



# URBAN EDUCATION INSTITUTE

The University of Texas at San Antonio

*UEI News*

*May 2025*

*Issue 3*

With this issue of UEI News, we begin by empathizing with all researchers who have received the bad news of cancelled grants. This is a difficult time for all who care about science and the important role it has in helping to improve the lives of students, families, and citizens throughout our community. I want to encourage us all not to give up or relent. We need to continue to do our best work as we progress through these uncertain and difficult times.

UEI remains committed to community-based work, and to fostering partnerships with schools and non-profit agencies throughout Bexar County. As these partnerships deepen and opportunities arise, we hope to continue to extend research opportunities to members of the COEHD community. In the meantime, if you have an idea or project in mind, or just need help administering existing grants, please reach out to me directly. Now more than ever, we must continue to leverage science for the betterment of educational policies and practices!

Sharon L. Nichols, UEI Director

## UEI Mission

The Urban Education Institute provides equity-focused and impactful research, evaluation, and training in collaboration with community-based research-practice-policy partnerships on issues that inform and influence educational and workforce-related policies, experiences, and outcomes.

### Key Research Areas:

- Texas educational accountability
- Education-to-workforce pipeline
- Student development, motivation, and learning
- Teacher effectiveness and retention

### Things We Do:

- Provide mixed-methods expertise to empower evidence-based decision-making for San Antonio, the region, community partners, and researchers.
- Provide training opportunities to students, fostering the development of quantitative and qualitative methodological skills through applied research experiences.
- Provide administrative support to help researchers develop and implement sponsored project proposals.

### Why Engage With Us?

- To learn about the state-wide educational dataset available for researchers to study key research questions related to Pre-K-to-workforce pathways.
- To brainstorm ideas, co-design research/projects, and leverage UEI's expertise to enhance your research projects.
- To seek support for grant submissions and administration.

**Don't Know Where to Start? Just Ask!** [Sharon.nichols@utsa.edu](mailto:Sharon.nichols@utsa.edu)

## UEI Project Updates

### PROJECTS:

We are continuing our partnership with the City of San Antonio to evaluate its ambitious **Ready to Work** program. This program offers comprehensive job training that includes case management and employer engagement, helping San Antonio citizens climb the economic ladder. We have also formed a new partnership with **Celebrate Dyslexia** to explore educational pathways for students experiencing dyslexia. Additionally, we have partnered with **UP Partnership** to enhance the quality and scope of counseling services for students in San Antonio, promoting foundational knowledge, ambition, and pathways to success in both secondary and postsecondary education. Lastly, UEI has collaborated with faculty and researchers from three institutions—the University of Texas at El Paso, Texas Tech University, and E3 Alliance—to study access, equity, and the impact of Texas's **dual credit** program.

We are grateful for the generous funding from our supporters, including the City of San Antonio, Celebrate Dyslexia, UP Partnership, the University of Texas at Austin, and the Gates Foundation, which enable these research opportunities.

### COMMUNITY UPDATE:

We have had a follow-up meeting of our newly formed “Quant Group.” Spearheaded by Dr. Kevin Hirschi from the BBL department and co-chaired by Dr. Sofia Bahena from ELPS, the second gathering featured a practice presentation by Dr. Han Bum Lee, sparking a deep conversation about the effectiveness of attending charter high schools in Texas. If you’re interested in joining this group or would like more information, please contact Dr. Kevin Hirschi (Kevin.Hirschi@utsa.edu) or Dr. Sofia Bahena (Sofia.Bahena@utsa.edu).

## State, Local, and Other Research Opportunities

Today’s funding opportunity focuses on the Russell Sage Foundation.

Their support for social science research funding enhances methods, data, and theories to better document and understand the nation's most pressing social, political, and economic issues. They rarely support studies centered on educational processes or curricular issues; however, it does prioritize analyses of inequities in student achievement and educational attainment. Their funding priorities are listed below:

- Future of Work
- Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration
- Social, Political, and Economic Inequality
- Promoting Educational Attainment and Economic Mobility among Racially, Ethnically, and Economically Diverse Groups after the 2023 Supreme Court Decision to Ban Race-Conscious Admissions at Colleges and Universities
- Causal Research on the Criminal Justice System
- Immigration and Immigrant Integration
- Pipeline Grants Competition
- Behavioral Science and Decision Making in Context
- Dissertation Research Grants

RSF will accept letters of inquiry (LOIs) under the core programs for [Future of Work \(FOW\)](#) and [Social, Political and Economic Inequality \(SPEI\)](#). The foundation will also accept LOIs under its special initiatives on [Promoting Educational Attainment and Economic Mobility among Racially, Ethnically, and Economically Diverse Groups after the 2023 Supreme Court Decision to Ban Race-Conscious Admissions at Colleges and Universities \(SCD23\)](#).

Letter of Inquiry Deadline	Invited Proposal Deadline	Funding Decision	Grant Start Date (on/after)
July 16, 2025 (SPEI, FOW, SCD23)	Oct 27, 2025	Mar 2026	May 1, 2026
Oct 29, 2025 (BSDMC, REI, III)	Feb 18, 2026	Jun 2026	Sept 1, 2026

We check these websites daily for new research opportunities:

**State:**

- [Office of the Governor](#)
- [Texas.gov eGrants](#)
- [Texas Education Agency](#)
- [Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board](#)
- [San Antonio Area Foundation](#)
- [Charles Butt Foundation](#)
- [H.E. Butt Foundation](#)
- [The Meadows Foundation](#)
- [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#)
- [Russell Sage Foundation](#)
- [Texas 2036](#)
- [UP Partnership](#)
- [Communities in Schools](#)
- [The Center for Young Minds](#)

**City:**

- [City of San Antonio](#)

**Non-profit Foundations and Organizations:**

- [Greater Texas Foundation](#)

**UEI Team**

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 Jasmine Victor, Postdoctoral Research Fellow  
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**Current UEI Research Fellows:**

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