



San Marcos, Texas



11th Annual
Texas Regional Alliance for
Campus Sustainability Summit

April 6-8, 2025

The Power of Sustainability:

*Energy Transitions, Conservation & Education
on your Campus*

2025 TRACS SUMMIT

Agenda



Day 1

Sunday, April 6th

Check In & Networking

2 PM - 4 PM **Check in and glass bottom boat tours at The Meadow's Center**

5 PM - 7 PM **Happy Hour at Ivar's River Pub**

Day 2

Monday, April 7th

8:00 - 8:30 **Registration (LBJ Student Center)**

8:30 - 9:00 **Opening remarks**

9:00 - 10:15 **En- Roads Activity**

10:15 - 10:30 **Coffee Break - Rm 314**

10:30 - 11:30 **Student- Only Networking Session - GBR**

10:30 - 12:00 **Breakout Sessions**

- Driving Institutional Change: The Role of Strategic Planning (Rm 315)
- Green Professional Development (Rm 316)

12:00 - 12:45 **Break for Lunch**

12:45 - 1:00 **Dealing with Climate Anxiety - Dr. Martin**

1:00 - 2:00 **Community Art Project - Austin Creative Reuse**

2:00 - 5:00 **Student Poster Session & Vendor Networking- Rm 314**

2:30 - 3:30 **Breakout Session / Student Poster Session**

- Engaging with Nature: Education, Conservation, and Community-Driven Research (Rm 315)
- Global Sustainability: Hands-On Learning for Real-World Impact (Rm316)

3:30 - 4:00 **Cookies & Coffee Break - Rm 314**

4:00 - 5:00 **Panel Session/ Poster Session**

- STARS as a Strategic Framework: Building Sustainable Campuses Through Effective Reporting (Rm 315)
- Student Engagement and Collaboration at TXST (316)
- Re-Wilding St. Edward's Campus (Grand Ballroom)

5:00 - 6:00 **Civic Engagement Training at Tantra Coffeehouse**

7:00 - 8:00 **Sugar scrub making workshop at Truly Pure Refillery (\$20)**

2025 TRACS SUMMIT

Agenda

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Day 3

Tuesday, April 8th

8:00 - 8:30 **Opening**

8:30 - 9:30 **Breakout Sessions**

- Addressing Food Insecurity: Partnerships, Resources, and Energy Solutions (Rm 315)
- The Power of Partnership: Moving Beyond Theory to Actionable Sustainability (Rm 316)

9:30 - 9:45 **Coffee Break**

9:45 - 10:45 **Breakout Sessions**

- Innovative Waste Solutions and Faculty-Led Sustainability: A Roadmap for Campus Change (Rm 315)
- Collaborative Conservation (Rm 316)
- Strategies for Success: Driving Operational Efficiency Through Program Development and Data Integration (Grand Ballroom)

10:45 - 11:00 **Closing TRACS / Welcoming TEA-UP**

11:00 - 12:00 **Keynote Speaker - Mose Buchele**

12:00 - 1:00 **TEA-UP Lunch**

1:10 - 2:00 **Breakout Sessions**

- Powering the Future: Universities as Catalysts for Smart Energy & Grid Innovation (Rm 315)
- Renewable Energy: Solar Energy Systems on College and University Campuses (Rm 316)
- Industry and University Partnerships; Coordinated Efforts for Sustainable Campus Solutions (Grand Ballroom)

2:10 - 3:00 **Breakout Sessions**

- Smart Energy; TCCD's Journey in Data-Driven Automation (Rm 315)
- Energy Codes & Sustainability in Higher Education: Leveraging Building Standards for a Greener Future (Grand Ballroom)

3:10 - 4:00 **Breakout Sessions**

- Advancing Thermal Energy Networks in Texas: Innovations, Implementations, and Impacts (Rm 316)
- Creative Solutions for Sustainability, Energy Efficiency, and Shifting Plans on Campus (Grand Ballroom)

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SPEER
The South-central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource

2025 TRACS SUMMIT

Breakout Sessions

Day 2

Monday, April 7th

Breakout Sessions - Development Track (Room 315)

10:30 - 12:00 Driving Institutional Change: The Role of Strategic Planning

- *Ashley Williams, TEMA*
- *Gary Cocke - Baylor University*
- *Jeremy San Miguel - The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley*

2:30 - 3:30 Engaging with Nature: Education, Conservation, and Community-Driven Research

- *Mei Lani May - UT San Antonio*
- *Steven Fletcher - St. Edward's University*
- *Anne Egelson - Tarleton State University*

4:00 - 5:00 STARS as A Strategic Framework: Building Sustainable Campuses Through Effective Reporting

- *Danielle Laperriere - Texas A&M University*
- *Jasleen Dhillon - Southern Methodist University*
- *Julissa Revilla, Isha Bhasin - UT Arlington*

Breakout Sessions - Engagement Track (Room 316)

10:30 - 12:00 Green Professional Development

- *Dr. Brenda Floyd & Dr. Maria V. Boccalandro, Dallas College*
- *Caitlin Griffith, UT Austin*
- *Anna Morton Rivera, Maryam Singery - UT San Antonio*

2:30 - 3:30 Global Sustainability: Hands-On Learning for Real-World Impact

- *Caleb Chapman, Kelly Wellman - Texas A&M University*
- *Dr. Maria V. Boccalandro, Dr. Adrianna Lopez-Barberena - Dallas College*

