



T R A C S



**9th Annual
Texas Regional Alliance for
Campus Sustainability Summit
April 3-4, 2023**

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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Office of Sustainability

Welcome to the 9th Annual TRACS Summit

Howdy Friends! On behalf of the Texas Regional Alliance for Campus Sustainability Executive Committee, I would like to welcome you to the 9th Annual TRACS Summit. It has been four long years since the Texas sustainability higher education community has gathered in person to share knowledge, network, and strengthen our relationships. As our campuses emerge from the aftereffects of the Covid-19 pandemic, Texas A&M University is delighted to host you.



Whether you are an undergraduate, graduate, faculty member, or sustainability practitioner, our journeys all merge as students of sustainability. As ecologist Rachel Carson teaches us in *Silent Spring*, "in nature nothing exists alone". It will take the courage and determination of each of us working collaboratively to tackle the grand tests of our time. Now, more than ever we need climate solutions that guide us through an energy transition, voices for marginalized communities, and effective communicators who can share the importance of the sustainable pathways we must implement. The global challenges we face call each of us to be vigilant learners who become bold leaders in the workforce, our communities, and beyond. The work we do can be heavy and sometimes feel overwhelming. When I feel these personal warning signs, I seek comfort in Wendell Berry's poem, "The Peace of Wild Things".

Over the next two days, we hope this conference will highlight best practices from across the state covering an exciting range of topics. Let this time together build important connections with your peers and spark new ideas to take back to your campus. We know that through our collective efforts, together, we can save ourselves.

Thank you again for joining us in College Station,

Kelly Wellman, MBA

Director, Texas A&M Office of Sustainability
Chair, TRACS Executive Committee



The Peace of Wild Things
By Wendell Berry

*When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.*

TRACS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Gary Cocke
University of Texas
at Dallas



Danielle Dunn
University of Texas
at Dallas



Marianella Franklin
University of Texas at
Rio Grande Valley



Caitlin Griffith
University of Texas at
Austin



Ben Kalscheur
Texas A&M University



Richard Johnson
Rice University



Karen Magid
Huston - Tillotson
University



Meghna Tare
University of Texas at
Arlington



Kelly Wellman
Texas A&M University

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- Have fun at the Photo Booth
- Tag Us @sustainableTAMU to Share your TRACS Experiences



The TRACS 2023 Summit has been certified at Champion Level. The Sustainable Event certification encourages event planners across campus to implement more sustainable practices by providing them with a framework and resources. This certification can be completed by any student, faculty, staff, or student organization.

AGGIE PARK SOCIAL



JOIN US FROM 6-8 PM

- **When?**
Monday, April 3
- **Where?**
Throckmorton Grove
- **Fun + Music + Lawn Games**
- **Food Truck on Us!**
- **Alcohol* + Drinks on Us!**

* Must Show ID for 2 Free Alcohol Beverage Ticket

T.E.J.A.S

T.E.J.A.S is dedicated to providing community members with the tools necessary to create sustainable, environmentally healthy communities by educating individuals on health concerns and implications arising from environmental pollution, empowering individuals with an understanding of applicable environmental laws and regulations and promoting their enforcement, and offering community building skills and resources for effective community action and greater public participation.

Our goal is to promote environmental protection through education, policy development, community awareness, and legal action. Our guiding principle is that everyone, regardless of race or income, is entitled to live in a clean environment.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Juan Parras

Director of T.E.J.A.S

Juan has been organizing community voices for years beginning as a social worker with the Harris County Welfare Office and later with the City of Houston Section 8 Housing Department. Recognizing his unorthodox organizing efforts, he was recruited by the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees as project staff. Organizing people to fight for standards in their working environments, Juan eventually was elevated to be an International Union Representative for the Federation until 1993, where his efforts reestablished MLK Day and impeached Governor Mechum of Arizona. He then began working with the Louisiana Labor Neighbor Project, an Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers Union.

In 1995, Juan joined the ranks of Greenpeace USA. Next, Juan began working with Texas Southern University at the Environmental Justice Law Clinic until 2002. Also in '95, Juan, along with Ana, formed Unidos Contra Environmental Racism, which was later renamed Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services or T.e.j.a.s.

Juan was an original member of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, and has served on many other boards, highlighted by his service on the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council. Juan received the CEC Synergy Award in 2008, the Sealy Center for Environmental Health & Medicine HERO Award in 2009, and the 2015 Robert Bullard Environmental Justice Champion Award from the Sierra Club. Juan Parras and his resolve for equity, justice, and community resilience is the driving force behind T.e.j.a.s. and with over 40 years of experience, Juan can attest to the empowering force behind marrying issues of intersectionality in environmental work for marginalized communities.



