



Taylor Eighmy, Ph.D.
President of The University of Texas at San Antonio

Taylor Eighmy is the 6th president of The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA). In addition to serving as university president, Eighmy holds faculty appointments in the Margie and Bill Klesse College of Engineering and Integrated Design's department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and the College of Sciences' department of Environmental Science and Ecology.

Eighmy is passionate about the critical role that research universities play in creating and applying knowledge to improve the world. He believes deeply in higher education as a great equalizer, especially when grounded in student success. Once more, he is a vigorous advocate for experiential learning—including undergraduate research—as foundational to such success.

Since arriving at UTSA, Eighmy has made great strides toward linking educational attainment to San Antonio's economic development. Under his leadership, UTSA is producing more graduates than ever before, driving job creation and the city's growing knowledge economy. He is nationally recognized for advancing top research universities through strategic government-university-industry collaborations, public-private partnerships and community engagement. These principles are at the heart of his conviction that UTSA is "the university of the future in the city of the future."

Prior to arriving at UTSA in September 2017, Eighmy served as the chief research officer at three top public flagship universities: the University of New Hampshire, Texas Tech University and, most recently, at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. While at the University of Tennessee, Eighmy and colleagues at Oak Ridge National Laboratory directed efforts that resulted in the University of Tennessee's selection to lead the Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation, a \$259 million public-private partnership supported by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Eighmy currently serves on the boards of the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU) Executive Committee, APLU Coalition of Urban Serving Universities, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, Greater: SATX Board Executive Committee, Texas International Education Consortium, Tech Bloc San Antonio, Texas Biomedical Research Institute, San Antonio Medical Foundation, World Affairs Council of San Antonio, Conference USA, and UP Partnership.

Eighmy is also a member of the President's Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration, the Alliance of Hispanic Serving Research Universities, the Council of Public University Presidents and Chancellors, the Council on Competitiveness President's Council, an Advisory Trustee of the Southwest Research Institute, the APLU Commission on International Initiatives, the Advisory Council for the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County, and serves on the Council of the National Academies' Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable (GUIRR).

Eighmy received a PhD in Environmental Engineering from the University of New Hampshire, a MS in Civil Engineering from the University of Hampshire, and a BS in Biology from Tufts University.



Peggy Eighmy
First Lady of The University of Texas at San Antonio

Peggy is a first-generation Irish American and a first-generation college student. A native of Cambridge, Massachusetts, she is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Past professional roles include President of the University of New Hampshire Foundation, Director of the Massachusetts Attorney General's Consumer Information Service, Manager of Government Relations for Comcast in Boston, Massachusetts, and Program Director for Court Appointed Special Advocates of East Tennessee.

Peggy serves on the Executive Committee of the Bexar County Fostering Educational Success Pilot Project. She is a tri-chairperson for Senator Jose Menendez's Blue-Ribbon Task Force on Child Abuse Prevention and the Child Welfare/Foster Care Workgroup of the South Texas Trauma-Informed Care Consortium. Peggy's board and advisory service includes Texas CASA, the Najim Charitable Foundation, ChildSafe, the UTSA Veteran & Military Affairs Advisory Board, the UTSA Libraries Advisory Council, the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County's Ready Children Impact Council, and the NXT Level Youth Reengagement Center Advisory Council.

Peggy and her husband Dr. Taylor Eighmy have one daughter, Hannah, a pediatric nurse at Boston Children's Hospital, and are the proudest of grandparents to Maeve Elizabeth.

In 2019, Mrs. Eighmy successfully sought funding from the Texas Legislature, the first legislative body in the United States to appropriate public funding to improve educational outcomes for students with a history of foster care. Led by UTSA, The Bexar County Fostering Educational Success Pilot Project ("Pilot Project") works to improve college enrollment, retention, and graduation rates for students with a history of foster care, and to increase the number of children in foster care who are college aware, expect to attend college, and are emotionally and academically ready to do so.

For the first time, partners across child welfare, the Children's Court, K-12 school systems, and the two-and-four-year public higher education institutions are working together to increase the number of foster alumni who graduate college. Recognizing its success, the Pilot Project continues to receive funding from the Texas Legislature (\$7M to date.)