4:00 - 5:00 Student Engagement and Collaboration at TXST

- *Adam Berglund - Texas Stream Team, SMRF*
- *Dr. Tina Cade - Texas State University*
- *Dr. Kimberly Meitzen - Texas State University*

Breakout Sessions - Grand Ballroom

4:00 - 5:00 Re-Wilding St. Edward's Campus

- *Mackenzie Feldman, Roy Johnson, Veronica Chavez - St. Edward's University*
- *Amy Concilio, Katie Gay, Eric Johnson, Steve Fletcher - St. Edward's University*

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SPEER
The South-central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource

2025 TRACS SUMMIT

Breakout Sessions

Day 3

Tuesday, April 8th

Breakout Sessions - Development Track (Room 315)

8:30 - 9:30 Addressing Food Insecurity: Partnerships, Resources, and Energy Solutions

- Shaniaya Griffin - SPEER, *Nourish the Future Foundation*
- Mashaal Atif & Kayla Bassett - *UT Arlington*
- Alexis Villarino - *Texas A&M University*

9:45 - 10:45 Innovative Waste Solutions and Faculty-Led Sustainability: A Roadmap for Campus Change

- Sara Nichols - *RRS*
- Dr. Ben Miele - *University of the Incarnate Word*

Breakout Sessions - Engagement Track (Room 316)

8:30 - 9:30 The Power of Partnership: Moving Beyond Theory to Actionable Sustainability

- Kenya Reeves - *Texas A&M University*
- Lindsey Yazbek, Brenna Knott - *UT Austin*
- Isabelle Bishop - *University of North Texas*

9:45 - 10:45 Collaborative Conservation

- Emma Parsely, Mikey Goralnik - *Great Springs Project*
- Mark Enders - *Edwards Aquifer Authority*

Breakout Sessions - Grand Ballroom

9:45 - 10:45 Strategies for Success: Driving Operational Efficiency Through Program Development and Data Integration

- Anna Morton Rivera, Nicholas Tuttle - *UT San Antonio*
- Steve Gazlay - *McKinstry*
- Rebecca Ornelas - *UT San Antonio*



2025 TRACS SUMMIT TEA – UP Sessions

Tuesday, April 8th

Track 1 - Emerging Trends in Energy Efficiency (Grand Ballroom)

1:10 - 2:00 Powering the Future: Universities as Catalysts for Smart Energy & Grid Innovation

- **James Coston CEM** - *Energy Efficiency Consultant - Leidos*
- **Matt Taylor CEM** - *Senior Program Manager - Oncor*
- **Ramya Ramaswamy** - *Director of Energy Efficiency - PUC Texas*
- **Garret Rosser** - *Energy Manager - Dallas College*

2:10 - 3:00 Smart Energy: TCCD's Journey in Data-Driven Automation

- **Daniel Helm** - *Manager of Utilities and Energy - TCCD*
- **Thomas Vanover** - *Senior Manager of Building Automation Systems - TCCD*
- **Carlos Yagua PE** - *Senior Research Engineer, Energy Systems Laboratory - Texas A&M*
- **Walter Williams PE** - *Director of Facilities Engineering - TCCD*

Track 2 - Strategies for Climate Resilience (Room 315)

1:10 - 2:00 Renewable Energy: Solar Energy Systems on College and University Campuses

- **Ed Pettit** - *Texas Southern University*
- **Jim Walker** - *Director of Sustainability - University of Texas at Austin*
- **Lernard Mack** - *Development Manager - Sunrun*
- **Andy Kim** - *Director of Energy and Sustainability - Austin Community College*

3:10 - 4:00 Advancing Thermal Energy Networks in Texas: Innovations, Implementations, and Impacts

- **Jos Lai** - *Co-Founder & CEO - Bedrock Energy*
- **Ian Housman** - *Energy and Water Conservation Manager - Rice University*



2025 TRACS SUMMIT TEA – UP Sessions

Tuesday, April 8th

Track 3 - Fostering a Culture of Sustainability in Academia Room 316

1:10 - 2:00 Industry and University Partnerships: Coordinated Efforts for Sustainable Campus Solutions
• **Lindsey Yazbek** - *Green Labs Coordinator - University of Texas at Austin*
• **Brenna Knott** - *Program Manager - University of Texas Medical Branch*
• **Umair Suran**, - *MTN Consulting*

2:10 - 3:00 Energy Codes & Sustainability in Higher Education: Leveraging Building Standards for a Greener Future
• **Adam Main** - *Lake Flato*
• **Nick Patterson** - *O'Connell Robertson*
• **Patricia House** - *Austin Energy, green Building Program*
• **Erik Gonzalez** - *Operations manager - McKinstry*

3:10 - 4:00 Creative Solutions for Sustainability, Energy Efficiency, and Shifting Plans on Campus
• **Jim Morris** - *Associate Vice President for University Operations - St. Edward's University*
• **Jennifer Lancaster** - *Senior Account Executive - Johnson Controls*

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SPEER
The South-central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource

Keynote Speaker

Tuesday, April 8th 11:00am -12:00pm, Grand Ballroom



Mose Buchele (NPR)

Mose Buchele is the senior energy and environment correspondent at KUT 90.5, Austin's NPR member station. He holds master's degrees in Latin American Studies and Journalism from UT Austin. His award-winning work can be heard on local and national public radio programs. His podcast about the Texas energy grid, The Disconnect: Power, Politics and the Texas Blackout, is in its third season.