Ana Parras

Co-Director of T.E.J.A.S

Ana Parras has an extensive background in Union/Community organizing from her tenor as President of (Local Union 3242), American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees. At 24, she was one of the youngest Union Presidents to ever be elected. Under her tenor, Nueces County + 3 other counties, were able to obtain Civil Service for County Employees after a long battle with County Commissioners. Her work with organized Labor emphasizes the importance of Civic Engagement. In 1992, she became the second youngest Latina National Delegate to the Democratic National Convention. Ana returned to Houston and co-founded the Injured Workers of Texas.

For 8 years, Ana served the Harris County Central Labor Council in the Political Program. During her work for the CLC, she was hired by the "Mi Familia Vota" campaign to write a Grant for Civic Engagement during the 2002 Gubernatorial Elections. The Civic Engagement campaign employed over 100 youth to help get out the vote. Ana is currently serving on the board of the Gulf Coast Labor Council for Latin American Advancement.

Ana also has extensive experience as a Legal Assistant for over 14 years. She opened (3) WIC stores for the attorney. Then went on to co-own a WIC Store called "Our First Step," a storefront with the purpose of removing the stigma of food assistance and serving women who received WIC services to address food insecurity.

Ana, along with Juan, jointly founded Unidos Contra Environmental Racism, which was later renamed Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services. As the Administrator for Tejas, she has been able to bring her administrative, organizational skill set to better structure and support Tejas work at both the local, State, and national level. Ana has worked tirelessly to uplift marginalized and affected populations, as well as victims of environmental justice.

Moderated By:

Dr. John T. Cooper, Jr.

Texas A&M Assistant Vice President of Economic Development & Community Impact Engagement

Dr. Cooper is an Assistant Vice President in the Division of Academic and Strategic Collaborations. His research, teaching and practice focuses on participatory planning, particularly with regard to preparing socially vulnerable populations to prepare for, survive and recover after disasters. In 2017 he received the Texas A&M Association of Former Students (AFS) Distinguished Achievement Award for Extension, Outreach, Continuing Education & Professional Development. Dr. Cooper serves on the Advisory Board for the University of North Carolina Coastal Resilience Center and as chair of the Advisory Council for the Center for Disaster Philanthropy. He previously served on the board of directors for the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities and was a founding member of the board of directors for the Bill Anderson Fund. From 2005-2010, he was a Program Director at MDC Inc. in Durham, NC, where he directed the FEMA-funded Emergency Preparedness Demonstration Program (EPD). The EPD was a \$2.5 million effort to increase disaster awareness and preparedness in marginalized communities in eight (8) states along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. Dr. Cooper earned a bachelor's degree in Economics as well as his Master's in Urban Planning from Texas A&M before completing a PhD in City and Regional Planning at University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill (UNC).



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Monday, April 3, 2023

7:30	Check-in	Gates Ballroom MSC 2400
7:45	Continental Breakfast Begins	Gates Ballroom
8:30	Opening Ceremony	Gates Ballroom
9:00	Pursuing Clean Energy Strategies in Higher Education Words of Wisdom – Perspectives from Early Career Sustainability Professionals	Gates Ballroom MSC 2406 A
10:00	Intersectional Environmentalism and Climate Justice for the Wellbeing of Sport Does Experiential Learning for Sustainability Lead to More Sustainable Behavior Outside the Classroom?	Gates Ballroom MSC 2406 A
11:00	UT Climate Leaders Program: A Bottom-Up Approach to University Carbon Emissions Reduction; UTRGV Graduate Sustainability Research Fellowship Program Promoting Social Capital and Environmental Citizenship: The Partnership Between Texas A&M, Dallas College, and Chevron in the Texas A&M-Chevron Engineering Academy	Gates Ballroom MSC 2406 A
12:00	Lunch + Keynote: Juan and Ana Parras facilitated by Dr. John T. Cooper, Jr.	Gates Ballroom
1:30	Sustainability is a Home Run Giving Back through Grocery Give & Grab Sustainable Student Connection Session	Gates Ballroom MSC 2406 A MSC 2406 B
2:30	Snack Break	MSC Stark Art Gallery
2:45	Poster Session	MSC Stark Art Gallery
4:30	Closing Remarks	MSC Stark Art Gallery
6:00	Aggie Park Social Hour with Food & Fun	Aggie Park

T R A C S

TEXAS REGIONAL ALLIANCE FOR
CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

