a solid business background supplemented by coursework in transportation and logistics. The degree will provide new opportunities in the south Texas maritime industry but also fill needs in multimodal transportation and supply chain logistics. A search to fill a new position to help coordinate the program and teach the introductory maritime business sequence is underway. Expect to see a kickoff event in McAllen sometime in late summer to welcome students, families, and community stakeholders.

#### **GALVESTON MARITIME CAMP - OUTREACH**

For the first time since COVID shut down summer camps, the TAMUG Department of Education Outreach and Sea Camp will offer the Galveston Maritime Camp. The camp targets rising 8th through 10th grade students from Galveston Island schools and is offered free of charge to selected participants. The camp is sponsored by the Moody Foundation, The Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce, and local businesses. Students gather each morning at Odyssey Academy on 61rst street and are provided breakfast and lunch. The 2023 camp will meet the week of July 24. Campers travel to different locations each day to increase their exposure to career opportunities in the maritime sector with strong emphasis on the Island. Locations in the past years have included Teichman Marine, Port of Galveston, Galveston Cruise terminals, Gulf Copper Dry Dock, Rolls Royce, the Galveston Ferry, Coast Guard Base, Sea Star Base, and the TAMUG campus.

#### **NEW CENTRALIZED ADVISING MODEL FOR CAMPUS**

For the first time in campus history, every undergraduate program has a designated staff academic advisor. Following the mandates in the Texas A&M University Path Forward Plan, the campus has implemented a centralized advising model housed in the Center for Academic for Academic Learning Support. Rachel Ball, one of the most senior campus advisers, will lead the new group. Rachel was also just recognized with the Association of Former Students Distinguished Achievement Award for Student Relations. Research clearly indicates that quality advising is a cornerstone of student success and retention. This initiative has been in development for over a year and is the result of input from multiple faculty, staff, and students from across the campus. We celebrate the expertise and energy that this group brings together to build a culture of student success.

#### **Campus Advising Mission**

The mission of academic advising is to enable Texas A&M University at Galveston students to achieve their goals. We aim to empower students as self-directed owners of their education by providing students with relevant academic tools and information, promoting independent skill development, and connecting students to necessary resources and opportunities.

#### Goals Of Centralized Advising

- Increase consistency in student services and experience
- Streamline processes and workflows
- Create adequate support and redundancy across all functional areas
- Generate greater equity across advisors with respect to duties, workload, training, and opportunities

#### ACADEMIC NEWS

**BS Maritime Operations** – has been approved for planning by the Provost and submitted to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The new degree will be offered under the Department of Maritime Transportation. The department expects to submit the early proposal by the end of summer 2023 with "possible" implementation by Fall 2024.

**New Marine Engineering Technology minor** - has passed all curricular approvals and will be offered Fall 2023. The minor will be the first new program outside of the license option program to encompass a sea term on the training ship. The new minor will be open to all TAMU and TAMUG students.

**New Marine Electrotechnology Minor** - will be available to Marine Engineering License Option students as of Fall 2023. This will be the first program at a Maritime Academy in the US to provide means to obtain the Electrotechnology Officer (ETO) endorsement.

#### **RESEARCH & GRADUATE STUDIES**

#### **SUCCESSES**

#### 18TH TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM PATHWAYS SYMPOSIUM

TAMUG hosted the 18th Texas A&M University System Pathways Symposium on March 2nd and 3rd 2023. The Pathways Symposium event promotes undergraduate and graduate research and provides students from across the system with opportunities to share what they have been doing as well as to learn from their peers. As the title suggests, it is a fantastic opportunity for students to find a pathway to their future endeavors.

Students from Galveston College's HSI Institutional Transformation Project: Unified Community of Support – Building capacity for STEM Transfer Students' Success and a group from Prairie View A&M University Department of Biology STEM Program were represented at the <a href="Texas A&M University System Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Symposium">Texas A&M University System Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Symposium</a> hosted on campus concurrently with the Pathways Symposium.



Approximately 600 attendees participated including students, faculty and staff from across the A&M system. There were representatives from the system office, deans, and the stars of the event, students from all system schools as well as Galveston and College Station. More than 100 oral presentations and 320 poster presentations were given in concurrent sessions in multiple buildings across the campus.



Dr Ashanti Johnson was our guest speaker at the luncheon on Friday. Dr. Ashanti Johnson is a chemical oceanographer and the first African American to earn a doctorate in oceanography from Texas A & M University.



More than 20 student volunteers from across the campus supported RGSO in hosting this event! We truly appreciate their participation along with Drs Lene Petersen and Jamie Steichen who served as our official judges' coordinators!

This was the third time RGSO -TAMUG hosted the TAMUS Pathways Symposium. We hosted the first Pathways symposium in 2004 and the 10th in 2012.

#### **OTHER NEWS**

2023 Mooney Research Excellence Award winner - PhD candidate: Emily Waddell

Celebrated National Graduate Student Appreciation Week including a breakfast for our students and afternoon reception.

