

COED Faculty Highlights

September 2024

Grants

★ **Dr. Penelope Espinoza**, in collaboration with Dr. Karina Canaba of COURI, secured an NSF grant for Using Iterative Design to Develop a Visual Tool to Promote Inclusivity in STEM Environments. The project aims to support Hispanic and Black scientists and engineers by addressing racial microaggressions in STEM.

★ The National Center for Education Research made nine new awards under the FY2024 Research Training Programs in Education Sciences grant program. The Early Career Mentoring Program for Faculty at Minority-Serving Institutions grant was awarded to **Dr. Cynthia A. Wiltshire**.

★ A research grant from UT Regents' Excellence Initiative was awarded to **Dr. Maartje Van Den Bogaard** for a project investigating the effects of working while pursuing studies in STEM. The research, a collaboration between the College of Education, the College of Engineering, and the Career Center, will fund the hiring of an assistant research professor and two postdoctoral researchers.

Articles Published

★ **Dr. Pei-Ling Hsu** co-authored an article with a TLC PhD student, Dina Thomason, which was published in a top-ranked journal: Thomason, D. & Hsu, P.-L. (2024). The effect of a STEM integrated curriculum on design thinking dispositions in middle school students. *International Journal of Technology and Design Education*.

★ **Dr. Jesus Cisneros**, in collaboration with **Dr. Lucia Dura**, **Dr. Christina Convertino** and PhD student **Isaac Frausto Hernandez**, co-authored an article published in the *Journal of Hispanic Higher Education*. The article is based on a mixed methods study exploring perspectives and experiences of servingness among UTEP faculty and students. The study was conducted by the Hispanic-Serving Research Council, with Dr. Christina Convertino as Chair and all authors as members.

Student and Faculty Awards

★ UTEP student club Teen Survivor, with **Dr. Carolina Teran Lopez** as faculty advisor, won the UTEP Student Leadership Award for Best New Organization.

★ The COED **Master's in Mental Health Counseling** has been selected for the first Community Partner Mental Health Stars of El Paso Award by Family Services of El Paso. The award event will take place October 10, from 5:30pm-9pm at the EPCC Administrative Service Center Auditorium.

Program Highlights

★ UTEP earned the #1 ranking for Texas's most affordable Ed.D. programs in 2024-2025, according to EdDprograms.org.

Highlights from the Field

★ The Charles Butt Scholarship supports aspiring teachers at select partner universities and hosts biannual meetings with over 15 universities focused on program improvement. UTEP Lead Site Coordinators, **Jessica Pussman**, **Cynthia Acosta** and **Dr. Heather Click-Cuellar** (pictured left to right) participated in the fall 2024 Raising Texas Teachers Partner convening in Austin on Sept 11-13.

