

2018 Undergraduate Research and Creative Inquiry Showcase award winners announced



(May 4, 2018) -- As San Antonio's multicultural discovery enterprise, UTSA recently held its largest show-and-tell event of the year. Organized by the [Office of Undergraduate Research \(OUR\)](#), the Undergraduate Research & Creative Inquiry Showcase highlights undergraduate student research and creative endeavors from all disciplines.

The Showcase gives many undergraduate students their first opportunity to share their research in an academic setting and explain their methodology and findings to peers and faculty.



Students have the opportunity to jump-start their academic curriculum vitae (CV), and network and learn from one another.

“The undergraduate research award winners exemplify the best in experiential learning, with guidance from their faculty mentors. We applaud the commitment and persistence of these students and their mentors in creating new knowledge, advancing the UTSA research enterprise and pursuing excellence in undergraduate scholarly achievement,” said **Thomas Coyle**, director of the UTSA Office of Undergraduate Research.

Mentorship is a key element in developing a research mindset and ensuring student success. This year, **Mark T. Leung** from the UTSA College of Business and **Pranav A. Bhounsule** of the UTSA College of Engineering were honored for the Faculty Mentor Award for Undergraduate Research.

STEM-focused participants are encouraged to submit their research posters to the upcoming [SACNAS conference](#) taking place in San Antonio October 11-13, 2018. All participating students should consider submitting their research as a journal article to [UTSA Journal of Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Works \(JURSW\)](#).

Award winners will be recognized at the OUR Undergraduate Research & Creative Inquiry Showcase Best-in-Show Awards ceremony at 3 p.m. on Friday, May 4.

The Best-in-Show awardees are:



College of Architecture, Construction and Planning (CACP)

Omar Aguirre

Multireligious Center

Faculty Mentor: **Neda Norouzi**

Desiree Igbo-Orere

Stephanie Jalomo

Designing A Modern Mental Health Facility in Texas

Faculty Mentor: **Neda Norouzi**

Andrea Poore

Christie Thompson-Pellicier

Architecturally Re-Designed healthcare

Faculty Mentor: **Neda Norouzi**

College of Business (COB)

Luis Atkinson

Carlos Cruzportillo

Nancy Hernandez

Jacontance Williams

Designing Effective Distribution Network for a New Product Line

Faculty Mentor: **Mark Leung**

Ivan Arreola

Improvements and Analysis for Gene Set Enrichment Analysis

Faculty Mentor: **David Han**

Erica Perez

Justin Pons

Managing Predictable Variability and Planned Promotion of Nintendo



Switch Supply Chain

Faculty Mentor: **Mark Leung**

College of Education and Human Development (COEHD)

Morgan Butler

Gabrielle Cortez

Joaquinita Johnson

Children Transitioning from Oral to Written Argumentation: Signaling Meaning through Punctuation in Writing: PART II

Faculty Mentor: **Rosalind Horowitz**

Christopher Terrazas

An Investigation of Middle School English Language Arts Classroom Libraries

Faculty Mentor: **Janis Harmon**

Ana Trevino

UTSA DACA Students and the Resources Provided to Them

Faculty Mentor: **Cassandra Allen**

College of Engineering (COE)

Drishya Dahal

Tic Tac Toe Playing Robotic Arm

Faculty Mentor: **Pranav Bhounsule**

Joseph Galloway

Gerardo Aaron Rios

Mechanics and Control of Pumping a Playground Swing and Robotic Implementation

Faculty Mentor: **Pranav Bhounsule**



Joel Gomez

Understanding the Uncertainty in Nature's Design of Trabecular Bone

Faculty Mentor: **Xiaodu Wang**

College of Liberal and Fine Arts (COLFA)

Emily Corley

Engagement-based single stimulus preference assessment

Faculty Mentor: **Bryant Silbaugh**

Mollianne Flood

Math and Music: A Study of Intonation

Faculty Mentor: **Kassandra Keeling**

Sydnee Garcia

Equal, Not Equitable: Bexar County Education

Faculty Mentor: **Sofia Bahena**

College of Public Policy (COPP)

Joshua Barrera

Sanctuary Cities in the United States

Faculty Mentor: **Megan Augustyn**

Ayesha Meghani

Amanda Mosley

Sexual Assault on College Campuses - A Comparative Case Study

Faculty Mentor: **Patricia Jaramillo**

College of Sciences (COS)

Joshua Anderson

Functional Analysis of Homologs of Intermediate Metabolism and



DNA uptake in Borrelia burgdorferi

Faculty Mentor: **Janakiram Seshu**

Arturo Galindo

Study of Self Ordered Nanoporous Anodic Aluminum Oxide Membranes by Annealing

Faculty Mentor: **Carlos Monton**

Javier Valencia

The Role of the Vacuolar type ATPase in the Pathophysiology of Borrelia Burgdorferi

Faculty Mentor: **Janakiram Seshu**

Honors College: College of Liberal and Fine Arts (COLFA)

Emma Copisarow

Effects of HEXECO & VARK on College Student Metacognition & Success Practices

Faculty Mentor: **Fred Previc**

Honors College: College of Liberal and Fine Arts (COLFA)

Raven Douglas

Before and After the "Texas Voter ID Law": How Did SB 14 (82 R Impact Voter Turnout Among Communities of Color During the 2014 Midterm Election?

Faculty Mentor: **Walter Wilson**

Honors College: College of Sciences (COS)

Stephen Hernandez

mTOR promotes BBB breakdown and regulates tight junction



proteins in an Alzheimer's disease mouse model

Faculty Mentor: **Veronica Galvan**, UT Health SA

- Sarah Hada

See the [photos from the 2018 Undergraduate Research & Creative Inquiry Showcase](#).

Learn more about the [UTSA Office of Undergraduate Research](#).

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