#### **ADMINISTRATION & AUXILIARY SERVICES**

#### **SUCCESSES**

#### **AGGIE RING STATUE**

Galveston's own Aggie Ring Statue installation occurred February 9, 2023.

#### **KEY ACTIVITIES**

Design for the state supported Infrastructure, Dock Improvements and Ship FF&E - Phase I project is complete. This \$35 million project will construct a new supplemental utility plant, add new HVAC equipment and increase electrical and natural gas capacity for the campus. These improvements are intended to support the new training ship and new engineering building. Construction is not due to begin until Fall 2022 due to long lead times for critical building equipment.

Development of the program of requirements for the new engineering building is complete and design is underway.



| Galveston Aggie Ring statue



I Site plan for new supplemental utility plant



I Preliminary rendering of supplemental utility plant



I Site plan for new engineering building

#### FINANCE, BUDGET & COMPLIANCE

#### **SUCCESSES**

#### **BUSINESS CENTRALIZATION UPDATE**

- The Galveston campus has recently completed the centralization of business personnel under the AVP for Finance and Compliance Officer.
- The new structure has already shown quality improvement in the following areas:
  - ▶ Business personnel are receiving more training opportunities and encouragement.
  - ▶ Business personnel can get answers quickly for a variety of daily challenges.
  - ▷ Current performance reviews consider the basic baseline functions all business personnel should be doing to assure leadership and the State of Texas we are spending state funds and student funds efficiently and effectively.
- Future Objectives:
  - ▶ Better management of spending accounts by providing centrally created reports for unit heads.
  - ▶ Better understanding of our financial system software and the need to ensure accuracy of transactions.
  - ▶ More efficient year-end processes
  - ▶ Better internal controls for compliance and accountability

#### FY 2024 - 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

- House Bill 1, General Appropriations Act for FY2024-2025
- Highlights for the A&M System:
  - ▶ Includes \$1 billion for Higher Education Institutions' affordability proposal subject to higher education's commitment to freeze resident undergraduate tuition and academic fees for the upcoming biennium (a four-year freeze).
  - ▶ Includes an estimated \$226 million for the A&M System for the formulas and research funds; higher education group insurance; Hazlewood Legacy program; and the CRU (regional student success performance funding). This funding will help institutions address inflationary pressures and make up for years of underfunding by the state, particularly for Hazlewood Legacy and the group insurance programs.
  - ▶ DEI: Included in the bill is a rider prohibiting the use of appropriated funds on diversity, equity, and inclusion practices and programs.
- Senate introduced bill is not as generous to Higher Education.
- Both bills will soon be headed to conference committee.

#### **OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES**

#### **FY 2024 BUDGET OVERVIEW**

- Undergraduate enrollment and headcount now includes over 500 Engineering Students on the Galveston Campus. This change has positively impacted our formula funding in House Bill #1 described above.
- FY2024 budget process is underway. Budget Office is currently:
  - ▶ estimating probable revenue streams and associated expenses
  - ▶ reviewing fixed cost increases such as property insurance coverage, auto insurance coverage, merit pool impact, and additional costs associated with the permanent delivery of the T/S Kennedy training vessel.
- Employee recruitment and retention continue to be a new challenge.

#### STUDENT ACTIVITIES

**The Buck Weirus Spirit Award** is given annually to 55 students across the 76,000 enrollment who have contributed the most to student life. Nine TAMUG students were selected this year, which is our highest number ever.









**Howdy Week and SALT Camp** registration opened April 1 and over 100 students have already signed up for both Howdy Week and SALT Week!

NODA Region IV Conference: Six Galveston student leaders attended the NODA Region IV conference in San Antonio on March 17-19, 2023. The programming at this conference was geared towards new student orientation, retention, and transition for incoming first-year students. Student leaders from the Orientation Leader Program and SALT Camp attended educational sessions and learned about programming ideas that can further improve first-year student initiatives at Texas A&M University at Galveston.

**Fun Fact:** A former Orientation Leader in Galveston, Kaitlyn Acosta, is now serving in leadership within the Orientation Leader Program in College Station!

Women's History Month: The Women's History Month Planning Committee consisted of seven staff members, and six students. The committee worked hard to create educational, fun, and inclusive events for the campus to participate in and celebrate Women's History Month. The committee planned the following events, Women's History of TAMUG library display, weekly educational movie nights, Uplift Her Community Mix and Mingle Event, Women's Wellbeing Night, and the Career Fair Mix and Mingle.

**Relay for Life (March 30, 2023):** The Lambda Kappa Alpha Honors Program brought back Relay for Life, the largest cancer fundraiser in the nation, to TAMUG this year. Program activities included: mechanical bull riding, arts and

crafts tables, a silent auction, a dunk tank, student organizations participated in the event by providing booths for food sales, all participants engaged in walking laps in the gym in solidarity with those who have battled cancer, and at 8pm everyone attended the Luminaria Ceremony - featuring guest speakers who have been affected by cancer. The event raised over \$7,500 in donations for the American Cancer Society.





