



Terry B. Rogers College of Education & Social Sciences

Committed to Advancing Society by Developing Professionals to

Lead | Serve | Educate

Monthly Faculty & Staff Newsletter



Dr. Gary Bigham
Professor | Dean

Greetings from the Dean

I am excited to address you in my new appointment as Dean of the Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences. I am honored to be afforded the opportunity to work at this level with such a dedicated and accomplished group of professionals! I am committed to fostering an environment where trust is inspired, communication and collaboration is encouraged, academic freedom is valued, and innovation prevails. Through technology rich, innovative, and academically rigorous undergraduate, graduate, post-graduate, and certification programs, we as a diverse and inclusive student learning-centered community of educators and scholars will maintain our steadfast commitment to advancing society by developing professionals who will lead, serve, and educate.

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As we begin a new academic year, I challenge each of us to develop the habit of asking “Why?” instead of “What?” or “How?”

The Power of Starting with “Why”

As dedicated educators, we can easily become caught up in the “what” and “how” of the work we do. We focus on syllabi, designing classes, grading criteria, maintaining our research agendas, and the countless administrative tasks that demand our attention. While all of these things have their place, it is the “why” that serves as the catalyst for transforming the lives of the students and society we serve.

Why are we professors and instructors? Why do we enter our physical and online classrooms each day, ready to impart knowledge and wisdom? Why do we invest so much time engaged in research and writing? The answer lies in our unwavering belief that education and research are the keys that unlock the door to a brighter future. We strive to ignite curiosity, instill critical thinking, create new knowledge, and nurture the thirst for knowledge within each student we serve.

By shifting our focus to the “why,” we tap into a wellspring of inspiration that breathes life into the curriculum we teach. It revitalizes our approach, aligning our efforts with our greater purpose, and reminds us of the profound impact we have on the minds of our students. When we start with “why,” we transcend mere transmission of information and become true catalysts for personal and intellectual growth.

Imagine an educational environment where students are not merely passive recipients of facts, but active participants in a journey of discovery. Imagine their eyes lighting up with understanding, their minds expanding with ideas, and their hearts ignited with a newfound passion for learning. This transformative educational experience results from our ability to inspire and connect with the “why.”

Let’s challenge ourselves to infuse the “why” into every facet of our teaching, research, and service. Let’s inspire our students by sharing our personal stories of triumph and perseverance, showing them the immense value of education in shaping their own narratives. Let’s foster an environment of trust, collaboration, dialogue, and creative thinking that empowers students (and us) to ask meaningful questions and seek innovative solutions.

We may encounter obstacles as we embark on this renewed approach, but never forget the remarkable potential that lies within each student and within ourselves. By embracing the “why” as the driving force behind our efforts, we become catalysts for transformation, guiding our students toward a brighter and more powerful future.

Therefore colleagues, armed with the power of “why,” join me in raising our student learning-centered community of learners and scholars to the next level. Let’s model leadership, service, and education. Let’s inspire, ignite, and empower. By starting with “why,” we are not just shaping minds; we are shaping a generation that will change the world.

New Faces and New Places

New Faces

(...so new that we do not yet have pictures)

Dr. Piper Biery, Assistant Professor of Political Science

Dr. Kal Demerew, Assistant Professor of Political Science

Dr. Kassi Gregory, Assistant Professor of Psychology

Dr. Steven Hubbard, Instructor of Psychology

Heather Hugg, Academic Advisor, Teacher Certification

Dr. Stephen Jennings, Assistant Professor of Counseling

Dr. Alicia Macchione, Assistant Professor of Psychology

Landon Proffitt, Administrative Associate III, Departments of Ed/PSCJ/PSSW

Dr. Misty Song, Adjunct Instructor, Education

New Places



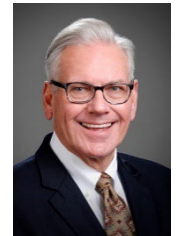
Kristy Bartlett
Instructor of Social Work
Director of Master of Science in Social Work

Dr. Gary Bigham
Professor of Educational Leadership
Dean of the Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences



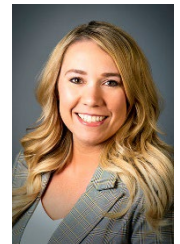
Ruth DeAnda
Instructor of Social Work
Director of the Bachelor of Social Work Program

Dr. Eddie Henderson
Myrna Raffkind Professor of Global Education
Ed.D. Core Faculty
EC-12 Ed.D. Director



Shelly Johnson, Executive Administrative Associate for the Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences

