

HR HIGHLIGHTS

SERVING. EMPOWERING. TRANSFORMING.



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



FACULTY & STAFF

Spotlight

AARON BARTULA, PH.D.

Associate Professor and Program Coordinator
Department of Criminal Justice and Sociology
University of North Texas at Dallas

Many people have a stake in the success of UNT Dallas and associate professor [Aaron Bartula](#) ranks near the top of the list of most-involved faculty. He teaches in the Department of Criminal Justice/Sociology and over his nine years on the southern Dallas campus he's -- get this -- served as a program coordinator, interim assistant dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, director of Holistic Enrollment, faculty athletic representative (he was key in starting UNT Dallas' intercollegiate athletics program) and Faculty Senate President. Don't discount his work to get UNT Dallas' Esports program launched. Married to UNT System Associate General Counsel Lindsey Bartula, Aaron is a father of two little ones, yet with all that he still finds time to keep his mind and body right. Now, there is one thing about Aaron you might know, and we're not clowning around about this. Click below and get to know Dr. Bartula.

[READ MORE](#)

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

This Just In! News, Notes & Resources



Home cooking delivered to your door >>

Benefits available to UNT World faculty & staff

Last week, UNT professor and nutrition expert Brian McFarlin provided [advice on how to eat healthier and smarter](#) in the new year. One suggestion for planning nutritional and tasty family dinners on a busy schedule was to try a meal delivery service, and before too long you'll have a lengthy list of dinner ideas that you can prepare on your own. Your UNT World benefits get you started with discounts on a variety of prepared-food brands. Just go to our HR [Perks](#) web page, click on PerkSpot and log in or create an account. Once in, search "Chef" and explore your options. Find your match and start receiving customized prepared meals and rack up those recipes. Your family will thank you.



HIGH FIVE: UNT makes popular choice for next Vice President for Research and Innovation

Dean of the College of Science [Pamela Padilla](#) has been [selected to serve as vice president of research and innovation](#), succeeding Mark McLellan upon his retirement on June 5. A professor of biological sciences, she joined UNT in 2002, worked as associate vice president for research and graduate studies in the College of Science and was permanently appointed UNT's associate vice president for research and innovation in October 2019. Padilla's research, which has been continually supported by either the National Institutes of Health or the National Science Foundation, focuses on how environmental and dietary stress affects living organisms at the cellular, genetic and molecular levels as a means to model human health issues such as ischemia and diabetes. In announcing her appointment, [UNT President Neal Smatresk praised her research](#) that has helped elevate UNT as a Tier One research university.



HIGH FIVE: For third year in a row, UNT computer science and engineering prof named to Dallas 500

[Ram Dantu](#), UNT Department of Computer Science and Engineering professor, has done it again. For a third consecutive year, Dantu, a leader in cybersecurity and the founding director of the [Network Security Laboratory](#), at UNT, was [named to DCEO's Dallas 500 list](#). The DCEO [Dallas 500](#) recognizes the top 500 influential business leaders from 60 categories in North Texas who help to advance the Dallas-Fort Worth economy. This past year, Dantu, who also serves as the director of the [Center for Information and Cyber Security](#), along with other faculty within the department, [received a \\$750,000 grant from the National Security Agency](#) to help solve cybersecurity threats against private companies and government entities. The team was one of only six institutions selected for the award. The year prior, the department launched new bachelor's and master's programs in cybersecurity to help with the nation's growing demand for skilled cybersecurity professionals.



HR UPDATE

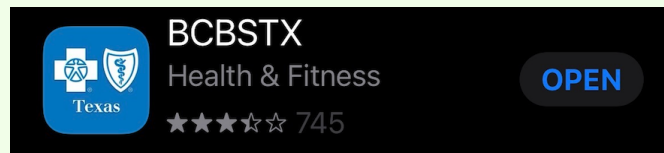
UNT System Human Resources has numerous programs and tools available at no cost to assist you with health or well-being issues, work-life balance, financial issues and more. Explore your [UNT System benefits](#), and follow this space weekly for tips, programs and promotions.

>> **UPDATED COVID GUIDELINES:** The pandemic is as fluid as ever and each institution has recently updated guidelines, including changes for isolation periods and more. Please review your campus' guidelines:

[UNT SYSTEM](#) | [UNT](#) | [UNT Dallas](#) | [UNT Health Science Center](#)

>> **LET'S GET PHYSICAL, TAKE THE CHALLENGE:** Join the UNT System team and start an active year by taking the Get Fit Texas challenge through March 21. The challenge: be physically active for 150 minutes per week for at least six of the next 10 weeks. We compete against other Texas agencies to claim the title of *Fittest State Agency*. [Register now](#) and begin logging your activity. The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) will track the percentage of completion of each state agency and recognize agencies in each size group with the highest completion rate.

>> **TRACK YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE WITH THE APP:** When you've got the Blue Cross Blue Shield app (BCBSTX), you can -- anytime, anywhere on your mobile device -- access your member ID card, get information about your medical and prescription plans, find in-network doctors and hospitals, check the status of a claim and more.



ON THE AIR: Stay plugged in, subscribe to UNT System's double podcasts – *We Are North Texas* & *The Deep Side of Dallas*

UNT System Chief Communications Officer Paul Corliss is the voice of UNT System as host of two podcast offerings: [The Deep Side of Dallas](#), a collaboration between UNT System and *The Dallas Morning News* that dives into local news and issues, and explores the past, present and future of Dallas and North Texas; and [We Are North Texas](#) focusing on the leaders and innovators of UNT World and the accomplishments that drive our region. Get both on Apple podcasts, Spotify or wherever you get your podcasts.



 **Save The Date.** UNT World Well-Being Calendar.

Upcoming well-being opportunities from UNT World HR.

Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#); Visit our [website](#)

We Are North Texas. 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.