# BIG EVEN

MARCH 25, 2023

SUMMARY

#### 2023 NUMBERS BREAKDOWN





VOLUNTEERS 348



### A record breaking year!

The Big Event is the largest single day, student led service event in the nation. We go out into our local community and give back to local businesses to show our appreciation for all they do.

This year, we had a record number of sign ups since our 2020 Big Event. With over 400 sign ups, we have shown our ability to adapt and grow with every obstacle that comes our way. However, it truly cannot be done without the help from our sponsors, volunteers, and most importantly, the Galveston community. The Galveston County Aggie Moms have supported this organization from the beginning. We are grateful for their ongoing support and service.

From the bottom of our hearts, we can't thank everyone enough. We are incredibly grateful for all the support and can't wait to see this organization and our Galveston community continue to grow.

### OUR AWESOME VOLUNTEERS









GO FARMERS MARKET SITE



TMA COMPANIES HELPING PLANT TREES. WITH GALVESTON TREE CONSERVANCY



LEE OCHS, SITE LEADER AT SMART FAMILY LITERACY

Sincerely.

The Big Cuent Cxec Team

2023

### **BIG EVENT** SUMMARY

60% **INCREASE FROM EXPECTED 2023** NUMBERS

84% TURNOUT

- 1,300 COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS COMPLETED

60% INCREASE IN **EXPECTED** RAISED FUNDING

#### **2023 SITES**

- CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD GALVESTON INTERNATIONAL OLEANDER SOCIETY
- FRIENDS OF ROSENBERG LIBRARY
- GALVESTON'S OWN FARMERS MARKET
- AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION
- . GALVESTON'S CHILDREN MUSEUM
- TREE CONSERVANCY
- . ISLAND CHURCH
- . MOODY METHODIST CHURCH
- . SMART FAMILY LITERACY
- GALVESTON ISLAND STATE PARK
- ODYSSEY ACADEMT
- ST. VINCENT'S HOUSE
- GALVESTON HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
- GALVESTON CENTRAL CHURCH
- SEA WOLF PARK
- . POPPETTO REACH



Maritime Ball: The Student Events Council worked hard all year to provide an enjoyable and elegant celebration for the student body this spring. Maritime Ball was held at Ashton Villa and catered by Benno's Catering, 150 students attended with the purpose of celebrating a successful school year, and sending off members of the Maritime Academy onto their summer assignments. The Student Events Council raised \$4,500 to put on this event, and brought back the Mr. TAMUG Pageant in February as a fundraiser for Maritime Ball as well.

#### CAMPUS LIVING & LEARNING

**Purchase Update:** Terms were agreed to purchase the two private residence halls across the street, adding 230 more beds to the residential inventory. TAMUG continues to move through the purchasing process.

**Experiential Programs:** A number of programs were implemented to enhance the residential experience including programs on healthy eating, rocks and growing plants.

**National Snack Day:** The beginning of March is the mid way point through the semester and can be a lot for both students and administrators. The purpose of this event is to give back to the residence hall community and practice selfless service, through handing out snacks for a refuel on our revised National Snack Day! [Learning Goal 4.2: Community Services; Practice Selfless Service]

#### CAMPUS RECREATION

**Pool Funding:** Funding was secured to renovate the pool. Construction will begin at the end of the Spring semester and be completed prior to Fall starting.

#### **Intramurals:**

- Basketball Intramurals were completely full and had to add additional time slots
- Partnering with SILE to host a badminton tournament for AAPI Heritage Month
- Intramural Athlete of the Year is a close race for the first time in a few years.

#### **Club Sports:**

- All active clubs have officially competed in at least 1 competition for the year.
- Barbell Crew competed for the first time in over a year.

#### Fitness & Wellness:

- Green Dot promotional pancake event was largely successful. Green Dot committee
  passed out 4 box mixes worth of pancakes and raised awareness, interest, and
  knowledge in Green Dot.
- 19 additional cadets participated in a Green Dot Overview (additional overview scheduled for 4.11)
- First ever Faculty/Staff Green Dot Overview was provided at Staff Council
- Relationships have been established through the Higher Education Suicide Prevention Cohort that will widen available resources to students and provide more support to students in times of crisis.
- Group Fitness classes have grown in size, and we have recruited new instructors to begin in the Fall 2023.

#### STUDENT INTERCULTURAL LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT

**Women of TAMUG History:** For Women's History Month we celebrated the first 8 women to be admitted into TAMUG in 1973! We had an exhibit set up in the Library and showcased a summary of their major, where they are from, and where they are now. Students, Staff, and Faculty could visit this exhibit and walk around to read all about them.

