



GREATER TEXAS FOUNDATION

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**GREATER TEXAS FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES  
NEW CLASS OF GTF FELLOWS**

*Four Texas faculty receive fellowship for research related to student success*

BRYAN, TX – Greater Texas Foundation today announced the newest class of *Greater Texas Foundation Faculty Fellows (GTF Fellows)*, a three-year program to build research and teaching capacity of tenure-track faculty at Texas colleges working in areas related to student success.

The four new fellows will each receive up to \$30,000 per year for three years to support a research agenda aligned with the foundation’s mission to support postsecondary preparation, access, persistence, and completion for Texas students.

“Only one in five Texas students completes a college credential within six years of graduating from high school,” said Dr. Wynn Rosser, GTF President and CEO. “*GTF Fellows* is creating a network of highly talented and committed Texas researchers working to understand barriers for students and identify solutions to help more Texas students succeed at the postsecondary level.”

After being nominated through an invitation-only nomination process, the selected fellows were invited to participate in a competitive proposal process in which they were required to demonstrate significant potential in and commitment to a career in research and teaching at the postsecondary level. In addition, applicants were required to identify a mentor to assist them throughout the three-year fellowship. Each of the selected fellows’ institutions committed to a partial match for the program.

Four individuals were selected for the second class of fellows:

- **Dr. Rodney J. Andrews**, Assistant Professor of Economics and Director of the Texas Schools Project, The University of Texas at Dallas and NBER, (Mentor: Dr. Eric Hanushek, Paul and Jean Hanna Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University).
- **Dr. Melissa Y. Delgado**, Assistant Professor, School of Family and Consumer Sciences, Department of Family and Child Development, Texas State University (Mentor: Dr. Nancy Chavkin, Regents Professor, Texas State University);
- **Dr. Holly Hungerford-Kresser**, Associate Professor of English Education and Literacy Studies, College of Education and Health Professions, The University of



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Texas at Arlington (Mentor: Dr. Jeanne Gerlach, Dean, College of Education and Health Professions, The University of Texas at Arlington); and

- **Dr. Sarah Powell**, Assistant Professor, Department of Special Education, The University of Texas at Austin (Mentor: Dr. Sharon Vaughn, H.E. Hartfelder/Southland Corp Regents Chair and Executive Director, The Meadows Center for Preventing Educational Risk, The University of Texas at Austin).

“Education is an investment that pays dividends to the individual, the great state of Texas, and the United States of America,” said Andrews. “The resources provided by the Greater Texas Foundation will allow me to examine the efficacy of targeted recruitment programs that address the academic, social, and financial barriers that low income students face as they attempt to succeed in college. The Greater Texas Foundation Fellows program provides a platform to produce policy relevant research that addresses education in Texas and integrates it with a strong mentorship component that promotes the professional development of the next generation of scholars.”

“I see my experience as a GTF fellow as being beneficial in several important ways,” said Delgado. “In the short term, I will be able to carry out a research study that will not only give me the opportunity to demonstrate my research capacity as a principal investigator but also provide rich data for advancing the work in my field. In the long term, I will be able to further develop a research agenda to support my tenure and promotion process and my future endeavors obtaining a large-scale grant. Further, I will be afforded a mentor with key experiences that can provide the scaffolding for leading a successful project while being instrumental in my teaching. The benefits of the fellowship program will also extend to the institution itself, providing Texas State University an opportunity to demonstrate its level of support and commitment toward junior faculty research and career goals.”

“This fellowship will provide me a golden opportunity to serve my students, my department, my college, my university, and my community with one project,” said Hungerford-Kresser. “I am working on improving the English Education program at UTA, with the hopes this will help strengthen all of the programs in teacher education in our college. Better preparing teachers benefits the classrooms of students that our pre-service teachers will eventually lead. This is the benefit and the beauty of teacher education—its immediate and far-reaching impact.”

“I am a former teacher who realized I could positively impact many more students by conducting high-quality research. I am disheartened by the large number of students who experience mathematics difficulties and anxiety about mathematics,” said Powell. “Being a Greater Texas Foundation Faculty Fellow will enable me to work with postsecondary students with and without mathematics difficulties as I learn about the influence of algebra and fractions on postsecondary access, persistence, and success. This work relates to my long-term research and career goals related to understanding how difficulty with mathematics contributes to performance in elementary, secondary, and postsecondary



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settings. I hope my research leads to the development of mathematics interventions that increase the mathematics performance of disadvantaged students.”

Through participation in annual *GTF Fellows* summits over the course of the fellowship, fellows will have access to professional development opportunities and guidance related to their intended career trajectory.

The selection process for the third class of fellows will begin fall 2014.

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### **Greater Texas Foundation**

Greater Texas Foundation is a statewide education grantmaker, based in Bryan, Texas. The foundation’s mission is to support efforts to ensure all Texas students are prepared for, have access to, persist in, and complete a postsecondary education. GTF puts particular focus on helping underserved and disadvantaged populations. GTF pursues its mission by forming partnerships, supporting research, sharing knowledge, and making grants. From 2001 through 2013, the foundation’s grantmaking totaled nearly \$42 million from 495 grants.

For additional information about the *GTF Fellows* program and the fellows, visit [www.greatertexasfoundation.org](http://www.greatertexasfoundation.org) and click on the “GTF Fellows” tab.