Green Professional Development

Monday, April 7th 10:30am-12pm, Room 316



Dr. Brenda Floyd (Dallas College)

Dr. Brenda Floyd is a dedicated educator, global learning advocate, and agricultural researcher. As Project Manager at Cedar Valley Campus, Dallas College, she develops partnerships, organizes educational events, and advises the Student Green Club of Cedar Valley Campus. Previously, she was a Professor and Program Manager at Eastfield College, leading environmental initiatives and ESL programs. She also serves as CEO of Floyd Agricultural Research, managing sustainable farming and securing grants for research on natural parasite control in sheep. Dr. Floyd holds a Doctor of Education from Texas A&M University-Commerce and has extensive experience in curriculum development, environmental education, and community engagement.



Dr. Maria V. Boccalandro (Dallas College)

Dr. Maria V. Boccalandro, a sustainable urban planner with a master's in urban transportation and a Ph.D. in political science, is Dallas College's Dean of Special Academic Programs. Previously, she directed sustainability programs at Cedar Valley campus and led award-winning initiatives involving Yale University. With 30 years of teaching experience in the US and Latin America, she has earned numerous accolades, including the CV 2019 Adjunct Excellence Teaching Award. A former entrepreneur, she founded an international consulting firm and became a US citizen in 2007. Dr. Boccalandro serves as an Environmental Commissioner for Dallas and has held leadership roles in several organizations. She is a proud mother of four, grandmother of two, and enjoys volunteering, skiing, and writing novels.



Caitlin Griffith (University of Texas at Austin)

Caitlin Griffith (she/they) has been the UT Climate Leaders Program Coordinator for the past three years. She has been involved in the higher education sustainability space for seven years. Her work centers around greenhouse gas accounting, equity-centered emissions reduction strategizing, energy analysis, and sustainability consulting. Recently, they have focused on emissions-related activity data analysis and sustainability communications in higher education, while cultivating professional development in these areas to help close the green skills gap.



Anna Morton Rivera (University of Texas At San Antonio)

Anna Morton Rivera, P.E. BEMP, is a seasoned sustainable engineering professional known for advancing green building initiatives and enhancing operational efficiency across diverse environments. As the Executive Director of Energy and Sustainability at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), she leads efforts to elevate campus sustainability and innovate green building practices. Previously, Anna excelled as a Building Performance Specialist at dbHMS and founded Morton Gestalt, where she pioneered projects in net-zero building design, electrification retrofits, and energy analytics applications. Bridging engineering, data analytics, and policy, she drives interdisciplinary collaboration to deliver cost-effective, sustainable solutions.



Dr. Maryam Singery (UTSA)

Dr. Maryam Singery is an Associate Professor of Practice at the University of Texas at San Antonio's School of Architecture and Planning. With a PhD in Sustainable Urban Design from I Azad University, Tehran, and a Master's in Architectural Engineering from I Azad University, Tabriz, she specializes in sustainable community design and high-performance building practices. Over her extensive academic career, Dr. Singery has held positions at institutions in Iran and the United States, contributing to curriculum development, interdisciplinary research, and innovative teaching in architecture and urban planning. Her work spans published books, chapters, and journal articles, and she actively serves on multiple academic and professional committees. Passionate about integrating research with practical applications, Dr. Singery continues to advance sustainable design and environmental stewardship in urban settings.

Driving Institutional Change: The Role of Strategic Planning

Monday, April 7th 10:30am-12pm, Room 315



Gary Cocke (Baylor University)

Gary joined Baylor in April 2024, bringing over a decade of sustainability leadership experience in higher education, municipal government, and nonprofit sectors. He believes that higher education has a crucial role for a sustainable future by educating leaders, driving innovation, modeling solutions, convening conversations, and leading by example. He brings deep experience working with diverse stakeholders for programs and initiatives in sustainable operations, research, curriculum, student engagement, and public leadership. Gary holds a MS in Biology with a concentration on Ecology and Conservation from TCU. He serves on the Executive Committee for the Texas Regional Alliance for Campus Sustainability and was the co-founder and co-director for RCE North Texas, a Regional Centre for Expertise that convenes key stakeholders from industry, non-profit, local government, and education sectors in order to address pressing regional sustainability issues while leveraging resources and expertise across sectors.

Ashley Williams (TEMA)

Ashley is the Chief Operating Officer for TEMA, a Texas based trade association for those practicing energy management. She focuses on improving training opportunities for those involved in sustainability and energy management, as well as the development and expansion of the organization. She also owns and operates Williams' Happy Cow Farms with her family in Central Texas. Ashley earned her doctorate in Business Administration, with a focus on Social Impact. Her research topic entailed a multiple case study to identify capacity-building strategies of nonprofit leaders addressing funding and growth needs of nonprofit organizations. She has a masters in Regional and Community Planning, and a bachelor's in architecture from Kansas State University. She was actively involved in Executive Leadership Development Courses for Spouses as a participant and discussion group leader and facilitator at the Army War College. She also served on the University of Houston, Bauer College of Business Advisory Board for the Customer Experience Certification Program. Ashley previously worked eight years in city government, developing, executing and providing continuous oversight of programs and policies that served internal and external purposes. Programs she has been heavily involved with include grant management; sustainability initiatives; performance management/transparency; project management; master plan development and implementation; process improvement; and community, economic and downtown development. She has a passion for sustainability and energy management, process improvement, and ultimately encouraging and assisting others to achieve their goals.