**Mi Casa is Su Casa:** We implemented a program called Mi Casa is su Casa which used grant funding for faculty and staff to take small groups of students into their homes or out for dinner for small group discussions.

**AAPI Committee Head:** In March we started to plan for AAPI Heritage Month in April. Gathering information, collaborating with APISA and other departments in Student Affairs. We have successfully created a calendar filled with activities and events.

**Holi Run:** Our office collaborated with campus recreation and Fresh TX to highlight the celebration of color and lights we had a total of 25 students participate and two staff members run.

#### **COUNSELING SERVICES**

- The counselors visited multiple other counseling centers to identify best practice in addressing the mental health crisis facing todays college students.
- The counseling staff met with maritime professionals to learn more about the resources they are using to battle mental health in the maritime industry.

#### CAREER & ABILITY SERVICES

#### **Career Fair:**

- Leading up to the Career Fair, Career Services hosted multiple prep workshops for the following student groups: Sea Aggie Pride, SALL, GFLO, Marine Technology Society, Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers, Women in Engineering Outreach
- We also partnered with SAMA and the Writing Lab/Studio to host a comprehensive Career Fair Prep night open to all students called Project Standout. Approximately 50-60 students were in attendance.
- This Career Fair marks the largest Career Fair ever held on campus! We had about 100 employers and 353 students in attendance.
- The Employer Appreciation Reception was also the largest Employer Appreciation Reception held.
- Standout. Approximately 50-60 students were in attendance.
- This Career Fair marks the largest Career Fair ever held on campus! We had about 100 employers and 353 students in attendance.
- The Employer Appreciation Reception was also the largest Employer Appreciation Reception held.







#### CORPS OF CADETS

**Company Leadership Positions:** 47 cadets applied for the nine company commander positions in the Corps making this leadership selection process one of the most competitive in TAMUG's history.



Women in Maritime Leadership Conference: On March 1-2 four cadets attended the Women in Maritime Leadership Conference at California State University Academy. This conference delivered an equity-focused leadership development curriculum specific to the goals of cadets and professional women in the maritime industry.

**Texas A&M International Leadership Conference:** On March 20-22 numerous Cadets participated in the Texas A&M International Leadership Conference held at the College Station campus. This conference invited numerous speakers to discuss the topic of Ethical Leadership. Many of the Cadets came away from this conference with a greater understanding of how to Operationalize values of TAMU and not just treat values in an aspirationalized manner.

**Hearn Honor Guard: On** March 22 the Hearn Honor Guard opened the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) conference held in Galveston's Conference center. This group directly sought out the honor guard for this duty. FBLA's conferences help students prepare for careers in business by focusing on academic competitions and leadership development.

**Klenczar Cup:** On March 22 the Corps held its annual Klenczar Cup competition between Companies. The friendly competition consisted of the egg toss, tug-of-war, Kayak races, survival suit relay race, cardboard boat race, run relay race and the Crowd's favorite – Belly Flop. This year's winner was Company C-1 (*below*). The competition drew a large crowd of spectators.



#### **TEXAS A&M MARITIME ACADEMY**



### ARRIVAL OF THE TS KENNEDY

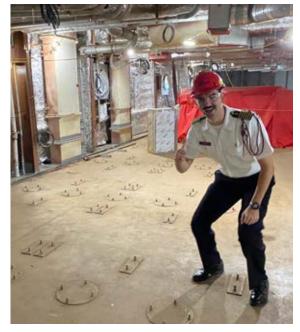
After 18 years of waiting for a mission capable training ship for the Maritime Academy it has finally come in! On April 16th two dozen cadets and professional crew acted as line handlers for the big ship. On April 20th the operational authority of TS Kennedy was officially handed over Texas A&M Maritime Academy until our new ship the TS Lonestar State arrives in the Spring of 2025.



# START OF FABRICATION OF THE TS LONE STAR STATE

On January 18th with Maritime Administration, Philly Shipyard, Inc. and Tote Services, we celebrated the cutting of steel for the Lone Star State, the fourth in a series of five National Security Multi-Mission Vessels. Fabrication of the state-of-the-art training ship is now officially underway.





#### **TEXAS A&M FOUNDATION**

#### **SUCCESSES**

Galveston Campus Yell Leader Support Fund: In December 2022, Patrick and Sue Mahoney, longtime TAMU donors, established the Galveston Campus Yell Leader Support Fund. The Mahoney's previous engagement with the Aggie Ring Statue project led to this gift.



#### **Endowed Scholarship Reception:**

The Endowed Scholarship Reception in November 2022 celebrated new endowed scholarships and current donors and paved the way for conversations with current and potential donors who expressed interested in establishing additional or new scholarships. Since the event, four new endowed scholarships have been established, with another three scholarships in the draft phase. The event continues to be a signature event for the Office of Development, serving as an impactful experience for both donors and student recipients.

