

RIED QUARTERLY:

A digital newsletter from the Division of Research, Innovation and Economic Development

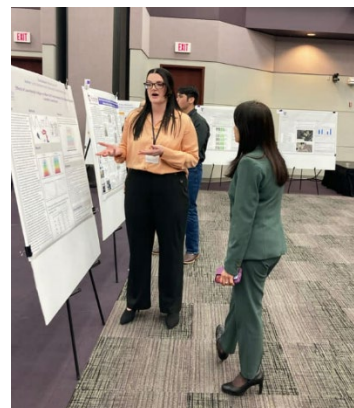
April 2022

Highlights for this Issue

- President's Excellence in Research Scholars Research Symposium
- Faculty Spotlight
- New Funding Update
- TxDOT's Research Discussion
- Upcoming Training (Maestro, NSF etc. training)
- Grant Proposal Data

President's Excellence in Research Scholars (PERS) Research Symposium

Our inaugural President's Excellence in Research Scholars (PERS) Research Symposium was a resounding success! 100 research posters were presented and over 300 people participated in the event where PERS recipients and other faculty and students presented poster and oral presentations. The President's Excellence in Research Scholars (PERS) opportunity awarded approximately \$817,000 in funding for 51 student-led research projects that took place from June through August, 2021.



For more photos from President's Excellence in Research Scholars Research Symposium check out our RIED webpage <https://web.tarleton.edu/research/symposium-slideshow/>



Faculty Spotlight: *Shining a Light on Research Interests of Our Faculty*



Name: Dr. Jennifer Edwards

College/Department: College of Liberal and Fine Arts/Communication Studies

What is your role at Tarleton State University and how long have you worked here? Professor of Communication, Associate Provost for Faculty Initiatives, and Executive Director of the Texas Social Media Research and the Rural Communication Institutes, 15 years.

What is your research interest and how did it come about? Health Communication and Rural Areas - I am a 5th generation North East Texan with many family members who struggle to navigate and access rural health care and access to basic needs resources. I've dedicated my life to bridging the gap between people in rural areas and their access to state/federal resources and information.

Did you receive any research-related advice from a mentor that really resonated with you? What was that advice? Yes, my mentor and first department head, Dr. Charles Howard, always reminded me to select a research topic for which I had a passion. He encouraged me to focus on a topic that can impact the community, involve students, and change lives. Also, he encouraged me to publicize my research to others outside of Tarleton. He always stated, "If others do not know about your research, did it really happen? Did it make an impact?"

What research are you currently engaged in? Currently, I am involved in several research projects focused on health communication during the pandemic. This year, over 40 graduate students and I conducted research focused on how state and federal agencies communicated with the public about the COVID-19 pandemic and safety guidelines. Also, Dr. Subi Gandhi and I are researching vaccine and proactive health hesitancy in rural areas.

Describe an externally funded project that you have led or participated in, if any, and what you learned or discovered from that experience. Over the past year, I've been fortunate to serve as lead and co-lead for seven externally funded projects at Tarleton State. One of my most memorable experiences was funded by the Hogg Foundation and it focused on the promotion of the U.S. Census



in rural areas. Through our partnership with local Census representatives, we promoted the Census on the side of highways, at the front of grocery stores, and in city parks. As a result of this outreach, we discovered additional barriers experienced by individuals in rural areas (food insecurity, job insecurity, transportation issues, access to healthcare). This one project served as the foundation for the rest of the Rural Communication Institute's our current projects focused on health outreach and vaccine hesitancy. Through this project, I discovered that you cannot leave a community after the funding ends, you have to continue providing resources and services. Community outreach should not be a short-term relationship, researchers should strive to make sure this relationship is long-lasting.

What advice do you have for new researchers? I would encourage new researchers to find a research topic that can positively impact others. This needs to be a topic for which you would be motivated to research at 2:00 a.m. or that could potentially pull you away from one of your favorite activities. If you are willing to sacrifice your personal time for this topic, this is your research passion. After you discover this research topic, build your network of other like-minded individuals who can keep you motivated. Then, actively search for grant-funding to support your research. I would encourage faculty to spend time discovering the topics that external funders value and how their research topic can coincide with funding opportunities from these organizations. Also, make sure that everyone knows about your research interest, because they can help you discover external funding resources as well. Remember to always have your research elevator speech ready, you never know when you will need to talk about your research with a potential funder.

Congratulations to the following PI's (from May 2021 to present):

Lora Helvie-Mason	1,000.00
Edward Osei	10,000.00
Stephanie Brady	103,521.00
Thomas Faulkenberry	29,425.00
Subi Gandhi	3,000.00
Barbara Jones	50,000.00
Subi Gandhi	425,000.00
Sally Lewis	497,460.00
Edward Osei	65,000.00
Ali Saleh	18,110.09
Kimberly Ryneanson	247,134.50
Morgan Carter	50,000.00
Edward Osei	10,000.00
Michael Machen	75,000.00
Leah Taylor	143,046.00
Kristina Downs	12,000.00



Jennifer Edwards	144,986.00
David Kattes	16,233.00
Barry Lambert	13,419.00
Barry Lambert	58,037.70
Rajani Srinivasan	28,000.00
Jamie Borchardt	750
Jennifer Edwards	47,221.75
Heather Mathewson	5,000.00
Ali Saleh	300,000.00
Jennifer Edwards	1,976,321.00
Edward Osei	500,000.00
Rupa Iyer	1,412,944.00
Larry Hauck	400,000.00
Larry Hauck	82,000.00
Jimmy Millican	148,812.00
Jimmy Millican	140,700.00
Jimmy Millican	88,018.00
Jimmy Millican	92,452.00
Jimmy Millican	63,909.00
Laurie Sharp	691,158.00

TxDot Research Discussion Invite

TxDOT’s Research and Technology Implementation Division invites the Tarleton State University faculty and staff to discuss TxDOT research:

- Program Participation
- Project Oversight
- Research Communication
- Q&A

Monday, April 25th | 9am - 10am, Math Room 125



Grant Proposal Submission Data by College Since May 2021

College	# Submitted	# Awarded	Amount Awarded
COANR	36	5	\$ 727,020.70
COBA	1	0	-
COE	9	1	\$ 259,792.50
COST	29	3	\$ 207,425.00
CHSHS	9	1	\$ 1,168,118.00
COLFA	12	3	\$ 2,178,128.75
TIAER	10	10	\$ 1,552,047.09
Academic Affairs	6	1	\$ 50,000.00
Division of Research	4	1	\$ 1,412,944.00
TOTAL	116	25	\$ 7,555,476.04

RIED Contact Info:

The RIED staff is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall.

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Mark Your Calendar



Please note, every alternating Wednesday, RIED sends out an email titled **“Inside Tarleton Research and Funding Opportunities”** where we highlight upcoming funding opportunities as well as recognize faculty who were awarded external funding. Please let us know if we can help in any of the listed opportunities.



Learn how to use Maestro’s Researcher Portal for your grant proposals and award. The next training dates offered by Maestro are via **Zoom training for Researcher Portal Users** from 1:30-3:00:

- May 16, 2022 - [Register](#)
- June 13, 2022 - [Register](#)

