



## GREATER TEXAS FOUNDATION

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### **GREATER TEXAS FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2016 CLASS OF GTF FELLOWS** *Four Texas Faculty Receive Fellowship for Research Related to Student Success*

**BRYAN, TEXAS:** Greater Texas Foundation today announced the newest class of Greater Texas Foundation Faculty Fellows (GTF Fellows), a three-year program to build research and teaching capacity of tenure-track faculty at Texas colleges working in areas related to student success. The four fellows will each receive up to \$30,000 per year for three years to support a research agenda aligned with the foundation's mission to support postsecondary preparation, access, persistence, and completion for Texas students.

"With the addition of a new cohort each year, it is our hope that our fellows will create a broad and deep network of highly talented and committed Texas researchers working to understand barriers for students and identify research-based solutions to help more Texas students persist through completion of a postsecondary credential," said Dr. Wynn Rosser, GTF President and CEO.

After being nominated through an invitation-only nomination process, the selected fellows were invited to participate in a competitive proposal process in which they were required to demonstrate significant potential in and commitment to a career in research and teaching at the postsecondary level. In addition, applicants were required to identify a mentor to assist them throughout the three-year fellowship. Each of the selected fellows' institutions committed to a partial match for the program.

Four individuals were selected for the fourth class of fellows:

***Dr. Brittany L. Hott, Assistant Professor Department of Psychology, Counseling, and Special Education, Texas A&M University-Commerce***

- Mentor: Gil Naizer, Ph.D., Professor Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Texas A&M University-Commerce
- "The GTF fellowship will provide the opportunity to extend my work in the area of school-based mathematics interventions to in-service teacher development. Project DREAM (Developing Rural Educators' Algebra Methods) explores the feasibility of sharing evidence-based practices through an interactive website tailored to identified teacher needs. Specifically, Project DREAM focuses on supporting teachers working with students from diverse backgrounds (non-native English speakers,

students from low socio-economic backgrounds, students with math difficulty or disability) in rural east Texas. I am excited to learn and collaborate with fellows, my mentor, Dr. Gil Naizer, and GTF.”

***Dr. Lauren Schudde, Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Administration and Sociology, The University of Texas at Austin***

- Mentor: Dr. Harrison Keller, Deputy to the President for Strategy and Policy, The University of Texas at Austin
- “As a newcomer to Texas, I’ve spent much of this year getting to know the higher education system in the state. I quickly realized that Greater Texas Foundation is a key player in research initiatives to improve the outcomes of college students in Texas. My project for the GTF Fellows program merges my interest in community college student success with my emerging interest in policy implementation within the complex organization of Texas higher education, which is quite decentralized. The project examines the implications of state transfer policies in order to understand how we can smooth students’ transition from community colleges to public universities. The fellow program is not only providing the financial means to examine this important topic, but also the support and feedback of other fellows, mentors, and the GTF staff. I think that support will play a vital role in developing clear and feasible policy recommendations based on my analyses.”

***Dr. David S. Yeager, Assistant Professor of Psychology, Developmental Area, University of Texas at Austin***

- Mentor: Dr. Philip Uri Treisman, Executive Director, Charles A. Dana Center and Professor of Mathematics, University of Texas at Austin
- “I’m thrilled to be included in a group with such amazing peers. I’m excited to see how we use our opportunity to carry out science for the betterment of higher education in Texas.”

***Dr. Yi Leaf Zhang, Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, College of Education, The University of Texas at Arlington***

- Mentor: Dr. Linda Serra Hagedorn, Professor and Associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs, International Students, Student Success, Equity & Community, School of Education, Iowa State University
- “This fellowship with Greater Texas Foundation provides me with additional resources, time, and mentorship to extend my current research on student persistence and postsecondary degree attainment. It will allow me to carefully investigate the extent to which college students’ transfer pathways, early academic momentum, and course-taking patterns affect students’ baccalaureate degree attainment, especially in STEM fields of study. It will also enable me to develop a portfolio that positions me as a strong researcher, as well as a competitive candidate for promotion to Associate Professor with tenure. Additionally, the GTF Fellowship will offer me great opportunities to network with other GTF Fellows, higher education leaders, administrators, and policy makers. This fellowship will not only allow me to focus on the proposed research project, but also serve as a foundation for future research on transfer students’ transition experiences and academic success.”

Through participation in annual GTF Fellows summits over the course of the fellowship, fellows will have access to professional development opportunities and guidance related to their intended career trajectory.

The selection process for the fifth class of fellows will begin fall 2016. For additional information about the GTF

Fellows program and the fellows, visit [www.greatertexasfoundation.org/gtf-fellows/](http://www.greatertexasfoundation.org/gtf-fellows/).

**About GTF:** GTF supports efforts to ensure all Texas students are prepared for, have access to, persist in, and complete a postsecondary education. As a result of its work, GTF will help create greater connections among regional systems that support the ability of all students to succeed. By focusing on issues of statewide importance, GTF will also highlight innovative solutions to postsecondary preparation, access, persistence, and success across Texas. Since its 2001 inception, GTF has approved more than \$45 Million in grants to support Texas students.

For more about the Greater Texas Foundation, visit [www.greatertexasfoundation.org](http://www.greatertexasfoundation.org).

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