Dr. Alyson Morgan, Assistant Clinical Professor of Social Work



Dr. Meg Dejong-Shier
Assistant Clinical Professor of Social Work

Recognitions and Celebrations

Tenure and Promotion

Promotion and tenure are privileges reserved for faculty members who have demonstrated professional accomplishments in instructional responsibilities, intellectual contributions, and professional service. Faculty receiving tenure and promotion to associate professor include:



Dr. Justin Moeller, Associate Professor of Political Science



Dr. Michelle Simmons, Associate Professor of Education

Faculty promoted to professor include:



Dr. Maxine DeButte, Professor of Psychology

Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences Award Winners

Each year, faculty are recognized in the six academic colleges for accomplishments in the core areas of teaching, research, and service. Award winners for 2022-2023 were:

Instructional Responsibilities

Dr. Irma Harper
Associate Professor of Educational Leadership



Intellectual Contributions

Dr. Darrell Lovell
Assistant Professor of Political Science



Professional Service

Dr. Dave Rausch
Teel Bivins Professor of Political Science



University Award Winner for Professional Service



University-wide recognition for accomplishments in the core areas of teaching, research, and service demonstrates one of the highest levels of respect a faculty member can achieve based on the nomination and selection process including input from peers, administrators, students, and other campus stakeholders. Congratulations to Dr. Dave Rausch, Teel Bivins Professor of Political Science, who was awarded the University Professional Service Excellence Award. “Dr. Rausch is dedicated to student success,” said Dr. Eddie Henderson, then dean of the TRBCOESS. “Throughout his tenure, he has served in many roles across the University, both in and out of the classroom. He is in all respects a servant-leader, and his service has advanced the mission of the College and the University in meaningful ways. We congratulate him on this well-deserved recognition.”

Recent Happenings in Education

WT's Reading Program Selected to Participate in the Texas Reading Academies EPP Working Group

When Texas House Bill 3 became law in 2019, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) initiated the Texas Reading Academies (TRA), a 60-hour professional development opportunity for K-3 teachers and principals that engages educators with high-quality instructional strategies rooted in the Science of Teaching Reading (STR).

As the Texas Reading Academies enters its fourth year, TEA presented the opportunity to a Texas educator preparation programs (EPP) to opt-in a pilot study wherein TRA will be made available to total of 250 elementary teacher candidates spread across a limited number of EPPs. Believing the pilot program would be in the best interest of our present and future candidates, the reading program submitted a proposal and was selected through a competitive application process to participate. Participation in the TRA pilot will allow our faculty and teacher candidates to provide feedback to TEA on the future integration of Texas Reading Academies in EPPs across the state of Texas. As part of the pilot, WTAMU's reading program will partner with an existing authorized provider to offer Texas Reading Academies to our teacher candidates during the 2023-2024 academic year.

Drs. Judy Williams and Betty Coneway will serve as the primary STR faculty support for teacher candidates participating in TRA, and Drs. Sang Hwang and HeeYoung Kim will serve as secondary reading faculty support. Dr. Russel Miller, Director of the Teacher Preparation Office and WTAMU Certification Officer, will serve as system manager to coordinate TRA coaching observations along with traditional clinical supervision. Education advisers Juleigha Hugg and Dr. Jennifer Denham will identify teacher candidates who qualify for enrollment in TRA and will help recruit candidates for the pilot program. Dr. Crystal Hughes, Director of Candidate Performance, will collect data to support and monitor teacher candidate success as they progress through TRA.

Including Texas Reading Academies (TRA) in the WTAMU EPP program will complement our reading courses by bringing a clearer and more in-depth perception of a practical application of STR in classrooms while solidifying the theory and methodology learned in college coursework. By completing TRA as part of their undergraduate work, first year teachers will be able to correctly implement STR teaching strategies on day one of the school year, resulting in a positive impact on student literacy achievement while lending additional credibility to the WTAMU teacher preparation program.



Online B.S. in Education Approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board



In a letter dated July 24, WT was notified by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board of its approval to offer its existing Bachelor of Science degree in Education fully online.

Approval was granted with the understanding that WT certifies compliance with the *Principles of Good Practice for Academic Degree and Certificate Programs*.

