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The CPI is sponsored annually through funding from Texas A&M University, Texas A&M AgriLife, Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station, and the Texas A&M Transportation Institute.
Update from Dr. Debjyoti Banerjee, 2022-2023 CPI Chair

April CPI News – The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with administrators on Wednesday, April 5, 2023. The CPI-EC received updates from each of the agency and unit administrative leaders and then went into a closed planning session. CPI-EC then convened in an executive session and met with President Banks on April 5th.

I invite you to contact me, Dr. Jessica Bernard, 2022-2023 CPI Vice Chair at cpi@tamu.edu or Rebecca Luckey, rluckey@tamu.edu, for more information or to suggest agenda items for CPI’s monthly meetings. The CPI Executive Committee continues to meet with the president, interim provost and chancellor on a regular basis.

CPI Contacts—The complete 2022-2023 roster of CPI Representatives and the CPI Executive Committee can be found on the CPI website at https://cpi.tamu.edu/membership. Previous membership lists can be found in the council archive.

For more information on CPI, to suggest agenda items for CPI’s monthly meetings, or contact any of the officers, please email cpi@tamu.edu or Rebecca Luckey, rluckey@tamu.edu, our CPI Coordinator.

Faculty Winners of $600,000 Joint PRISE Research Grants for 2023

We are pleased to inform you that Texas A&M University has announced the recipients of the 2023 Panther Research & Innovation for Scholarly Excellence (PRISE) research grants. PRISE is a collaboration between Texas A&M Prairie View University and Texas A&M University to establish productive research and scholarly collaborations to better position themselves to pursue multidisciplinary research and innovation projects. $600,000 was awarded to 15 teams of PVAMU-Texas A&M faculty investigators who belong to the third cohort under the 2023 Panther Research and Innovation for Scholarly Excellence (PRISE) grant program.

We would also like to thank the faculty members who applied for the PRISE program this year. We received a large number of high-quality proposals, and the selection process was highly competitive.

The full announcement can be found at the following link: https://vpr.tamu.edu/memos/pvamu-texas-am-announce-faculty-winners-of-600000-joint-prise-research-grants-for-2023/

Texas A&M Research Enterprise Strategic Plan

The process of developing a research enterprise strategic plan for the Texas A&M University research enterprise started during the summer of 2021. We engaged the Mays Business School as we conducted surveys, town halls, and listening-and-feedback sessions. Many within the research enterprise have shared their perceptions of the strengths, opportunities, aspirations, and results possible with the engagement of all stakeholders.

It is critical that you review and provide your feedback on how well this document provides:

- clarity of the mission of the Division of Research, and the research enterprise
- understanding of the strategic planning process that included stakeholders’ input and feedback.
- identification of the cultural changes required to create and sustain an environment conducive to innovation and creativity.
• the value of a strategic thought process in alignment of tasks/activities in order to advance the research mission for the public good.

Advancing the research enterprise requires each of us making individual contributions towards something greater than ourselves. Please visit this Division of Research website link to access the draft document (behind SSO), and provide your comments through the feedback form, the Qualtrics feedback survey, or via email to vpr@tamu.edu by May 5, 2023.

Texas A&M Transportation Institutes Updates

Report from Dr. Dennis Perkinson, TTI CPI Representative:

1. TTI is working closely with the Texas A&M University System to establish an Electrified Mobility Collaborative that would allow the A&M System to more effectively pursue opportunities for collaboration and research growth in this area and to take advantage of the numerous emerging federal and other funding opportunities. This initiative is being kicked off with an Electrified Mobility Collaborative Workshop, hosted at the TTI Headquarters April 11 and 12. All member universities and state agencies have been invited to participate. The agenda includes a panel of experts from both the public sector and academia, networking opportunities, a showcase of ongoing initiatives and research interests, and interactive, facilitated brainstorming of opportunities and next steps.

2. TxDOT and TTI have been selected for a $1.9 million federal grant to develop a next-generation intersection feature that promises to improve safety for at-risk road users. The Smarter Intersections Project builds upon prior research by the two agencies that involves communications technology to alert pedestrians and bicyclists to buses making turns. The newly funded effort will use cellular signals transmitted from transit buses and emergency vehicles to hardware installed at intersections. Auditory and visual alerts about approaching or turning vehicles will provide an added layer of warning for vulnerable road users—bicyclists, pedestrians, skateboarders, scooter riders, individuals using wheelchairs and mobility devices, and those who are blind or visually impaired. Local partners in this project include the City of College Station, Brazos Transit District and Texas A&M Transportation Services. Beep, an automated shuttle service company, is also a partner. The project illustrates the benefits of using the Texas A&M-RELLIS Campus to pilot test concepts and move successful applications into the local community to improve the safety of all road users.