#### KEY ACTIVITIES

Campus Showcase: A Campus Showcase event in March 2023, co-coordinated by the Galveston campus and the Texas A&M Foundation, was attended by current TAMU donors and former TAMUG students. Conversations with several attendees concerning the establishment of TAMUG student scholarships and support for the Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research are underway.

**Corporate Partnership Program:** Anna Hyatt and Jason Tieman are in the development phase of a Corporate Partnership Program having done research on best practices in the philanthropy sector, worked to engage the corporate team at the Texas A&M Foundation for feedback, and strengthened their partnership with the main campus career center to garner support for the project.

#### **UPDATES**

Our Texas A&M Foundation (TAMF) Galveston unit overall business plan and our Galveston unit corporate engagement business plan for the TAMF fiscal year 2024 (FY24) is in the works and will be finalized by May 2023. These plans incorporate the interests and goals of the campus provided by the COO and CAO. Major priorities identified for FY24 include summer sea term and transfer student scholarships, the sea turtle hospital, the Gulf Research Institute for Highly Migratory Species, and a holistic engagement of corporations promoting TAMUG as a leader in the Blue Economy. In addition, work is underway to close on a significant gift from Edison Chouest in FY24 in support of ship bridge simulator upgrades (key meetings and campus visits are currently underway).

# STATS

(Oct. '22 - Mar '23)

#### Facebook

- 19,200+ **Followers** (16% increase)
- 29K Engagements
- 146 Posts
- 18.5K Reactions
- 1.5K Comments
- 1.4K Shares

#### Instagram

- 8.700+ **Followers** (45% increase)
- 406 Posts
- 36K Engagements
- 71K Views

#### Twitter

- 4,000+ Followers (10% increase)
- 139 Tweets
- 7.4K **Engagements**
- 266 Link Clicks
- 1.9K Post Likes
- 159 Shares
- 39 Comments
- 3K Views

#### LinkedIn

- 12,800+ Followers (11% increase)
- 76 Posts
- 5.3K Reactions
- 244 Shares
- 153 Comments
- 27.5K Clicks

### aggiesbythesea

**Texas A&M University at Galveston** The marine & maritime campus of Texas A&M 👍 📽











































### **Upcoming Events**

calendar.tamug.edu for full list of events

Home Events Videos Photos About More

May 2 I 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

#### **University Awards**

Rm. 203, Aggie Special Events Center Texas A&M University at Galveston

May 12 I 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

# Spring 2023 Commencement Ceremony 1 of 2

Ballroom, Aggie Special Events Center Texas A&M University at Galveston

May 12 I 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

# Spring 2023 Commencement Ceremony 2 of 2

Ballroom, Aggie Special Events Center Texas A&M University at Galveston

June 1 I 11:00 a.m.

# Galveston Chamber of Commerce Legislative Luncheon

Level II, Aggie Special Events Center Texas A&M University at Galveston

June 3 I 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

# SST23 BBQ & BlueBell Galveston Dock Party

Waterfront, Texas A&M University at Galveston

June 7-8 | All Day

# New Student Conference: College of Engineering

Texas A&M University at Galveston

June 12-13 | All Day

# New Student Conference: College of Engineering

Texas A&M University at Galveston

June 14-15 | All Day

# New Student Conference: Galveston Majors

Texas A&M University at Galveston

June 20-21 I All Day

# New Student Conference: College of Engineering

Texas A&M University at Galveston

June 26-27 | All Day

# New Student Conference: Galveston Majors

Texas A&M University at Galveston

July 1 I 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

#### SST23 BBQ & BlueBell Savannah Dock Party

T/S Kennedy, Savannah, Georgia

July 15 I 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

# SST23 BBQ & BlueBell San Juan Dock Party

T/S Kennedy, San Juan, Puerto Rico

July 28 I 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

# SST23 BBQ & BlueBell New Orleans Dock Party

T/S Kennedy, New Orleans, Louisiana

August 4 | All Day

### New Student Conference: Transfer Students

Texas A&M University at Galveston

August 7-8 | All Day

# New Student Conference: Galveston Majors

Texas A&M University at Galveston

August 17-18 | All Day

**New Student Conference: All Majors** 

Texas A&M University at Galveston

October 7 | TBD

**Tailgate: TAMU vs. Alabama** Texas A&M University, College Station



# **Pelican Island Bridge Replacement**

Issue 1 | Spring 2023

#### Table of Contents

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About the Proposed Project	1
Purpose and Need	1
Coordination with Stakeholders	.2
Ship Simulation	.2
Next Steps	2
Project Timeline	2

#### **Quick Facts**

Project Location: Bridge over Pelican Island Channel

Project Limits: SH 275 to Seawolf Parkway

Project Reference #: 0912-73-213

For more information, go to: www.txdot.gov/projects/projectsstudies or scan the QR code here. Additional information will be added to the TxDOT webpage as it becomes available.