Jeremy San Miguel (The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley)

Jeremy San Miguel serves as the Interim Director for Sustainability at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. He manages growing partnerships, academic and research programs, events, reporting and assessments, and institutional initiatives that grow sustainability throughout the Region, Texas, and International Success Measures. Jeremy has over 8 years of experience in higher education, spending most of his time in student affairs, healthcare administration, counseling & case management, sustainability and research, and nonprofit work. He holds a B.A. in social work, an M.S. in social work, a M.A. in public administration, and is pursuing a Doctor of Educational Leadership. Jeremy sits on numerous social, environmental, and economic committees and advisory boards that seek to improve quality of life for the Rio Grande Valley and its many residents. His research and leadership interest surround student affairs, mental health policies and strategies, and sustainable development.



Engaging with Nature: Education, Conservation, and Community-Driven Research

Monday, April 7th 2:30pm-3:30pm, Room 315



Mei Lani May (UTSA)

Mei Lani May is the Director of Sustainability at the University of Texas at San Antonio in the office of Energy and Sustainability. Ms. May was previously Senior Environmental Planner at UTSA since 2009 assisting in regulatory compliance to facilitate campus growth for the five UTSA campuses. Ms. May holds a MS in Environmental Science with a concentration in spatial analysis, and currently a doctoral candidate in Environmental Science and Engineering studying green infrastructure constructability in the South Central Plateau region of the Edwards Aquifer.

Dr. Steven Fletcher

A high-contrast, black and white graphic portrait of Dr. Steven Fletcher. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark cap and a light-colored shirt. The image has a graphic, almost woodcut-like quality with stark lines and shadows.

Dr. Steven S. Fletcher is an Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Policy and Secondary Teacher Education at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. With a background in Renewable Natural Resources, Science Education (Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin) and Classroom Teaching (7-12 Environmental and life Science Teacher), Dr. Fletcher's work bridges science education, sustainability, and experiential learning. As Principal Investigator for three NSF-funded Noyce Scholarship programs from 2009 - present, he has led efforts to support early-career STEM educators and expand access to science education. His research focuses on place-based and project-based learning, including the development of interdisciplinary sustainability curricula and community engagement strategies. Dr. Fletcher previously directed St. Edward's University's Wicked Problems Living Learning Community, guiding first-year students in tackling complex environmental and social issues. His passion for urban ecology and sustainability engagement is evident in his work on campus biodiversity initiatives, environmental outreach programs, and community science collaborations.



Anne Egelston (Tarleton State University)

Anne Egelston is an associate professor and program director of environmental science. She has worked in both academia and industry during her 25-year career. She specializes in carbon markets and sustainability.

Global Sustainability: Hands-On Learning for Real-World Impact

Monday, April 7th 2:30pm-3:30pm, Room 316



Caleb Chapman (Texas A&M University)

Caleb Chapman has worked in higher education since 2009. Before coming to Texas A&M in 2020, he worked in student affairs at another institution where he served as director of multiple programs. Currently, Caleb manages various initiatives and special projects for Global Engagement, including global learning, sustainability, first-year programs, curriculum development, and strategic planning. He holds a Master of Arts from St. Edward's University and a Bachelor of business administration from Tarleton State University.



Kelly Wellman (Texas A&M University)

Kelly Wellman's interest in the environment began during college when she interned in the sanitation operations of a mid-size municipality. That job nurtured her fascination with the numerous human and environmental relationships that society experiences daily. In her early career, Kelly served as the Environmental Director for a municipality of 68,000 where she spent 12 years in the fields of Water, Wastewater, Solid Waste & Recycling, and Environmental Compliance. In 2008, she became Texas A&M University's first Sustainability Director. Kelly continues to serve in that role where she is charged with identifying key sustainability initiatives, working with students, faculty, and staff to develop a comprehensive program, overseeing the Aggie Green Fund, and implementing the Campus Sustainability Master Plan goals. Wellman earned a BS in Geography with an Environmental Studies Certificate from TAMU in 1995, an MBA from University of Phoenix in 2006, and a Master of Jurisprudence with an emphasis in Environmental and Energy Law and Policy from TAMU School of Law in 2023.



Dr. Maria V. Boccalandro (Dallas College)

Dr. Maria V. Boccalandro, a sustainable urban planner with a master's in urban transportation and a Ph.D. in political science, is Dallas College's Dean of Special Academic Programs. Previously, she directed sustainability programs at Cedar Valley campus and led award-winning initiatives involving Yale University. With 30 years of teaching experience in the US and Latin America, she has earned numerous accolades, including the CV 2019 Adjunct Excellence Teaching Award. A former entrepreneur, she founded an international consulting firm and became a US citizen in 2007.

Dr. Adriana Lopez-Barberena (Dallas College)

Dr. Lopez-Barberena teaches at Universidad Tecnológica de León, a public university in León, Guanajuato, where she enjoys the rewarding and dynamic nature of teaching. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Dr. Barberena has provided consulting services and continually pursues professional growth. With a passion for marketing, Dr. Barberena holds two master's degrees—one in Marketing and the other in E-commerce. Additionally, she completed her Ph.D. to deepen her expertise in research. Her international experience includes participation in research and conferences in France, Japan, and across Mexico, broadening her global perspective. Dr. Barberena has collaborated on COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) classes with Dallas College and the EAN University of Colombia, describing these experiences as "fantastic" and transformative. Throughout her residency, Dr. Barberena will focus on three key initiatives designed to enhance academic and professional development at Dallas College.