7:00	Exhibition/ Check-in	Gates Ballroom
7:45	Full Breakfast Begins	Gates Ballroom
8:00	Breakfast Professional Networking and Exhibitor Hall	Gates Ballroom
9:00	Vertical Urban Farms For Anyone	Gates Ballroom
	Is Geothermal A Viable Technology for Higher Ed Institutions?	MSC 2406 A
	Start Smart Salary Negotiation (9:00am - 11:00AM)	MSC 2406 B
10:00	Creating a Sustainable World through International Education	Gates Ballroom
	Utilizing Student Employees as Vehicles for Sustainability Success; A Microgrid as a Banking System Based on the kWh	MSC 2406 A
11:00	Strategies for Growing and Maintaining Campus Gardens and Food Forests	Gates Ballroom
	How to Best 'Speak for the Trees': Rhetorical Lessons of "The Lorax"	MSC 2406 A
12:00	Closing Remarks - Raffle Drawing/Pick Up Lunch	Gates Ballroom

The TRACS Summit is Generously Supported by the Following:

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



MONDAY, APRIL 3

50-Minute Concurrent Presentations

Monday

9:00 am

Pursuing Clean Energy Strategies in Higher Education

Gary Cocke - *University of Texas at Dallas*
Jim Walker - *University of Texas at Austin*
Yasuko Sakurai - *Texas A&M University*

Gates Ballroom

This educational session will feature green energy strategies from UT Dallas, UT Austin, and Texas A&M and provide perspective on the process at each campus, what worked well, what didn't, and lessons learned. UT Dallas (UTD) has been working with Coho Climate solutions since Fall 2022 to create a comprehensive renewable energy strategy that should benefit operations, curriculum, and research while reflecting university values to our community as we pursue carbon neutrality. Strategy development has considered various on-site and off-site solutions and a variety of contract/procurement options. The work is ongoing and this session will provide an up-to-the-minute overview of all that UTD has learned regarding renewable energy possibilities throughout our process.

At Texas A&M University (TAMU), our mission is to provide world class service through the production, delivery, and management of safe, reliable and efficient utility and energy systems, effectively stewarding university resources and the environment. To that end, TAMU pursued off site renew-ables. Our most significant commitment to renewable energy is our partnership with global companies such as AT&T and Honda to generate an unprecedented amount of clean, sustainable energy in North Texas as part of Samson Solar.

Ninety years ago UT Austin (UT) committed to generating energy on-campus and now operates the largest university owned natural gas combined heat and power plant in the country, and one of the most efficient CHP plants in the world. The adoption of on-campus renewable energy has been slow, with only 500 kw of solar currently installed over 10 years ago, but recent extreme weather events and concerns with resilience have driven new initiatives. Interest in off-campus renew-ables is growing, especially with the surge in solar and wind projects on UT Lands in West Texas.

Words of Wisdom - Perspectives from Early Career Sustainability Professionals

Danielle Dunn - *University of Texas at Dallas*
Kristianna Bowles - *Rice University*
Caitlin Griffith - *University of Texas at Austin*
Jessi Drummond - *University of Texas at Austin*

MSC 2406 A

Interested in a career in sustainability? Not sure how to transition from a student to a career involving sustainability? Hear from early career professionals about lessons learned from entering the field and best practices to incorporate sustainability into your career goals. Discover what skills are most valued and how to build experience, along with strengthening your networking abilities during a breakout session focused on connecting with peers in sustainability. In addition to professional skills, find out what soft skills are important in dealing with impostor syndrome and creating a meaningful work/life balance. Join Danielle Dunn from UT Dallas, Kristianna Bowles from Rice University, and Caitlin Griffith and Jessi Drummond from UT Austin to hear their answers to frequently asked questions from students and learn from their successes, struggles, and words of wisdom.

MONDAY, APRIL 3

50-Minute Concurrent Presentations *continued*

Monday
10:00 am

Intersectional Environmentalism and Climate Justice for the Wellbeing of Sport

Gates Ballroom

Jessica Murfree - *Texas A&M University*

Benika Dixon - *Texas A&M University - Visiting Assistant Professor*

Intersectional environmentalism and climate justice are becoming increasingly important in social and environmental movements addressing the climate crisis. This round table discussion suggests these are equally important topics to address in the sport industry. The concept of intersectionality suggests social identities compound and intersect to create unique experiences of oppression and privilege. Social identities include age, race, gender, education, and socioeconomic status. Similarly, climate justice recognizes environmental disparities fall on similar social lines and seeks to address the disproportionate effects of climate change on marginalized communities and social groups.

Sport is a powerful, visible platform that people actively engage in around the world. Sport has the potential to raise awareness about environmental issues while promoting its own sustainable practices. Further, sport is vulnerable to climate hazards and contributes to climate harm. However, the impacts of climate change on marginalized communities are often overlooked in the sport industry and academy. This round table will serve as a necessary conversation in recognizing and addressing the ways in which climate change disproportionately affects systemically disadvantaged and oppressed communities in sport, recreation, and physical activity.