Follow us on Twitter at @TxDOTHouston



The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and Memorandum of Understanding dated December 9, 2019, and executed by FHWA TxDOT.

### **Project Background**

The Texas Department of
Transportation (TxDOT) Houston
District is proposing a project to
construct a new location, fixed
-bridge connecting Galveston Island
to Pelican Island in Galveston County,
Texas. The existing lift bridge is
owned and operated by the Galveston
County Navigation District No. 1
(GCND), a taxing entity with a very
limited tax base that cannot afford
to replace this structure without
significant federal aid. The Texas



\*Conceptual alignment. Subject to change

Transportation Commission identified funds available through the Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program Fund to support the development and construction of a replacement bridge.

### About the Proposed Project

The proposed project would replace the existing Pelican Island Causeway (Seawolf Parkway) lift bridge with a fixed bridge structure and reroute a portion of Seawolf Parkway around the north side of the Texas A&M Galveston Campus. The proposed bridge would also add bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. The proposed bridge would be on new location and would meet Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) clearance requirements.

### Purpose and Need

The deterioration of the Seawolf Parkway bridge has progressed to the extent that any additional deterioration could result in sudden bridge closure. Since this bridge provides sole access to Pelican Island, a bridge closure would effectively cut off access for evacuation or emergency services. Further deterioration will likely occur based on current conditions and inspection records, so a new bridge is needed to maintain a route to and from Pelican Island.

The purpose of the proposed project is to provide a safe and reliable crossing of the Pelican Island Channel for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic and to ensure uninterrupted access for evacuation and emergency and essential services to Pelican Island.

The proposed project is needed because the existing bridge structure is functionally obsolete and structurally deficient and does not provide uninterrupted vehicular and pedestrian traffic or emergency and evacuation access to and from Pelican Island. The current load-restricted lift bridge limits access to Texas A&M Galveston Campus (TAMUG) and several industries on the island.

Replacing the current bridge with one that meets current design standards would improve safety, improve access for emergency vehicles and industrial traffic; provide safe access for pedestrian and bicycle traffic; and reduce maintenance costs.



# **Pelican Island Bridge Replacement**

#### Coordination with Stakeholders

On August 23, 2022, TxDOT met with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), and members of the shipping industry to discuss the proposed project. During the meeting, TxDOT and the stakeholders reviewed the alternative crossings of the GIWW being considered, main span widths and height of the proposed bridge, the existing fleet characteristics that utilize the existing channel, and the expected and potential fleet that would be able to utilize the channel after the proposed bridge is constructed. As a result of the meeting and at the request of the stakeholders, TxDOT initiated a ship simulation feasibility study to assist in the design of the proposed bridge.

### **Ship Simulation**

As coordination continues among stakeholders for the proposed project, TxDOT is working with the Seamen's Church Institute (SCI) to perform a feasibility study that would provide further insight on the safety and design of the proposed bridge. During the simulation, pilots can test navigability of the proposed bridge through multiple situations considering variables such as wind, flow currents, day or night situations, fully loaded or empty vessels, and upriver or down river scenarios. After each run, captains and pilots are debriefed, commenting on the ease or difficulty of the scenario and the safety margins that could be expected if a facility or bridge was built in that position.



View from the Ship Simulation Control Room

If you have any questions or comments on the proposed project, please contact:

Andrew Leske 713-802-5885 andrew.leske@txdot.gov

### **Next Steps**

After the ship simulation is complete, TxDOT will move forward with the project design. TxDOT will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) to assess environmental impacts associated with the proposed project, followed by coordination/permitting with regulatory resource agencies. A virtual and in-person public meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 2023 to present the project design and obtain input from the community and stakeholders.

### **Project Timeline**



<sup>\*</sup> The above dates are subject to change and funding availability.





#### KEY INSTITUTIONAL UPDATES



### Texas OneGulf Center of Excellence funds IDRT research project on Houston Metro Area property buy-outs.

The goal of this project is to analyze the effects of property buyouts in the Houston Metro Area. The team will work with state agencies and local communities to develop a decision support tool that maps and assesses past buyouts in terms of risk, social vulnerability, and fiscal impact. The tool will help guide future buyout programs that fit within the community's budgetary constraints and capacity.

# NSF's Strengthening American Infrastructure Program funds IDRT research project on coastal flood barriers.



Led by IDRT faculty member Dr. Meri Davlasheridze, this project aims to understand how public and private stakeholders make decisions about coastal flood barriers and residential housing when faced with changing flood risk, with a focus on Galveston Bay communities. The project uses a framework called "conD-Evolving" to evaluate the welfare consequences of these decisions. The project team will work with a

local stakeholder advisory board to develop and refine risk profiles and welfare metrics that meet the needs of end-users and key stakeholders involved in making decisions about the design of a coastal barrier system. This research will help policy makers evaluate different interventions, such as investing in public housing or improving participatory planning, to address inequities related to flooding risk.