The Pilot Project has served 730 foster youth and alumni, including 500 college students with a history of foster care who receive comprehensive services from campus-based support programs established at UTSA, Texas A&M University-San Antonio, and the Alamo College District, and 230 middle and high school students still in foster care who receive pre-college programming, wrap-around services and peer mentoring through the College Bound Docket and the CLIMB Program, a novel pre-college curriculum.



David R. Silva, Ph.D.
Dean of the College of Sciences
Distinguished Professor of Physics & Astronomy

David R. Silva (PhD, Astronomy, U. Michigan, 1991) is Dean of the College of Sciences (COS) and Distinguished Professor of Physics & Astronomy at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA). Before joining UTSA, Dr. Silva was Director for 10 years of the National Science Foundation's National Optical Astronomy Observatory (NOAO), the U.S. national observatory for night-time optical-infrared astronomy. Previously, he held positions with the Thirty Meter Telescope Project (Pasadena/CA), the European Southern Observatory (Garching bei München/Germany), and Kitt Peak National Observatory (Tucson/AZ).

Over the course of his career, he has been a leader in the design, development, and operation of astronomical observatories, telescopes, focal-plane instruments, and data systems for the American, European, and South American research communities. Dr. Silva has served on various international governance and review boards as well as held positions in the American Astronomical Society and the International Astronomical Union. His research interests lie in the general area of stars and stellar systems, especially as tracers for how galaxies formed and evolved over the last 13 billion years.

Dr. Silva grew up near Albany, NY but has lived most of his adult life in the border lands of Arizona, California, and Texas, a rich mélange of Anglo, Mexican, and East Asian cultures. He has extensive international working and living experience, most notably nine years in Germany and many extended periods in Chile.



Dhireesha Kudithipudi, Ph.D.
Director of the MATRIX AI Consortium for Human Well-Being
Distinguished Professor in Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Robert F. McDermott Chair in Engineering

In Fall 2019, Dhireesha started as a Robert F McDermott Endowed Chair in Engineering and professor with joint appointment in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Department of Computer Science at the University of Texas at San Antonio. She is also the founding Director of the MATRIX AI Consortium for Human Well-Being. Before that, she has enjoyed 13 years working at Rochester Institute of Technology as a Professor in the Department of Computer Engineering, Graduate Program Chair, and founding director of the Center for Human-Aware AI (CHAI).

Dhireesha received her Ph.D. from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Texas at San Antonio. She is interested in designing the next-generation AI systems that can solve problems similar to humans in the most energy efficient way. Her team has been paving a path for bio-inspired AI systems and accelerators over the past decade. Her current research interests are in neuromorphic computing, brain-inspired algorithms, novel computing substrates (eg: memristors), energy efficient machine intelligence, and AI accelerators. She leads large multi-million-dollar research programs in AI, that are supported by AFRL, NSF, DARPA, industries and foundations. She is invited panelist at multiple DOD, DOE, & AFOSR roundtables on topics related to Neuromorphic Computing.

She is an advocate for advancing AI systems R&D, where she has previously worked with NY state policymakers on AI, Bipartisan policy for AI R&D investment, and was an invited speaker in Capitol Hill roundtable discussions about the impact of AI on workforce. She also consults for startup firms in AI.

Dhireesha is passionate about diversifying the AI pipeline, where she has held outreach for young women and underrepresented students. led the Google CS4HS workshop for 3 years, where Google education outreach recognized it as an exemplary site. She is currently leading the AMD WIT Foundation sponsored Project Lovelace: Advancing women in AI career pathways. For her broader efforts in the community, she has been recognized as the Rochester Technology women of the Year in 2018 and Clare Boothe Luce Fellowship for Women in HigherEd.