Does Experimental Learning for Sustainability Lead to More Sustainable Behavior Outside the Classroom?

MSC 2406 A

Peter Beck - *St. Edwards University*

In this session, we will discuss experiential learning strategies that involve students changing their personal resource use to be more sustainable. Experiential learning is increasingly promoted as a means of enhancing student learning, especially for millennial students. Although the applied focus of sustainability courses seems ideal for employing this approach, limited research exists demonstrating that experiential learning actually increases understanding or leads to more sustainable behavior in students' everyday lives. Moreover, research shows a wide disconnect between sustainability practices that people recognize as important and those that they actually participate in. In this session, I will discuss a project in my introductory environmental course in which students are required to put the course material into practice and experiment with what it is like to actually live more sustainably by reducing their resource use in electricity, transportation, food, water and waste. Session participants will share best practices from their experiential learning strategies and discuss the utility of individual actions in terms of meeting societal sustainability goals.

MONDAY, APRIL 3

50-Minute Concurrent Presentations *continued*

Monday
11:00 am

UT Climate Leaders Program: A Bottom-Up Approach to University Carbon Emissions Reduction (25 Mins)

Gates Ballroom

Caitlin Griffith - *University of Texas at Austin*
Jim Walker - *University of Texas at Austin*
Cara Ingram - *University of Texas at Austin*

The UT Austin Climate Leaders Program (Climate LEAP) offers a cohort of ten students hands-on, practical experience developing a greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan for a UT college, school, or unit (CSU). The ultimate goal of the program is a bottom-up approach to emissions reduction through individual CSU action. For 2022-2023, the Climate LEAP cohort is working with five UT Austin colleges: Architecture, Engineering, Geosciences, Liberal Arts, and Natural Sciences. Students work in interdisciplinary pairs with one student acting as a Climate Analyst and the other as a Climate Engagement Specialist. Each pair works with a single college. After completing a training certification course from UNH, each pair utilizes the SIMAP carbon accounting platform to map scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions for their respective college. Each pair also forms an advisory group - a group of volunteer students, staff, and faculty - to gather feedback on potential emissions sources and solutions throughout the academic year. This combination of quantitative and qualitative data informs the student groups which reduction strategies may most benefit the college. Students evaluate potential emissions reductions strategies through various lenses: equity, university strategic plan, publicity, cost, risk to the university, and emissions reduction potential. Climate LEAP cohort meetings include presentations, workshops, and discussions led by experts in diverse fields, providing students with the broad knowledge base needed to be successful as future sustainability and climate professionals. Climate Leaders utilize their learned skill-sets in public speaking, data analysis and visualization, carbon emissions accounting, navigating ambiguity, qualitative and quantitative methods to propose various greenhouse gas reduction strategies to the dean of their respective colleges at the end of the academic year. Climate LEAP is a year-long, paid, internship program open to undergraduates of all majors. The UT Office of Sustainability launched the UT Climate Leaders Program in Fall 2022 as a pilot program thanks to funding from President Hartzell, the University Budget Council, and the UT Green Fund.

UTRGV Graduate Sustainability Research Fellowship Program (25 mins)

Gates Ballroom

Jacquelynn Hernandez - *University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley*
Jeremy San Miguel, M.S.W - *University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley*

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) Graduate Sustainability Research Fellowship (GSRF) was designed to support student scholarship, present intentionally visible contributions to sustainability in research, and exemplify UTRGV's commitment to sustainable development.

The GSRF fellowship promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion across all spectrums of the program. The program has proudly served a gamut of students representing several different countries, nationalities, and disciplines at UTRGV. Their research contributes greatly to sustainable development, with subject matters ranging from language, health, medicine, economic and financial opportunity, design and construction, alternative energy, ameliorating child marriage, investing in education, combating food insecurity, and many more.

The GSRF was designed to lead innovation and serve as a model for institutions to build upon research, to collaborate with multidisciplinary faculty members wishing to contribute their leadership and expertise towards sustainability efforts and student success, and to promote an unparalleled opportunity for scholars to understand how sustainability is a tool, with the utmost value in contributing to a greater life for tomorrow, starting today.