Re-Wilding St. Edward's Campus

Monday, April 7th 4pm-5pm, Grand Ballroom



Mackenzie Feldman, Roy Johnson, Veronica Chavez (St. Edwards University)

Mackenzie Feldman recently received her Master's from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in the Agricultural, Environmental, and Sustainability Sciences program. She is the founder and co-director of Re:wild Your Campus, an organization that works with colleges across the country to eliminate synthetic pesticides on campus grounds and support groundskeepers in the transition to organic, biodiverse land management. Mackenzie is currently a 2024-2025 Obama Foundation USA Leader and is also co-author, with her mother Kathy, of the book *Groundbakers: 60+ Plant-Based Comfort Food Recipes and 16 Leaders Changing the Food System*.



Dr. Amy Concilio, Katie Gay, Eric Johnson, Steve Fletcher (St. Edwards University)

Dr. Amy Concilio is an Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Policy at St. Edward's University in Austin, TX, and board president of the Texas chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration. Her research is in ecological restoration and climate change impacts on natural systems, and she teaches interdisciplinary courses in climate change, natural resource conservation, and environmental research that provide hands-on learning opportunities for students through on-going projects on our campus and in the Texas Hill Country. Katie Gay graduated from St. Edward's University in 2024 with a B.S. in Environmental Science and Policy and Certificate in Environmental Management. During that time she worked with Mackenzie

Feldman of Re:wild Your Campus on outreach via their slack channel and spearheaded the initial process for St. Edward's to become Green Grounds Certified. Currently, she is a Master's student at Tarleton State University in the Environmental Science program working on her thesis research. She additionally works with the non-profit EverGreen Austin to promote and protect greenspace in Austin. Dr. Eric Johnson is an Associate Teaching Professor of Environmental Science and Policy at St. Edward's University in Austin, TX. His research is in landscape ecology and aims to evaluate conservation policies and strategies for effectiveness at different spatial and temporal scales. As his work incorporates census methods to quantify habitat quality in multispecies contexts, such as the primate community in Costa Rica, he often involves students in this data collection. Also, he engages students with spatial analyses and experiential learning opportunities in his Intro to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Advanced GIS courses to equip them with technical skills for the job market. Dr. Steve Fletcher is an Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Policy and Secondary Education at St. Edward's University. He is an educator, researcher, and mentor dedicated to fostering the growth of early-career secondary teachers and environmental science students through experiential and community-engaged learning. In his courses, he integrates hands-on, place-based education with rigorous academic inquiry to prepare students for careers in education, environmental science, and policy.

STARS as a Strategic Framework: Building Sustainable Campuses Through Effective Reporting

Monday, April 7th 4pm-5pm, Room 315



Danielle Laperriere (Texas A&M)

Originally from Canada, Danielle holds an MBA in Sustainable Business and a Bachelor in Environmental Studies. Her background and passion is in sustainability and community building, with professional experience leading the sustainability portfolio of a major manufacturer and managing a Community Climate Action Plan for a collection of municipalities. At Texas A&M she is responsible for the University's sustainability reporting and leads a sustainability student internship program. Outside of work, she is most likely found walking her three dogs or adventuring in national parks.



Jasleen Dhillon (SMU)

Jasleen Dhillon is an experienced sustainability professional and higher education leader dedicated to advancing environmental and social impact initiatives. She currently serves as the Assistant Director of the Hunt Institute for Engineering & Humanity at Southern Methodist University (SMU), where she leads programs focused on social innovation, sustainability, and entrepreneurship. In this role, she supports research initiatives, fosters partnerships, and develops strategies to promote sustainable solutions for local and global challenges. With a background in environmental science and sustainability, Jasleen brings a multidisciplinary approach to her work. She is also a graduate student in the MA Sustainability and Development program, where she is researching university sustainability strategies and developing a framework for campus-wide improvements. Passionate about creating lasting change, she is spearheading efforts to conduct a sustainability audit of SMU, benchmark progress against best practices, and engage campus stakeholders in meaningful action. Prior to this role, Jasleen was an Air Quality Analyst with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), where she was responsible for air quality modeling and analyses for community health impacts. With a deep commitment to equity, resilience, and environmental stewardship, Jasleen is a driving force in shaping sustainable futures within higher education and beyond.



Isha Bhasin (UT)

Isha Bhasin is a junior at the University of Texas at Austin majoring in Environmental Science and Economics. She serves as a co-director of the Environmental Justice Collective, where she advocates for bringing an intersectional perspective to the sustainability space. She enjoys dancing, reading, and trying new foods around Austin!



Julissa Revilla (UT)

Julissa Revilla is in her third year at the University of Texas at Austin. She is working towards completing an Environmental Science degree and a Leadership and Ethics in Business certificate. She is a co-director of the Environmental Justice Collective, where she mobilizes students and faculty to address inequities in sustainability. She enjoys spending her time playing video games with her little sister.