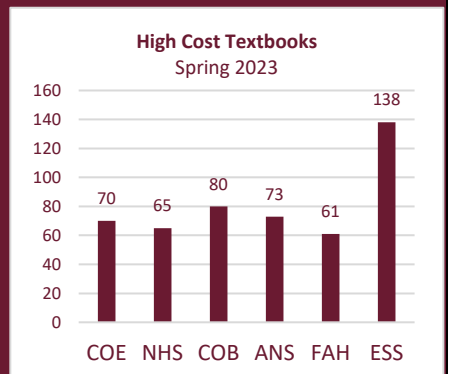
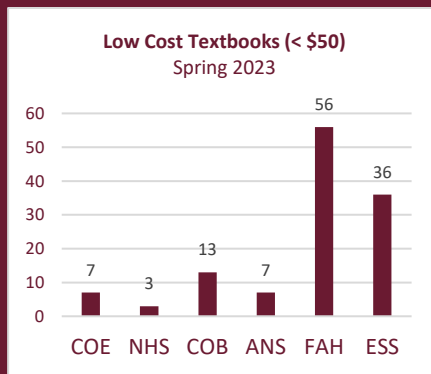
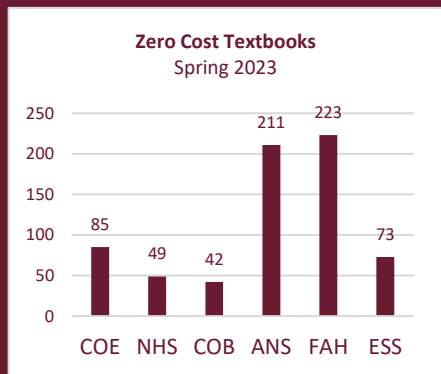
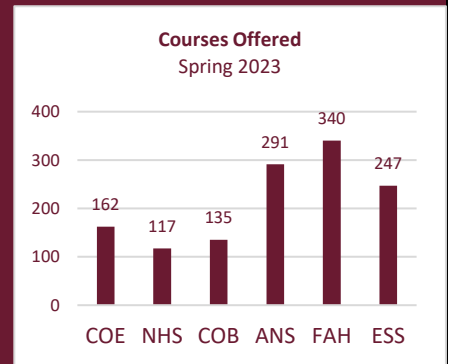
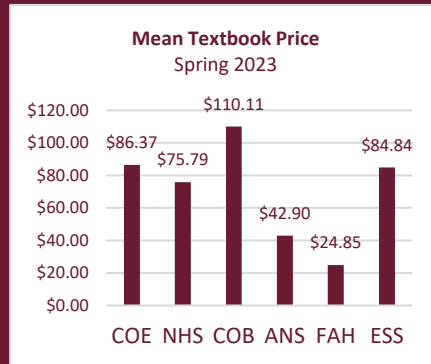
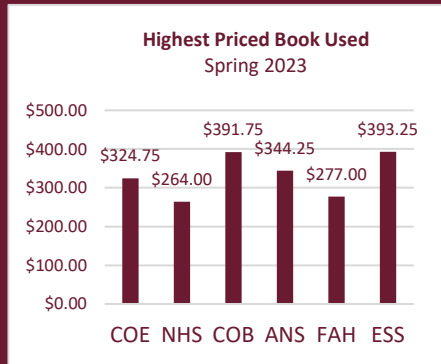
Open Educational Resources

Strategy 1.4 of the [WTAMU Strategic Plan](#) states that we “will reduce student expenses by accelerating campus efforts toward low cost, no cost, and open educational resources,” which aligns with the 4th goal of the [Texas Higher Education Strategic Plan](#), focused on reducing student debt. In my first Dean’s Council meeting, the expectation to lower textbook costs incurred by students was made quite clear. Employing the use of OER is one method of reducing costs. Click on the OER graphic to learn more.



Where does our college stand in relation to the other colleges across the university in terms of textbook cost and number of courses taught? Based on Spring 2023 textbook data the deans received from Dr. Andersen, in the 247 classes offered in our college, we had the highest priced textbook (\$393.25) and used the largest number of high cost (defined as > \$50) textbooks (138). Our mean textbook price ranked 4th from lowest to highest among the colleges. Our zero-cost textbook count is at 73 and our low-cost textbook count is at 36. Here are the data:

Curriculum



Thanks to those of you who are currently providing low- and zero-cost options. If you have not considered alternatives to high-cost options, please explore some possibilities. Explore our [library resources](#) and consider visiting with our colleague Dr. Adam Weiss, who has [demonstrated expertise](#) in OER and alternative options for course materials and textbooks.

August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Fall Graduation Application Deadline ----- 2:00: IRB Proposal Submission Deadline	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Last Class Day	10 Final Exams	11 12:00: Grades Due	12
13	14 10:00: TBRCOESS Faculty & Staff Meeting; JBK Thunder ----- 3:00: Faculty & Staff Convocation; Legacy Hall	15 2:00: IRB Proposal Submission Deadline	16 Syllabi Posting Deadline Classes on WtClass go Live ----- 9:00: Fall Faculty Development; Alumni Banquet Hall	17	18	19
20	21 Fall Classes Begin	22	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Academic Calendar (Registrar)