MONDAY, APRIL 3

50-Minute Concurrent Presentations *continued*

Monday
11:00 am

Promoting Social Capital and Environmental Citizenship: The Partnership Between Texas A&M, Dallas College, and Chevron in the Texas A&M-Chevron Engineering Academy

MSC 2406 A

Timothy Cedor, Ed.D. - *Dallas College*
Ed Bassett - *Texas A&M University*
Paul Ornate - *Dallas College*

This session will focus on the Texas A&M Engineering Academy – a unique partnership between Texas A&M University, Dallas College, and Chevron. This academy is the first transition program of its kind in the United States and promotes economic efficiency through coordinated actions (the 17th goal of the UN Sustainable Development Goals). The first part of the session will describe the Engineering Academy program as a whole, the role of Chevron's financial support for the Academy, and the perspective of the community college partner. The second part of the session will focus on a technical writing course students in the program take while attending Dallas College, and how that course uses different actors to provide students with authentic learning experiences related to real-world social and environmental issues in a critical way, and how these experiences, in the wider social, political and business context, enable students to participate in a citizenry process that might improve social equity and justice. Participants are encouraged to interact with the presenters throughout the presentation instead of creating a sit and get learning environment.

Monday
1:30 pm

Sustainability is a Home Run

Gates Ballroom

Rebekah Parkhill - *Texas A&M University*
Scot Obergefell - *Texas A&M University*
David Taylor - *Texas A&M University*
Lauren Licherman - *Honeycomb Strategies*

Research has shown that Athletics Departments are becoming more aware of their sustainability impact, however they are not fully engaged in their university's efforts. Texas A&M Athletics identified this gap several years ago and has been working to not only increase awareness of Athletics' impact but also to identify operations that can be slightly altered to enhance sustainable efforts. Through the leadership and guidance of the Texas A&M Office of Sustainability, a strong relationship was formed and Athletics was better supported and prepared to make a larger impact both environmentally and socially. By slowly gaining steam in improving sustainable operations and initiatives, it became apparent that an Athletics' specific Sustainability Master Plan would be beneficial for long term impact and success. It will set the stage in college athletics for departments to be leaders within sustainability; not only serving as a guide for operations, but also by benefiting the entire campus.

This session will review Athletics' sustainability journey over the past seven years and highlight the ways that the department has evolved for the better. Specifically, the presenters will discuss the current development of their Athletics Sustainability Master Plan and next steps for the future.

Giving Back through Grocery Give & Grab

MSC 2406 A

Kristianna Bowles - *Rice University*
Carol Binzer - *Texas A&M University*

Food is fuel and access, or lack thereof, can be an invisible problem on college campuses that severely hinders student success. Food insecurity can impact students from a variety of backgrounds, even those required to have meal plans like on-campus residents. At the same time, students can unintentionally generate food waste by purchasing snacks and nonperishable goods they end up not liking. How can both of these issues be remedied? This session will cover the development of the Grocery Give & Grab (G3) program at Texas A&M University which was created to address these issues by providing an avenue for students to donate and take food at their leisure. Attendees will learn the background history of the program and work through identifying how G3 can be tailored to their institutions.

MONDAY, APRIL 3

50-Minute Concurrent Presentations *continued*

Monday
1:30 pm

Sustainable Student Connection Session

Madelyn Lewis - *Texas A&M University*

MSC 2406 B

Welcome sustainability advocates and leaders! To be the change we want to see, we must work together. If you are a student- of any major or specialization- join this networking session between passionate individuals to discuss future goals and current projects, small and large. Form connections that might jumpstart collaboration across schools, perspectives, and interests. Everyone deserves a seat at the table and a voice in the conversation. Bring your phones, social media cards, and business cards, and join our LinkedIn group to stay connected after our session.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

50-Minute Concurrent Presentations

Tuesday
9:00 am

Vertical Urban Farms for Anyone

Lisette Templin - *Texas A&M University*

Gates Ballroom

TUFU (TAMU Urban Farm United) is a collegiate campus community farm demonstration using aeroponic technologies for food growing to address 3 categories of sustainable practices: campus food security, sustainable urban agriculture with vertical growing practices, and community building through education and the spirit of giving back.

Our mission of "Grow to Serve" highlights the farm-to-pantry experience to address food security on campus. Secondly, environmental sensitivity through vertical growing uses 90% less water and 90% less land. Thirdly, through volunteerism, we provide hands-on food growing experience to all student organizations. We also host training programs for Honors Capstone students allowing for in depth familiarity with urban agriculture management.

Is Geothermal A Viable Technology for Higher Education Institutions?

MSC 2406 A

Scot Bearss- *NELNET Renewable Energy*
Scott Musgrave - *Orca Energy*

HVAC systems tend to be the single largest emissions source for many colleges and universities in the United States, but alternatives to traditional fossil-fuel powered equipment have often felt out of reach. This interactive session, based on a forthcoming white-paper on the same topic, explores how geothermal heating and cooling systems (AKA Geo-Exchange) can serve as a viable alternative to traditional heating and cooling systems for many campuses.

Our panel will create learning opportunities that dive deep into (a) how geo-exchange systems function, (b) total cost of ownership for geo-exchange systems compares to other technologies, (c) financing opportunities for geo-exchange systems, and (d) what steps a college needs to take when exploring such a system.

