

UNT SYSTEM™

HR HIGHLIGHTS

S E R V I N G . E M P O W E R I N G . T R A N S F O R M I N G .

UNT System HR Highlights is the Official Newsletter of UNT System.



FACULTY & STAFF

Spotlight

MARA JOSELI QUEIROZ VAUGHN, PH.D.

Spanish Program Coordinator
Languages, Linguistics, and Rhetoric
School of Liberal Arts and Sciences

University of North Texas at Dallas

Meet Dr. Mara Joseli Queiroz Vaughn. She immigrated to the United States from Brazil 30 years ago. Since 2013 she has created programs at UNT Dallas that provide students valuable hands-on experience that teaches citizenship, civics and languages. She is also the LULAC Dallas Educational Council #272 President and a USCIS citizenship ambassador. Click below to discover more about Dr. Mara Joseli Queiroz Vaughn's background and her work at UNT Dallas, and learn why "equity" is her personal motto.

[READ MORE](#)

If you'd like to nominate a faculty or staff member to spotlight, please email communications@untsystem.edu.

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

UNT System announces the "Think HUB First" initiative

Historically, we have done an excellent job utilizing Texas certified Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB). I want to reaffirm that it remains the commitment of each UNTS institution to continue forward working closely with HUB partners.

With the "Think HUB First" initiative, we are expanding our commitment to DE&I by enhancing our utilization of a more diverse supplier base through strategic business partnerships. This aligns with the inclusive UNT System culture, as we are steadfast in our commitment to excellence through a "Think HUB First" culture across the entire UNT System, similar to the success of UNT Dallas —consistently ranked the #1 Texas Institution of Higher Education (IHE) — significantly exceeding the state's HUB goals annually.

I have asked our Procurement Department to lead us in exploring new, innovative, and solution-oriented practices as we enhance our commitment to our diverse strategic business partners. For example, we will explore changes such as:

- Expedited payment processes to support cashflow needs typically more pressing for small businesses.
- Require quotes from 3 HUB vendors for all requirements between \$15K and \$25K; exceptions being approved by the HUB Coordinator.
- Require quotes from 1 HUB vendor for all requirements under \$15K; exceptions being approved by the HUB Coordinator.
- Use HUB as an element to be scored in the best-value evaluation and determination.
- The HUB Coordinator will designate procurement opportunities (of any potential dollar value) in which HUB utilization will have an outsized impact on the best-value determination.
- Establish HUB goals in solicitations commensurate with the diversity of suppliers in the North Texas region.
- Grant favorable scoring of proposals for local Texas vendors, particularly those within Dallas, Tarrant, Denton, and Collin counties.
- Review all other Procurement policies and regulations for HUB-friendliness.

By 2026, the UNT System will be a values-driven and customer-focused culture with an emphasis on excellence, curiosity, and innovation. The "Think HUB First" initiative reflects this vision, extending our values and commitment to fostering a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community to our strategic business partners. In addition, we will continue to explore and implement other innovative approaches that ensure UNTS continues to serve as a driving force for our regional economic ecosystem, becoming our state's gold standard for diversity in procurement.

Thank you for your continued partnership and collaboration in support of this important initiative.

Dr. Michael R. Williams
Chancellor

SPECIAL REMINDER



See you tomorrow at the baseball game

We hope you have your tickets ready to celebrate your Mean Green spirit at the Globe Life Field tomorrow, Friday, August 26 at 7 p.m. as the Texas Rangers take on the Detroit Tigers in Arlington at this UNT-hosted event. Select tickets purchased for the event will come with an exclusive co-branded Rangers/UNT baseball cap.

For ticket questions and/or an ADA seating accommodation, please contact Isaiah Yates at iyates@texastrangers.com or 817-533-1583.

Click this link to buy your tickets! [Last Chance for tomorrow night](#)

YOUR BENEFITS



Perks for UNT System Enterprise Employees

Being an employee of the UNT System means being part of a diverse and enriching community. Each campus has its own unique offerings for its employees, from cultural events to fitness facilities, sports, academic, and research presentation events. You can also enjoy discounts on merchandise, travel, event tickets, and more with [employee discount programs!](#)

UNT System Human Resources has numerous programs and tools available at no cost to assist you with health or well-being issues, work-life balance, financial issues and more. Explore your [UNT System benefits](#), and follow this space for tips, programs and promotions.



Choose from two free weight management plans as part of your health insurance

Weight management can be difficult and having support can make a big difference. Part of our health insurance benefits include free wellness resources – including [two weight management plans to choose from](#) – Wondr and Real Appeal. Wondr is ideal if you prefer to watch videos and fly solo and don't want to

give up favorite foods (but want to learn how to better manage how or when you enjoy them). Real Appeal is ideal if you do better with coaching, virtual group meetings, and chatting with other participants for support – and are willing to give up some of those favorite foods while on the program.



Get free help to stop smoking and break the habit

Tobacco Cessation – Most tobacco users have a hard time quitting. Nicotine is very addictive, which makes it hard to give it up. Our health insurance benefits include two free interactive six week programs to complete at your own pace, depending on where you are in your journey. If you are a current tobacco user wanting to quit, **Quitting Tobacco** is right for you. If you have recently stopped and need help keeping tobacco-free, **Staying Tobacco Free** is your best fit. They both qualify for the [ERS Choose to Quit program](#), however, approval is at your physician's discretion. For more information on the ERS Choose to Quit program, visit the [ERS website](#).