### FEMA funds research efforts led by IDRT.



Dr. Wes Highfield will be leading a new project in collaboration with FEMA, the Coastal Resilience Center at University of North Carolina, and faculty at North Carolina State to evaluate and promote nature-based solutions (NBS) using FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) funding mechanisms. The project will serve as a foundation for future FEMA HMA outreach efforts to develop additional tools and communication materials to encourage NBS as an effective means of mitigating various hazards.



#### KEY INSTITUTIONAL UPDATES



### Digital Disaster Mitigation Twin

IDRT is working to establish a long-term collaborative effort with Rice University's Data to Knowledge, Al Houston, and SSPEED center, along with TAMU's Urban Resilience.Al Lab. This effort will focus on the creation of a Digital Disaster Mitigation Twin that will consist of a virtual, data-driven scenario planning landscape to help decision makers proactively understand and act to avoid adverse impacts from potential flooding events.

# International Research Experiences for Students (IRES) program receives supplemental funding.

NSF has awarded IDRT with supplemental funding for the IRES program. The purpose is to provide students that are unable to travel abroad (e.g. due to family obligations) with international research experiences. Dutch students and researchers will come to A&M Galveston to work with these students. Students will conduct case studies around the Houston/Galveston areas on flood risk reduction.





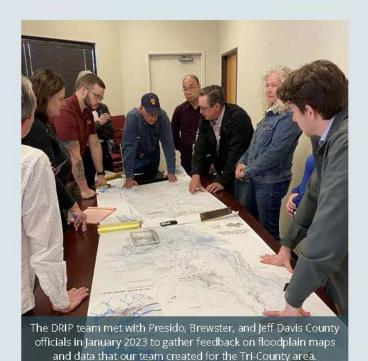
# IDRT faculty collaboration with University of Delaware results in exciting research opporunity and funding.



The University of Delaware's Disaster Research Center, in collaboration with researchers from several other universities, has been granted \$16.5 million by the National Science Foundation to conduct a 5-year study on the relationship between resilience, equity, and economic prosperity. Dr. Kayode Atoba, who is part of

IDRT, will focus on the households' role in managing coastal risks in the context of unequal economic and social conditions. He will examine how household decision-making affects the interactions and tradeoffs among the coastal community goals of equity, economic prosperity, and resilience to hazards.

#### KEY INSTITUTIONAL UPDATES



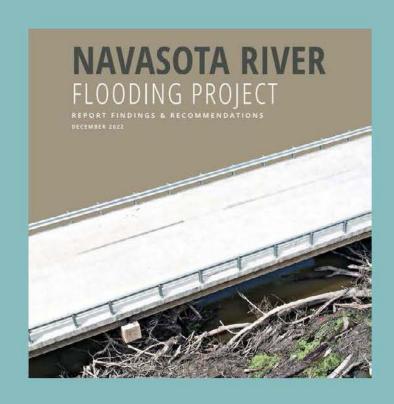


### Digital Risk Infrastructure Program

The Digital Risk Infrastructure Program for underserved Texas communities (DRIP) has entered its second year of state funding. The multidisciplinary team including IDRT researchers, partners from the University of Texas Moody School of Communication, and Texas A&M AgriLife have been busy traveling the state meeting with county and city officials about flood data challenges and needs. In January and February of 2023, the team provided communities in 9 different counties with GIS-based flood risk maps and are now developing additional data analytics and technical support projects to provide communities. IDRT has received an overwhelming positive response from the first year of this program and is actively seeking additional funding sources to continue it beyond the end of 2023.

### Navasota River Flooding Project

On December 18, IDRT released the results of a yearlong project to study flooding issues along the Navasota River. This multidisciplinary collaborative research project rapidly assessed the causes of reported flooding below the Lake Limestone Dam. The report demonstrates how multiple disciplines, research approaches, and university-based entities can work together to holistically understand flood hazards impacting local residents. IDRT's findings and recommendations were coordinated with and informed the Lower Brazos Regional Flood Planning Group, part of Texas' new statewide flood planning effort. The full report and supplementary materials are available HERE.





# DIGITAL RISK INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

#### ABOUT DRIP

In 2022, Texas A&M's Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas (IDRT) launched a new initiative called the Digital Risk Infrastructure Program (DRIP) for under-resourced Texas communities.

DRIP partners with Texas communities that experience chronic and acute flood events, and meet the generalized definition of "under-resourced."

DRIP supports partner communities in using data and visualizations to aid local decision making and improve risk communication.

#### SPONSOR:

Texas Legislature

#### **KEY PARTNERS:**

The University of Texas at Austin, Technology and Information Policy Institute:

Texas A&M AgriLife,
Disaster Assessment and Recovery Program;

Teleki Consulting





### OUR MISSION

DRIP's mission is to empower under-resourced Texas communities with digital tools and training to make informed disaster mitigation decisions, secure funding, and reduce future losses.