Student Engagement & Collaboration at Texas State

Monday, April 7th 4pm – 5pm, room 316



Adam Berglund (Texas Stream Team, SMRF)

Adam is a San Marcos native who grew up on and around the town's great river as a source of leisure. Their background has been in Outdoor Recreation, Environmental Education, and Adventure Therapy from their previous pursuits before joining the San Marcos River Foundation & Texas Stream Team. They became more involved in outdoor recreation while attending Texas State University for their Bachelors in Recreation Administration: managing the Outdoor Center & Adventure Trip Program on campus, working as a backcountry guide & challenge course facilitator inside and outside of classes, and running many different paddle sport trips down this & other rivers. Adam also reached out to diverse populations by guiding trips, equestrian programs, and much more for troubled & incarcerated youth with the Williamson County Juvenile Justice Center under licensed Adventure Therapists and counseling staff. Adam currently works at the San Marcos River Foundation as the head of their Water Quality monitoring & training program while helping coordinate many volunteer activities along the river, and at the Meadows Center in the Texas Stream Team project as the training instructor.



Dr. Tina Marie (Waliczek) Cade (Texas State University)

Tina Marie (Waliczek) Cade is a Professor of Horticulture in the Department of Agricultural Science at Texas State University. She earned her bachelor and master of science degrees at Kansas State University and her Ph.D. at Texas A&M University. She oversees the horticulture degree program and the management of the gardens, greenhouses, on-campus flower shop and award-winning Bobcat Blend university composting program. Her research interests focus on sustainability issues including composting and managing invasive species or novel agricultural wastes using large-scale composting systems, as well as the economics of integrating cafeteria composting programs into universities. She also researches people/plant interactions including a wide range of studies in the areas of children's gardens, community gardens and studies on the effects of green spaces on people. She has edited and contributed to the textbook, *Urban Horticulture*.

Dr. Kimberly Meitzen (Texas State University)

Dr. Kimberly Meitzen is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Texas State University (TXST). Kimberly teaches undergraduate courses on river processes, river basin management, environmental management, and biogeography, and graduate courses on water resources and river and society related issues. Kimberly received her B.S. in Geography at the University of Texas, Austin, an M.S. and Ph.D. in Geography from the University of South Carolina, Columbia, and was Post-Doctoral Fellow with Duke University and the Nature Conservancy in North Carolina. Kimberly participates in numerous professional and volunteer service activities and is currently the TXST representative for the Stakeholder Committee of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan, the public interest representative for the Guadalupe Regional Flood Planning Group, and co-lead of the Texas Aquatic Connectivity Team. She received the TXST Favorite Professor award in 2014 and 2019, the College of Liberal Arts Service Award in 2021, and a TXST Presidential Research Award in 2023. Kimberly has converted her home landscaping to almost all native plants and vegetable gardens, their house is solar-powered, and she has a 3,000-gallon rainwater harvesting system. When she is not working in her gardens or playing with her cats, she enjoys hiking, trail running, paddle boarding, and removing litter from the natural areas and the San Marcos River.



The Power of Partnership: Moving Beyond Theory to Actionable Sustainability

Tuesday, April 8th 8:30am – 9:30am, room 316



Lindsey Yazbek (University of Texas at Austin)

Lindsey Yazbek is the Green Labs Coordinator at the University of Texas at Austin where she has overseen the Green Labs program for the past five years. She has an educational background in geosciences and environmental studies with a focus on scientific research. Working under the

Environmental Health and Safety group, she has also gained experience as a laboratory safety specialist.



Brenna Knott (University of Texas Medical Branch)

Brenna Knott completed her Bachelor's in Biology at Missouri Western State University and Master's of Arts in Biomedical Sciences at Roosevelt University. She manages the research laboratories of President Jochen Reiser and VP of Innovations and Tech Development at the University of Texas Medical Branch. Brenna also does Marketing and Communications in the Office of Innovation and Commercialization, helping PI's take their products from bench to market. Brenna has been a My Green Lab Ambassador for 3 years and in Laboratory Management for 5 years.



Isabelle Bishop (University of North Texas)

Isabelle is a PhD candidate in the Philosophy and Religion department at UNT. Her dissertation explores ordinary life through the lens of the contemporary supermarket. She attends to how these food spaces reproduce and are produced by dominant orientations to food, family relations, and the environment. She is interested in exploring the role of food and food spaces in imagining, forging, and living out social and political alternatives in the midst of climate chaos. Her work is interdisciplinary, engaging with food studies, cultural criticism, and environmental philosophy. She currently works as the Graduate Assistant for the Diamond Eagle Student Resource Center at UNT.



Kenya Reeves (Texas A&M University)

Kenya Reeves, Sustainability Coordinator for Texas A&M University Department of Residence Life.

Addressing Food Insecurity: Partnerships, Resources, and Energy Solutions

Tuesday, April 8th 8:30am-9:30am, Room 315



Shaniaya Griffin

Shaniaya Griffin is a changemaker with a deep commitment to sustainability, food justice, and systemic change. With a Bachelor's in History and a minor in African American Studies from Texas Southern University and a Master's in Legal Studies from Texas A&M University, Shaniaya has always been driven by a need to understand and challenge the systems that perpetuate inequality. She has also received certificates in Energy, Oil and Gas Policy and Energy and Environmental Policy. She's a former AP Government to 12th-grade students, using her platform to inspire future leaders to think critically about policy, community, and the world around them. Shaniaya is also the founder of Nourish the Future Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to addressing food insecurity in marginalized communities through sustainable

and agro-renewable solutions. With her legal background and passion for reform, she's committed to integrating energy efficiency and food security to drive systemic change that serves the most vulnerable. A former Miss Houston, Miss Texas Plus America, and Miss Texas All World Beauties Plus, and current Miss All World Beauties Plus U.S. Shaniaya is using her pageant titles to raise awareness for social justice and food insecurity, showing that beauty and advocacy can go hand-in-hand. She's now working toward becoming an attorney, with aspirations in civil, corporate, or energy law, and plans to use her law degree to push for policy changes that support sustainability and equity.