UNT SYSTEM HIGHLIGHTS



HSC welcomes Dr. Trent-Adams as sole finalist for president role

Sylvia Trent-Adams, the executive vice president and chief strategy officer at the UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth, has been named the finalist for HSC president, the UNT System Board of Regents announced last Friday, August 19. Dr. Trent-Adams will become the seventh president in the university's history and will succeed Dr. Michael R. Williams, who became chancellor of the UNT System on Jan. 1 and continued to serve as HSC's president during the search process. Under state law, university governing boards must name finalists for a presidency at least 21 days before making a permanent appointment. The Board of Regents is expected to finalize the selection the week of Sept. 12.

Learn more: [HSC Newsroom](#)



UNT welcomes Dr. Pam Trocki-Ables as the new ELEVAR Program Director

Dr. Trocki-Ables is a lifelong special educator and brings over 25 years of experience to the position. She has served as an Adapted Physical Educator, Instructional Specialist, Autism Program Coordinator, Special Education Consultant, and has been adjunct faculty at both Texas Woman's University and the University of North Texas. Prior to joining [UNT ELEVAR](#), Dr. Trocki-Ables served as the Director of Clinical Practice in the College of Education at UNT. Launched last year, the program is a four-year, fully inclusive, post-secondary education program for students with intellectual disabilities.

UNT ELEVAR: [Introduction Tweet](#)



UNT Mathematics welcomes Dr. Harrison Gaebler

The [UNT College of Science](#) welcomes [Dr. Harrison Gaebler](#) to the [Mathematics Department](#) as a new faculty member this semester. Dr. Gaebler will be teaching an honors calculus course designed to introduce students to limits, derivatives, and integrals. For the past year, he's been working as a postdoc at the University of Oklahoma, but we're excited that he's returning to Texas for his new position at UNT.

Learn more: [College of Science News](#)

UNT SYSTEM CONGRATULATIONS



UNT researchers get \$1.4M grant for medicine to be delivered in plant seeds

This first-of-its-kind study from the researchers at UNT's [BioDiscovery Institute](#) and lead researcher and assistant professor of chemistry in the UNT [College of Science](#), [Dr. Elizabeth Skellam](#), will investigate new ways to make useful products from fungi. It could lead to medicines delivered via plant seeds – without downstream processing. The funding comes from the first [W. M. Keck Foundation](#) grant in UNT's history. It could make these pharmaceuticals more accessible and better for the environment, literally seeding sustainable medicine.

Learn more: [Research News](#)



UNT Dallas College of Law's Nicole Williams earn a 2022 Texas Legal Award

Publishers of the [Texas Lawyer](#) honored attorneys and judges from across the state with [Texas Legal Awards](#) in recognition of their meaningful work and achievements in the legal profession. Winners will be honored on September 14 at the Dallas Arts District Mansion. [Nicole Williams](#) is one of 12 attorneys receiving the Best Mentors Award. Williams has instructed and mentored law students through her Trial Process, Courtroom Advocacy Skills, and Effective Oral Communications courses, and her role as head coach of the law school's Advocacy Teams led UNT Dallas to its first moot court championship at the National Criminal Procedure Competition. She is also a Managing Partner at the Dallas law office of [Thompson Coburn](#).

Learn more: [News & Events](#)

REMINDER UPDATES



Your Blue Access for MembersSM account is getting a website refresh

When you log in beginning September 1, you may notice things look a bit different. The new, simplified design will make it even easier to find the benefits and claims information you need.

As a reminder, Blue Access for Members is your Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) secure online participant portal where you can:



- View your claims and explanation of benefits (EOB)
- Find in-network doctors, hospitals or other providers
- Select or change your primary care provider
- Compare costs for procedures from different providers
- Shop for cost-effective providers and earn HealthSelectShoppERSSM rewards
- Download a temporary medical ID card *and*
- Confirm your prior authorizations and referrals on file.



BlueCross[®]
BlueShield[®]

You and your covered dependents age 18 and over can create a Blue Access for Members account. To register, visit HealthSelectOfTexas.com click on "Log In" in the upper right corner and follow the online instructions. **You will need the information on your BCBSTX medical ID card to register.**

To download the BCBSTX App and put your benefits' information at your fingertips 24/7, text *BCBSTXAPP to 33633.

WELL-BEING CALENDAR

Upcoming well-being opportunities from UNT System. Visit our [website](#)

Motivating Change in Others

Organized by ComPsych EAP

[Wednesday, August 31, 2022. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM \(CDT\)](#)

Fitting Fitness into Your Workday

Organized by BlueCross BlueShield of Texas

[Tuesday, September 13, 2022. 10:00 AM - 10:15 AM \(CDT\)](#)

Fitness for Self Care

Organized by BlueCross BlueShield of Texas

[Tuesday, October 11, 2022. 10:00 AM - 10:15 AM \(CDT\)](#)

Keep Moving Through the Holidays

Organized by BlueCross BlueShield of Texas

[Tuesday, November 8, 2022. 10:00 AM - 10:15 AM \(CST\)](#)

CAMPUS NEWS

[Click our member institutions' logos for the latest news](#)



If you have an HR question or topic you'd like covered in the newsletter, please email HR@untsystem.edu.



Miss an issue of HR Highlights? [CLICK HERE](#) to catch up.