We will also walk through case studies from universities that have implemented geo-exchange systems. These real-world examples will shed light on the challenges and opportunities associated with geo-exchange systems.

Join us as we explore this decades-old technology which is seeing a renaissance in modern times, and determine if it may be a viable option for your university.

Tuesday
10:00 am

Smart Start Salary Negotiation

MSC 2406 B

Kelly Nelson - *Texas A&M University*

This AAUW Start Smart Salary Negotiation Workshop is designed to teach participants how to negotiate for a fair salary. In every two hour workshop, participants gain confidence in their negotiation styles through facilitated discussion and role-play. Participants learn the following:

How to identify and articulate their personal value.

How to develop an arsenal of persuasive response and other negotiation strategies.

How to conduct objective market research to benchmark a target salary and benefits.

About the wage gap including its long-term consequences and other relevant factors.

This workshop is recommended for students who are starting to apply for career positions, but all TRACS participants can gain value from learning the art of negotiation.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

50-Minute Concurrent Presentations *continued*

Tuesday
10:00 am

Creating a Sustainable World through International Education

Caleb Chapman - *Texas A&M University*
Holly Hudson - *Texas A&M University*
Ben Kalscheur - *Texas A&M University*

Gates Ballroom

Preserving the earth's biodiversity and combating climate change are fundamental to social change and economic prosperity – all important tenants of international education. This session will align the field's best practices with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and participants will leave with an action plan for their institution.

Utilizing Student Employees as Vehicles for Sustainability Success (25 Mins)

Avery McKittrick - *University of Texas at Dallas*

MSC 2406 A

While student employees and volunteers are common in higher education sustainability departments, often, these students are not utilized to their full potential and do not develop to the extent that they are capable. Intentional utilization of student volunteers and employees and development of these young professionals provides a diverse perspective on sustainability in institutions of higher education and prepares student leaders for a variety of climate and sustainability jobs upon graduation. Avery McKittrick, former UT Austin student employee and current Sustainability Coordinator at UT Dallas overseeing eight paid student employees, gives context, tools, and resources for student leadership programs that recognizes these students as valuable assets to sustainability departments and their potential to contribute as sustainability professionals post-graduation.

A Microgrid as a Banking System based on the kWh (25 Mins)

Paul Comet - *TTI / Texas A&M University*
John Ragsdale - *TTI / Texas A&M University*

MSC 2406 A

A microgrid will be constructed using solar panels placed on various TAMU buildings that are connected to a central processor as well as to the local electricity supply. Inputs to & from the microgrid to the main electricity supply will be evaluated in terms of debits & credits. A credit card system will monitor these debits & credits in terms of a potential currency based on the kWh. Whether this system could act as an adjunct to the dollar will be evaluated. Additional sources of energy from waste will also be evaluated for gasification purposes. If successful, an entire sustainable economic "ecosystem" might be created which takes all the waste from the university & repurposes it as a source of fuel & raw materials.

Tuesday
11:00 am

Strategies for Growing and Maintaining Campus Gardens and Food Forests

Amy Concilio - *St. Edwards University*

Gates Ballroom

Campus gardens and food forests serve to help build community on campus, connect students, staff, faculty, and neighbors to nature, and provide ecosystem services, habitat for wildlife, and fresh, local food for the campus community. These projects have the added benefit of providing a living laboratory for classes and encouraging cross-campus collaborations between students, staff, and faculty. St. Edward's University in Austin, TX, has had a student-run vegetable garden since 2011, spearheaded by the Students for Sustainability. In recent years, we expanded it to include rental plots for students, a pollinator garden, student access compost bins, herbs and vegetables for sale to our dining hall, and most recently, a food forest. These projects bring multiple benefits and opportunities to our campus community. However, growing and maintaining campus gardens comes with challenges, including turn-over of student leaders, student involvement, funding shortages, gaining permissions, and covering maintenance tasks over summer and winter breaks. In this session, we aim to bring together students, staff, faculty and administrators from colleges across Texas with experience or interest in campus gardens to share strategies for ensuring success and overcoming common obstacles. We will also brainstorm ideas for cross-campus collaboration that these projects make possible.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

50-Minute Concurrent Presentations *continued*

Tuesday
11:00 am

How to best "Speak to the Trees": Rhetorical Lessons of " The Lorax"
Amber Clontz - Austin Community College

MSC 2406 A

For over 50 years Dr. Seuss's "The Lorax" has inspired a range of conversations about environmentalism in classrooms and living rooms. For many young readers, this text is an introduction to understanding how humans share and impact natural environments. Many students are familiar with its message from childhood, but few have revisited the hero's preservationist position since. Students usually find analyzing the rhetorical approach of the Lorax surprising. The Lorax is passionate about his mission, but also uncompromising. In this session, we will close read the story to examine how interpreting its message and characters from different perspectives benefits readers young and old, helping them sustain essential conversations about environmental concerns for generations.

