Office of the Vice President for Community Services

The mission of Community Services (http://www.utsa.edu/vpcs) is to extend the university beyond its campuses and into San Antonio and South Texas through public service, extension, outreach, and community education. This is accomplished through a variety of programs and departments, including the Institute for Economic Development, the Institute of Texan Cultures, the Prefreshman Engineering Program, the Office of Community Outreach, the Office of Extended Education, the Downtown Campus Special Events Office, the UTSA Mexico Center, the Office of P-20 Initiatives, the Child and Adolescent Policy Research Institute, and the Center for Civic Engagement.

Office of P-20 Initiatives

The Office of P-20 Initiatives (http://p20.utsa.edu) provides leadership to increase the college-going rate and success of students in the Greater San Antonio area and South Texas who want to attend UTSA in particular or other higher education institutions. The office promotes educational access, college readiness and completion through research-based programming, as well as educational reform through collaborative dialogue among P-20 constituents. An array of outreach programming and activities are designed to provide services such as academic intervention, college readiness camps, dual credit, mentoring, tutoring, work study, career planning, test preparation, bridge programs and college tours.

Prefreshman Engineering Program

The Prefreshman Engineering Program (PREP) (http://www.prep-usa.org/) identifies achieving middle and high school students with an interest in mathematics, science, engineering and technology, and prepares them for careers in these and other mathematics-related areas. Founded at UTSA in 1979, the seven-week, mathematics-based academic program is held each summer at nine local colleges and universities. PREP is offered over four summers (PREP I through IV) whereby students receive one elective high school credit for each summer completed successfully. Students who finish PREP III can subsequently earn college credit through University PREP.

Office of Community Outreach

The Office of Community Outreach (OCO) (http://utsa.edu/community/outreach) was established to increase UTSA’s visibility in targeted communities in South Texas, and to foster appropriate, mutually beneficial partnerships with these communities. The OCO works with educational, business and civic leaders in communities to promote higher education as an economic development resource and address barriers that inhibit or prevent area residents from enrolling at UTSA. Special events bring community leaders to UTSA and take university executives into South Texas communities. The OCO works closely with Admissions and other university offices in supporting student recruitment efforts.

The Center for Civic Engagement

The Center for Civic Engagement (http://utsa.edu/community/cce) serves as a nucleus of support to students, faculty and staff who aspire to advance the common good of San Antonio and the surrounding communities. The center supports service-learning courses, community-engaged research and public service activities. It also manages a comprehensive tracking system for university-wide community engagement initiatives.

Office of Extended Education

The Office of Extended Education (http://www.utsa.edu/ee) serves the region’s adult, professional and continuing education needs through a range of targeted programs that match UTSA’s unique resources with the lifelong learning needs of the region. Extended Education works collaboratively with academic and nonacademic units of the university to develop and offer seminars, online courses, conferences and programs for the general public, professional and governmental agencies, and businesses, as well as graduate and professional school entrance exam preparation. Selected courses for college credit are also available through the Office of Extended Education’s Extended Studies Program.

Institute for Economic Development

The Institute for Economic Development (http://www.iedtexas.org) is dedicated to creating jobs, growing businesses and fostering economic development. The institute’s 12 centers and programs provide professional business advising, technical training, research, and strategic planning for entrepreneurs, business owners and community leaders. The programs serve San Antonio, the Texas-Mexico border areas, as well as regional, national and international stakeholders. In support of UTSA’s community engagement mission, the Institute for Economic Development works with private businesses, federal, state and local governments to foster economic and community development.

Institute of Texan Cultures

The Institute of Texan Cultures (http://www.texancultures.com) is the state’s museum dedicated to enhancing the understanding of cultural history and its influence on the people of Texas. The institute’s mission is accomplished through an expansive exhibit floor, a document and photo library, an extensive outreach program to Texas schools, and specialized, periodic major exhibits. The institute also serves special educational programs at the university. Admission is free for faculty, staff and students with UTSA ID.

UTSA Mexico Center

The UTSA Mexico Center (http://utsa.edu/mexicocenter) fosters academic, research, cultural and programmatic exchanges with universities and organizations in Mexico, engaging students, faculty and staff, and promoting a better understanding of Mexico and its relationship to the United States. The UTSA Mexico Center provides a forum for communication between policy makers, scholars, business representatives and professionals from the United States and Mexico to bring about mutual understanding and productive relationships.

The Child and Adolescent Policy Research Institute

The Child and Adolescent Policy Research Institute (https://utsa.edu/capri) is a university-wide research institute that fosters cross-disciplinary collaborations and translates research results into policy recommendations. The institute supports the study of topics such as infant cognition and language development, early literacy, juvenile justice, child abuse prevention, foster care youth, pediatric obesity prevention, early childhood education, school readiness, and dropout prevention.