Saugata Datta, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor of Hydrogeology
Chair in the department of Earth and Planetary Sciences

Dr. Saugata Datta is currently Hammond Distinguished Professor of Hydrogeology and Chair in the department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Dr Datta is also the founding director of the Institute of Water Research Sustainability and Policy @ UTSA. He received his B.S. in Geological Sciences from Presidency College and M.S. in Geology from University of Calcutta in India. He earned his second MS in Geological Sciences and Geological Engineering from Queens University in Canada, and PhD in Earth Sciences from University of Western Ontario in Canada in 2001. After his postdoctoral research as Columbia Earth Institute (LDEO) and Mellon Scholar at Columbia University (2001-2004), he served many academic positions at various levels such as Associate Professor at University of Calcutta (2005-2006), Assistant Professor at Georgia College and State University (2004-2008), Assistant-Associate-Full Professor at Kansas State University (2009-2019), Halbouty Visiting Chair Professor at Texas A&M University (2017-2018), before joining UTSA as Professor (2019-present) and currently as department chair (2020-present). He is recipient of several prestigious awards including Geological Society of America Fellow (2022), GSA Geology and Health Division Meritorious Service Award (2022), Faculty Research Award (2006, Georgia College and State University), Asiatic Society of India Medal (2006), Award for Excellence in Teaching (2000, UWO), Robert and Ruth Lumsden Fellowship in Science (2000, UWO), Arcangelo Rea Family Foundation Graduate Scholarship (1998, UWO), International Graduate Student Scholarship (1997, UWO), Queen's Graduate Award (1996), First Class First Award (1996, U Calcutta), N.N. Chatterjee Memorial Grant (1995, U Calcutta). Dr. Datta's research focuses on issues of water resources, water availability, and understanding the cycling of different nutrients, metals and organic compounds in our groundwaters, surface waters, soils, and sediments, as well as how land use pattern and climate changes affect the distribution of such nutrients and pollutants in our environments. His research projects have links to health impact assessments, targeting both human and ecosystem health. His research is supported by competitive research grants (total \$3.5M) by major federal agencies like NSF, NASA, DOE, BLM and NPS, as well as regional agencies like Edwards Aquifer Authority in south Texas. He has published 67+ peer-reviewed articles and received 3,944 citations with h-index of 33. He has also delivered over 45 invited presentations at major conferences and institutions in US, Mexico, Central America, India, and Europe. He and his students have presented over 300+ conference presentations and posters, convened several topical sessions in Geological Society of America and Goldschmidt and AGU conferences. Dr. Datta's outreach activities include 29 national and television media science dispositions. He has taught more than ~10 different courses in the areas of aqueous geochemistry, biogeochemistry, water resources, physical hydrology, hydrogeology, ecotoxicology, soil and environmental quality at various institutes he served at. He has mentored 6 postdocs, 5 PhD students, 25 MS students, 22 undergraduates. Dr. Datta's contribution in research, teaching and advising covered a wide range of geographic settings (Asia, S. and N. America and Africa), fostered collaborations, and promoted diversity and inclusion in earth and planetary sciences research in terms of first generation, Hispanic and POC students being the first authors, in research labs. Dr. Datta has been active member of many professional societies including Geological Society of America (1999-present), GSA Geology and Health Division (2009-present), American Geophysical Union-Biogeosciences (2002-present), Geochemical Society (1999-present), Geological, Mining and Metallurgical Society of India (2006-present), US Environmental Protection Agency – Particulate Matter Research Committee (2008), Brookhaven National Laboratories Consortium (2008-present), Geological Society of India (2005-present) and Sigma Xi Scientific Honor Society (2015-present).



Stanton McHardy, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Chemistry and Director of The Center for Innovative Drug Discovery

Dr. Stan McHardy is the Director of the Center for Innovative Drug Discovery and Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry. After receiving his Ph.D. in organic chemistry at the University of Utah in 1996, Stan served as a Pfizer Post-Doctoral Research Fellow. Dr. McHardy has over 26 years' experience in the pharmaceutical R&D and academic areas of drug discovery, including >16 years of pharmaceutical industry experience from Pfizer Global Research and Development and Southwest Research Institute.