TRACS SUMMIT SURVEY

Please share your feedback on the
TRACS 2023 Summit
at the conclusion of the event!
tx.ag/TRACSsurvey



POSTER SESSION

Monday 2:45 PM - STARK ART GALLERY

University of North Texas Society for Ecological Restoration Organizational Structure, Statistics and Analytics

Abby Heath - *University of North Texas*
Calvin Nering - *University of North Texas*

Rural Texas Sustainability Index

Adayr Shewmaker - *Tarleton State University*

Sustainability of Tarleton's Service Learning Day

Annabel Anderson - *Tarleton State University*

The University of North Texas Campus Tree Inventory Project

Brand Richter - *University of North Texas*
Madison Rutherford - *University of North Texas*

The University of North Texas Bird Campus Committee: Student-Led Avian Conservation and Education Initiatives on Campus

Brandon Meadows - *University of North Texas*
Mellisa Connor - *University of North Texas*
John Morrow - *University of North Texas*

Urban Sprawl and Sustainable Development: Exploring the Relationship Between Local Sustainability Measure and Peri-Urbanization

David Northup - *Tarleton State University*

WAT-ER We Doing? Best Practices of Water Bioremediation

Dylan Shaw - *Dallas College - Richland Campus*

The UNT SER Greenhouse Crew: Primary Producers for the Pollinative Prairie

Eleanor "Ellie" Lewis - *University of North Texas*
Garrett Gantt - *University of North Texas*
Myriam Meliane - *University of North Texas*

Nitrile Glove Recycling at The University of Texas at Austin: Sustainability is in Our Hands

Evy Nguyen - *The University of Texas at Austin*

UT Austin Climate Leaders Program

Fiona Wyrtzen - *The University of Texas at Austin Office of Sustainability*
Cara Ingram - *The University of Texas at Austin Office of Sustainability*
Vivian Nguyen - *The University of Texas at Austin Office of Sustainability*
Anya Gandavadi - *The University of Texas at Austin Office of Sustainability*

Earth Day Fun Run (2022)

Grant Foster - *Texas A&M University*
Sarah Kelly - *Texas A&M University*

Justice at the Heart of Environmentalism

Gwen Schaulis - *The University of Texas at Dallas*

Bicycle Friendly University at UT Dallas

Ian Seamans - *University of Texas at Dallas*

POSTER SESSION

continued

An Orchard For Tomorrow

Josh Porter - *Cedar Valley College Green Club*
Lewis Liu - *Cedar Valley College Green Club*
Alitzel Morales - *Cedar Valley College Green Club*
Victor Uche - *Cedar Valley College Green Club*
Jacob Castillo - *Cedar Valley College Green Club*

Powering Forwards

Josh Porter - *Cedar Valley College Green Club*
Lewis Liu - *Cedar Valley College Green Club*
Alitzel Morales - *Cedar Valley College Green Club*
Victor Uche - *Cedar Valley College Green Club*
Jacob Castillo - *Cedar Valley College Green Club*

Incorporating Environmental Justice into University Curriculum

Julianne Bantayan - *The University of Texas at Austin*
Anya Gandavadi - *The University of Texas at Austin*

Sustaining Social Media Engagement @TexasSustainability

Mac Davenport - *The University of Texas at Austin*

Biodiversity of the Pecan Creek Pollinative Prairie: Observational Data of a Reconstructed Prairie on the Urban University of North Texas Campus as an Undergraduate Educational Resource

Madison Rutherford - *University of North Texas*

St. Edward's University Sustainable Food Network: Community Garden, Food Forest, and Farm to Table Program

Margaux Ordoveza - *St. Edward's University*
Luke Tobias

Monitoring Bird Window Strikes on the University of North Texas Campus

Marie Muñiz - *University of North Texas*

The Eco Hub

Mohini Shanker - *University of Texas at Dallas*

Does the Importance of Sustainable Event Information Services Vary among Generational Sub-Cohorts?