Mashaal Atif, Keyla Bassett (UT Arlington)

Mashaal Atif is the Sustainability Program Manager for UT Arlington. She has been in this role for 2 years now and have worked on many programs to advance sustainability initiatives on campus. She holds a bachelors of Science degree in Biology from University of North Texas and worked in local government as an environmental planner before her current role.

Alexis Villarino (Texas A&M)

Alexis Villarino is a freshman architecture major at Texas A&M College Station. She is the VP of Education for the Aggie Eco Reps, the sustainability representatives for residence life. She is interested in sustainable and low-income housing and aims to provide resources for sustainable living on campus.



Innovative Waste Solutions: A Roadmap for Campus Change

Tuesday, April 8th 9:45am – 10:45am room 315



Dr. Ben Miele (University of the Incarnate Word)

Dr. Miele received his B.A. from Colorado College in Classics and English and his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in English literature. At the University of the Incarnate Word, he is Associate Professor of English, director of UIW's interdisciplinary program in Sustainability Studies, Chair of the university's Sustainability Advisory Board, faculty liaison for UIW's student environmental group UIW Sustain, and faculty supervisor for the UIW Community Gardens. He teaches and studies early modern British literature and culture, the environmental Humanities, surveillance studies, sustainability studies, environmental justice, and the circular economy. Dr. Miele has been awarded an EBSCO industries solar grant, a City of San Antonio Community Change Grant, and an E. Kika de la Garza Fellowship from USDA.



Sara Nichols (RRS)

Sara is a consultant at RRS, bringing more than 10 years of nonprofit leadership and materials management experience to the company. She has worked on state and federal solid waste contracts, has a background in community organizing and stakeholder engagement, and brings a solutions-oriented attitude to projects. Sara serves on SWANA's Sustainable Material Management Technical Division's Executive Committee and is actively involved in the Texas Chapter of SWANA.

Collaborative Conservation

Tuesday, April 8th 9:45am – 10:45am, room 316



Emma Parsley (Great Springs Project)

Emma Corinne Parsley is a sustainability professional, community liaison, and is the Community Engagement Manager for Great Springs Project. In her role she manages GSP's volunteer program and oversees all community engagement programs for GSP. Her expertise is based on the foundation of creating meaningful opportunities through place-based education and fostering stewardship. Her key focus is being the liaison between concept to reality and to individuals and their relationship to the great outdoors. With a background in environmental sustainability, research, and program development, Emma Parsley holds both of her degrees from Texas State University, a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering Technology and a Master of Science in Sustainability Studies. Before joining Great Springs Project, Parsley worked at Texas State University as the inaugural Sustainability Coordinator where she successfully enhanced the Office of Sustainability. During her tenure at Texas State University, Parsley oversaw and managed the development of 10 sustainability

initiatives & programs in which earned the university a Silver STARS rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). Parsley is a published author in the Journal of Sustainability Education for her research focusing on perception-based influence on sustainable development at institutions of higher education. She has over 5 years of experience in program development and being a community liaison. As a lifelong environmentalist, Parsley believes that everyone shares a role in environmental conservation and that everyone is intrinsically tied to the natural wonders that surround them.



Mikey Goralnik (Great Springs Project)

Mikey Goralnik is a planner and landscape architect at Great Springs Project (GSP). Based in Austin, he manages projects throughout GSP's four-county area to promote the vitality of the Edwards Aquifer, and strengthen communities through trails and active transportation. His prior experience includes both private and public sector landscape architecture and planning practice, including as a Senior Community Designer for rural Mariposa County (CA), where he oversaw community design and development initiatives. directing projects that synthesize economic development, ecological design, and public health in the face of a dynamic and unpredictable climate. He has a BA in American Studies from Tufts University, a MA in City and Regional Planning from UNC-Chapel Hill, and a MA in Landscape Architecture from North Carolina State University.



Mark Enders (City of San Marcos)

Mark currently serves as the Habitat Conservation Plan Manager for the City of San Marcos (CoSM). In this role, he manages endangered species habitat protection activities in the San Marcos River system on behalf of CoSM and Texas State University and associated with the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP). Prior to working for the CoSM, Mark worked with the City of New Braunfels, San Antonio Water System and in environmental consulting, all with an emphasis on watershed management and stormwater pollution prevention. Mark has approximately 20 years' experience working to protect water resources of Central Texas. Mark is a graduate of Texas State University and has lived in San Marcos for over 20 years. He enjoys kayaking, picking guitars and spending time with his two daughters, preferably along or in the Central TX river.

Strategies for Success: Driving Operational Efficiency Through Program Development and Data Integration

Tuesday, April 8th 9:45am-10:45am, Grand Ballroom



Anna Morton Rivera (University of Texas at San Antonio)

Anna Morton Rivera, P.E. BEMP, is the Executive Director of Energy and Sustainability at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), she leads efforts to elevate campus sustainability and innovate green building practices. Bridging engineering, data analytics, and policy, she drives interdisciplinary collaboration to deliver cost-effective, sustainable solutions.