#### PRIMARY GOALS & OBJECTIONS



#### ENGAGE

Listen and learn from communities through collaborative engagement.



#### IDENTIFY

Identify specific local data/decision support gaps and needs.



#### BUILD

Build technical data/ analytics product(s) that support local capacity.



#### SUPPORT

Provide ongoing training/ technical assistance and collaboration.



#### LEVERAGE

Integrate and build on existing IDRT projects and those of key partners to build the program into the future.

### INITIAL DRIP PARTNER COMMUNITIES & COUNTIES

Comanche Willacy Hudspeth Fayette Wise Jeff Davis Premont Brewster Presidio Orange Grove



#### OUR WORK







#### PHASE 1

From June to September 2022, we held 9 meetings with county and city officials and planners about their flood data challenges and needs. Together, we helped develop an overall strategy for the program. The initial needs were clear - assembling and visualizing the best available flood risk data for each community was our starting point.

#### PHASE 2

From September through December 2022, we analyzed our initial field notes, collected the best available data in each community and created GIS-based flood risk maps for each community. In January and February 2023, we returned to each community to discuss these draft maps, further identify data gaps and collect suggestions to make the maps more useful to help communicate risk. During these meetings, we also began scoping potential indepth data analytics and technical assistance projects to complete during 2023.

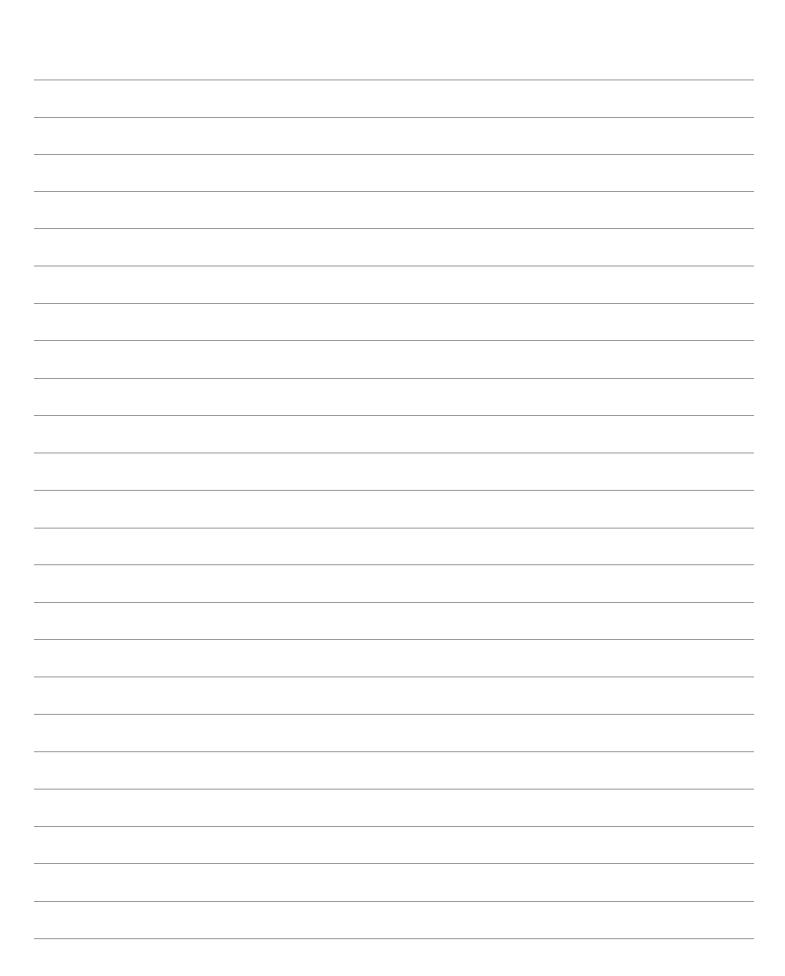
#### PHASE 3

Current funding for DRIP's pilot phase is set to expire at the end of 2023. We have received an overwhelming positive response from our initial communities. The need is clearly great, and we are actively seeking to expand and formalize the program beyond its current pilot phase.



### **NOTES**

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Our campus is currently being visited by various tropical feathered friends from across the Gulf of Mexico on their journey north!

According to Dr. Carl Broom, a native Galvestonian and avid birdwatcher, he believes the increase in tropical birds at Texas A&M-Galveston can be attributed to the campus planting additional mulberry trees; a nice treat for migrating birds.

Most come through within a three week period and are most prevalent after a storm since they need to stop and rest before continuing on their journey.

If you have a chance, explore the areas near the waste treatment facility and trails near the shore. You may spot one of our feathered friends.

A special thanks to **Manny and Christina '98 Alaniz** for sharing their beautiful photos.













# TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AT GALVESTON Office of the Vice President & Chief Operating Officer

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