3. TTI researchers hosted a luncheon meeting for faculty from the Texas A&M University Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning (LAUP) on March 24. TTI has a strong long-standing relationship with LAUP, with some researchers serving as executive professors and faculty and graduate students participating in research projects. The meeting included a tour of Texas A&M-RELLIS, including the new off-road test tracks, and a discussion of current research projects and future research opportunities.
Contracts and Negotiation Taskforce Committee

Report from the CPI Representative Rafael Lara-Alecio

The Contract and Negotiation Taskforce continues meeting on a regular basis. As a reminder, the Taskforce has 16 members from the following 14 areas: HSC, Galveston, Law School, Registrar’s Office, Provost Office, College representatives, Research Administration, Athletics, Deans, Council of Principal Investigators (CPI), IT, Procurement, Office of General Counsel (OGC), and Contracts Administration. The first 4 meeting were dedicated to: understanding the workflow and processes of OGC, TAMU Contracts, SRS Contracts, and Procurement; understanding state and system requirements, and reviewing 110 comments solicited from Taskforce and the Academic Business Operations Committee members. The Taskforce has yet to evaluate the following information received from Contracts Administration: days per step in the Contracts workflow, numbers/types of contracts moving through Contracts Administration, personnel needs, customer feedback, the role of HSC in the workflow process, and evaluation of the current Contracts System. It is a lengthy process, so as the group identifies changes that can be implemented immediately, recommendations will be made to move forward (rather than wait for a final report). Please let me know if you have any recommendations or items that you wish to have shared (a-lara@tamu.edu).

IRB Transition from iRIS to Huron

The conversion from iRIS to the Huron IRB system is coming, soon! The tentative target date is June 10, 2023. To make this a smooth process and minimize having any unexpected events, delays or other inconveniences during the transition process, investigators are encouraged to visit the HRPP website where they will find the most up to date information on conversion timelines, actions items and guidance. https://vpr.tamu.edu/human-research-protection-program/huron/

On Demand Informational Session for Researchers on the Use of Cayuse Proposals

On Thursday, April 6, 2023, Sponsored Research Services (SRS) held an informational session for researchers on the use of Cayuse Proposals. Do not worry if you missed this session as it was recorded and will be available on the SRS website under the Resources tab / Cayuse Proposals (S2S ) at the following address: Cayuse Proposals (S2S) – Sponsored Research Services (tamu.edu) With Cayuse Proposals, SRS proposal administrators are able to enrich the federal submission process for all researchers using the system’s advanced validation system. This has been an exciting enhancement to our electronic research information system (eRA), MAESTRO. As always, SRS Proposal Administrators will continue to provide full proposal preparation services. For researchers who would like more hands on information on using Cayuse Proposals, the informational session will provide guidance so that individuals are prepared to access the system and upload documents.

Sponsored Research Services Proposal Submission Guidelines

The Sponsored Research Services (SRS) Proposal Submission Guidelines have been in place since May 15, 2017. SRS adds the most value to the proposal submission process when sufficient time is available to prepare SRS generated portions of the proposal, and to conduct a thorough quality review of all components of the proposal. The Submission Guidelines are available on the SRS website at Submission Guidelines – Sponsored Research Services (tamu.edu) The benefit of the guidelines to the Principal Investigators and the research community, is that when followed, it allows SRS to do a complete quality check of the proposal to ensure that all required components are included so that the proposal will receive review by the sponsor. Selected highlights and timelines from the guidelines are as follows:
1. Initial contact with SRS
   - Researchers are asked to contact SRS pre-award staff with their intent to submit a proposal a minimum of 3 weeks prior to the sponsor deadline.