Nicholas Tuttle (University of Texas at San Antonio)

Nicholas Tuttle is the Assistant Vice President of Design & Construction at UTSA, overseeing campus infrastructure with a focus on efficiency and quality. With extensive project management and construction expertise, he brings together academic, administrative, and external partners to drive innovative design solutions that enhance the campus environment and support academic excellence.



Steve Gazlay (McKinstry)

Steve Gazlay is a Senior Energy Services Account Executive at McKinstry, bringing 28 years of expertise in the building solutions and technology industry. Based in McKinstry's Austin office, Steve specializes in delivering innovative, high-impact solutions for higher education institutions and beyond. His extensive experience spans Direct Digital Control (DDC) systems, applied and unitary HVAC equipment, building and central plant optimization, and the seamless integration of building systems with business and user technologies. A recognized leader in open communication and technology platforms, Steve has a proven track record of driving energy efficiency and operational excellence.



Rebecca Ornelas (University of Texas at San Antonio)

Rebecca Ornelas has served as the program coordinator for the Office of Sustainability since March 2023. Her job responsibilities include managing the bike shop and supervising student workers who support the shop. She also manages the BeakCycle program, social media, Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) reporting and executing monthly engagement events. Rebecca also assists with current UTSA awarded grants: the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program and the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). Ms. Ornelas holds an Associate of Science degree from Dallas College, and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from UTSA.

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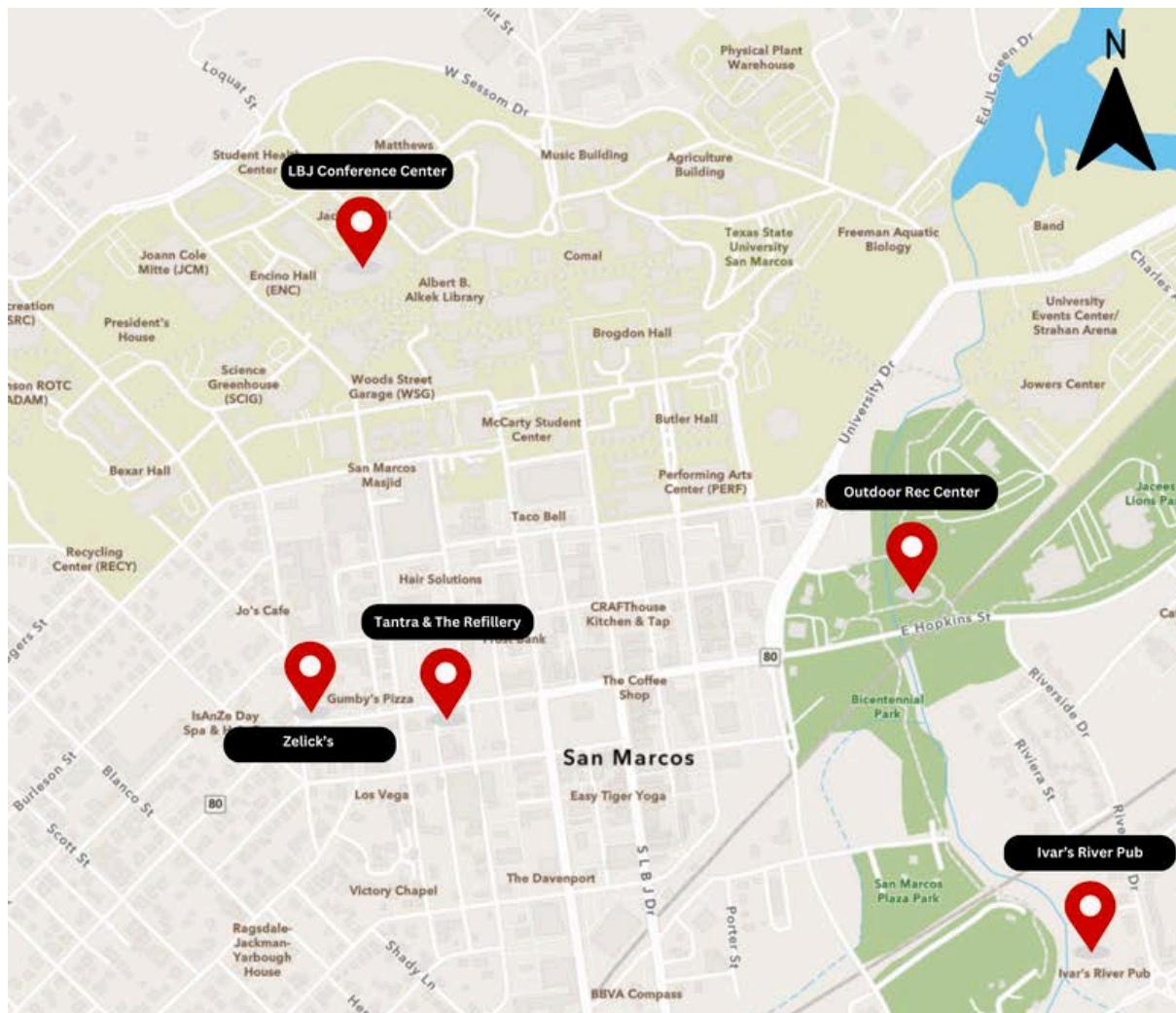
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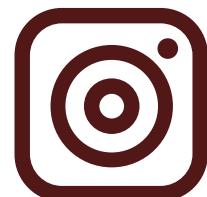
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