Ranyue "Rachel" Xiao - *Texas A&M University*

Sustainability for BIPOC in Higher Education

Skyla Webber - *University of Texas at Austin*

Geospatial Analysis of Water Bottle Refilling Stations of Tarleton's Campus

Wyatt Wilson - *Tarleton State University*
David Northup - *Tarleton State University*
Ciarra Akins - *Tarleton State University*

TAMU VISITOR WIFI

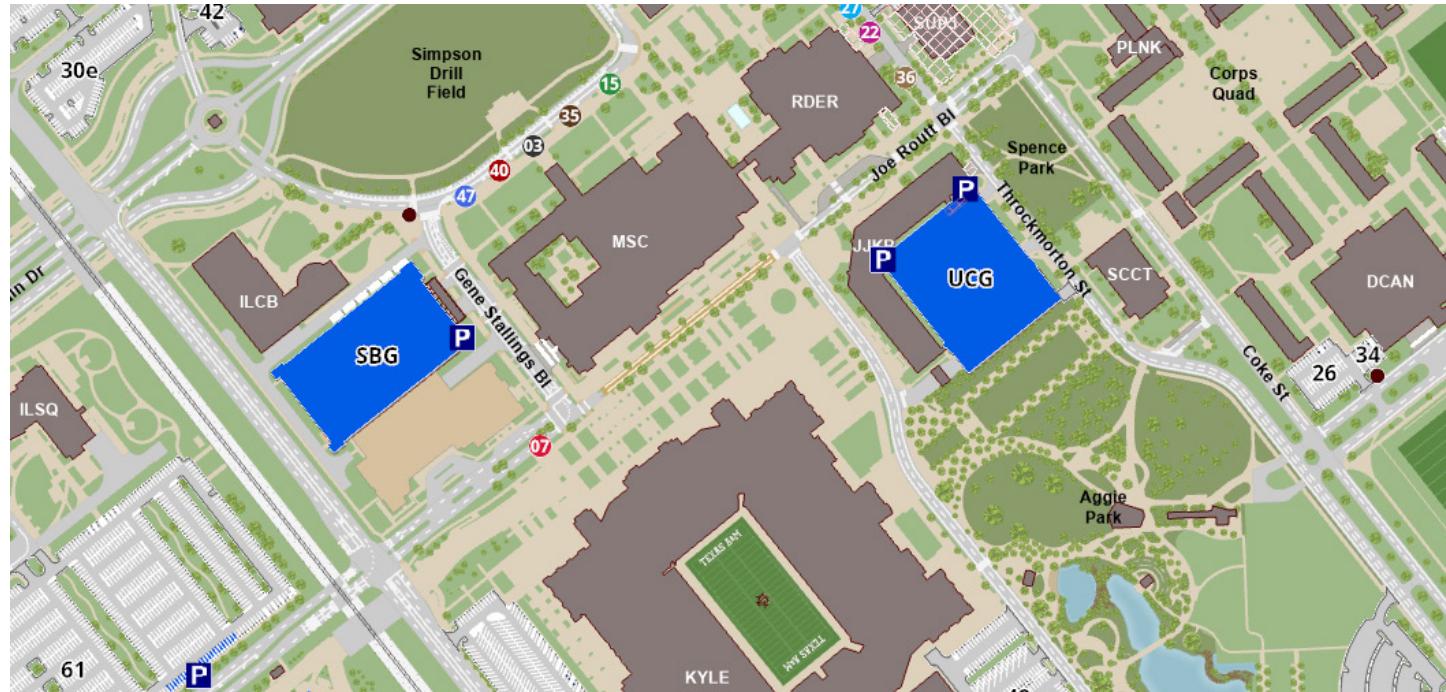


1. Choose the TAMU_Visitor network from the list of available networks on your device.
2. You will be asked to enter an email address and a 24-hour password.
3. Enter your full name, mobile telephone number, and email address in the fields provided. Click the box next to "I accept the terms of use" and then click Register.
4. You will receive both an email and text message with your TAMU_Visitor username and password.
5. Enter the provided username and password. After a successful connection, you will be taken to the Texas A&M University web-site.
6. You may close the connection browser window and use your device normally.

PARKING INFORMATION

Parking is included as part of your registration for the TRACS Summit. You will pull a ticket when entering the parking garage. When you check-in for the TRACS Summit at the Gates Ballroom (room 2400) in the Memorial Student Center (MSC), a full parking validation ticket will be provided upon request. This ticket will be used when you exit the garage, and you will need a new one every time you exit.

Parking is available in either Gene Stallings Blvd Garage (SBG) or University Center Garage (UCG). Both are convenient to the MSC where the event will take place. Please note that the UCG is closest to Aggie Park where the Evening Social event will take place on Monday from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. You can obtain more detailed campus parking information by visiting this [link](#).



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EXHIBITOR HALL RAFFLE

TUESDAY, APRIL 4
7:45 AM - 11:45 PM
MSC 2401

- VISIT EXHIBITOR TABLES
- COLLECT TICKETS + WRITE NAME
- WIN PRIZES
- TURN IN TICKETS BY NOON IN GATES BALLROOM





Memorial Student Center (MSC)

275 Joe Routt Blvd,

College Station, Tx 77843

Phone: (979) 845 - 8901

T R A C S



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CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY



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