Since 2012, Dr. McHardy has served as the Director of The Center for Innovative Drug Discovery. The Center for Innovative Drug Discovery (CIDD), a joint venture between The University of Texas at San Antonio and UT Health San Antonio, is composed of four core facilities: a High-Throughput Screening Facility (HTSF) and Computer-Aided Drug Discovery Core Facility (CADD) located at UT Health San Antonio, and a Medicinal Chemistry Core Facility (MCFF) and a Pre-Clinical Pharmacology Core Facility (PCPC) at UTSA. His mission is to catalyze multi-disciplinary collaborations with investigators by providing high-quality, industry-level services and expertise related to small molecule drug discovery and pre-clinical development. The ultimate intent of the CIDD is to provide a diverse array of core facilities and expertise to facilitate the translation of basic scientific discoveries into tangible pre-clinical candidate drugs that can be further developed into clinical therapies for human disease.

While at UTSA, Dr. McHardy has established a state-recognized drug discovery research center and core medicinal chemistry/drug discovery facility on the campus of UTSA and developed state and national research collaborations with both academic and private industry partners, securing > \$22M in collaborative extramural funding to date. Currently, the private, state and federally funded collaborative research programs in Dr. McHardy's CIDD labs are focused on various small molecule drug discovery approaches to cancer, psychotherapeutic and neurodegenerative diseases, non-opioid pain and infectious diseases. Dr. McHardy has >50 peer reviewed publications in the area of synthesis, medicinal chemistry and drug discovery and is inventor or co-inventor on 34 patents. .



John D. Murphy Jr., Ph.D.
Associate Vice Provost for Global Initiatives
Executive Director, UTSA Global Study Center – Italy

Dr. John Murphy, is an educator, academic administrator, construction science researcher, and advocate for the built environment. He currently is a Full Professor of architecture and construction science, as well as being the Executive Director of the Global Study Center Italy. Prior to joining UTSA, he spent 9 years as the Head of School of Building Science at Auburn University, before a short stint as the Director of International Education as well. Previous academic experience also includes 8 years at Colorado State University and 2 years at Texas A&M University's College of Architecture. His research in the past has focused on legal issues in construction management, estimating and costing, and indoor air quality. For more detailed information on his scholarship and grant writing success, please see his CV.

John has earned a Bachelor of Science in Building Construction, Master of Science in Construction Management, and a Ph.D. in Architecture from Texas A&M University. His industry experience includes approximately 9 years in the construction industry focusing in large part on pre-construction, estimating, and contract administration/construction management. He is an Associate Member AIA, LEED Accredited Professional, a Certified Professional Constructor, and is an inactive Certified Asbestos Management Planner.



Carelli De la Garza Torres, MS
Senior Program Manager, Global Engagement

Ms. Carelli De la Garza is the Senior Program Manager of the Office of Global Initiatives. In this position, Carelli leads the Global Engagement team that specializes in global relations, international agreements, engagement events, communications, and managing strategic programs.

Carelli has been working for more than 8 years in distinct roles within the university. Before being promoted as the team lead of Global Engagement, Carelli administered a federal grant that provided UTSA students a global experiential learning opportunity at home and helped establish the San Antonio Language Academy.

From 2019-2020 Carelli was a partnership specialist and analyst for the U.S. Census Bureau. In that role, she designed engagement strategies to eliminate enumeration barriers in support of the decennial census in San Antonio. In addition to her primary functions, Carelli served as the CRM and CEM lead analyst for Central Texas. Her team was nationally recognized for providing the cleanest and most organized data as well as exceeding the goal of self-response in the Central Texas Region.

In her previous position, at UTSA, Carelli was the Senior Global Relations Advisor; her role was dedicated to helping to raise the profile of the university globally, being a resource for faculty interested in developing international initiatives, and managing the university's international agreements and special programs. Noteworthy are her contributions to the development of the Research Immersion Program, a summer experience for undergraduate students from international partner institutions.

Her working experience includes being a Coordinator for UTSA International Programs, an Academic Tutor for UTSA Athletics, a co-founder and Advisor for Mexicanos en UTSA, and a Research Associate at the Institute for Economic Development, where she coauthored reports on economic impact in the Eagle Ford Shale Region and its extension to Mexico.

Carelli holds a Bachelor's in Marketing with a concentration in International Management, and a Master of Science in Management of Technology from the University of Texas at San Antonio.