2. Preparation of Administrative portions of the proposal – SRS requests the following documents (when applicable) 5 business days in advance of the sponsor deadline:
   - Budget
   - Budget Justification
   - Draft abstract or statement of work (to use in routing to obtain system member approval)
   - Relevant approved waivers
   - Subcontract documents
   - Biosketch
   - Current & Pending Support
   - Data Management Plan
   - Facilities & Equipment

3. Technical Portions of the proposal
   - All technical portions of the proposal should be submitted to SRS, in final format, no later than 1 business day prior to the sponsor deadline.

4. SRS pledge to the research community
   - Proposals in final format received at SRS by the timeline outlined above will receive a complete and thorough quality review.
   - For proposals completed and submitted to SRS within this timeframe, SRS will work with the PI to make necessary changes to ensure that the proposal is administratively compliant.
   - SRS pledges to submit on-time proposals, with limited exceptions, prior to the sponsor’s deadline. Proposals with the required materials submitted to SRS within the timeframe outlined above will receive priority over proposals received with shorter lead time.
   - SRS staff will make every effort to submit all proposals. In the event that a proposal is received outside of the requested timeframe, the investigator will assume the risk for proposals found to be non-compliant or does not meet the sponsor’s deadline.

**Responsible Conduct of Research**

The NIH and NSF have recently released revisions with respect to Responsible Conduct of Research training. The NIH included multiple subject matter revisions and the addition of a new topic regarding safe research environments. TAMU offers multiple Face-to-Face Workshops to assist in meeting both NIH and TAMU training requirements. More trainings will be added as they become available. Effective July 31, 2023, the NSF requires RCR training for all faculty, and other senior personnel, in addition to undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers, associated with the research. PIs and other senior lab personnel will begin to receive TrainTraq notifications to complete online (CITI) RCR training to meet this requirement in the near future. Contact RCR@tamu.edu for more information. Additionally, effective now, PIs of all NSF proposals that conduct off-campus or off-site research will be required to certify with SRS that they have a plan in place to foster a safe and inclusive research environment.
Maestro Steering Committee Update from March 8, 2023 Meeting

The Maestro Steering Committee governs Maestro (Modular Application for the Electronic Submission and Tracking of Research Operations), which is an enterprise-wide system that supports researchers and research administration across TAMUS. The committee is co-chaired by TAMUS CIO (Mark Stone) and TAMU VP for Research (Jack Baldauf). The committee met on Wednesday, March 8, 2023.

1. **Maestro Budget (presented by Jarrett Eisenrich).** The FY24 assessment will likely be about 7% higher, mainly due to increasing personnel costs.

2. **TAMUS Agreements Repository (presented by Crystal Foy).** Goals of the repository are to provide: (a) TAMUS members with a repository to view agreements in one place; (b) the ability for accurate and comprehensive searches and reports of executed agreements on behalf of TAMUS; (c) the ability to route agreements for approvals if needed; and (d) comprehensive security access based on TAMUS complex structure. Recent improvements to the Agreement module include: (a) the ability for multiple sponsors, (b) document versioning, (c) created a negotiation dashboard, and (d) created a separate agreement menu. By mid-March 2023: improved tasking for review and comments with automatic updates to Status History and notifications to creator upon completion. The difference between Project modules and Agreement modules was explained. A Project module is optimized for Sponsored Research Agreements involving funding and needing all the necessary FAMIS integrations, while an agreement module is optimized for non-sponsored and unfunded agreements. Example pages were shown for Administrator and those with Negotiator roles; also, for new features added to the Agreement module, including the ability to share an agreement across System Members or Administrative Organizations. Finally, the two funding types were added to define Maestro Unfunded agreements: “Unfunded” and “Funded without Billing Project” (it will not be funded through regular Sponsored Billing Process).

3. **Status Monitoring Report (Leonarda Horvat).** Maestro is used by all System members. The biggest FY23 changes to date are probably Technical Improvements including: All Maestro environments have been moved to Oracle Cloud Infrastructure; and Notification Components from System Admin have been converted to Evolution (EVO). In addition to the Agreement Module improvements highlighted above, Functional Improvements included: for Proposals -- adding Notes to the Split Budget section on the entry screen and routing document; for Projects – adding PI UIN as a searchable field in Advanced Search. For “Executive”, several fields were added in different details components for “Organization” statistics.

4. **Planned for the Next Reporting Periods (Leonarda Horvat):** Agreements Repository Module – Phase II improvements; Cost Sharing module – Phase II improvements; and continued Migration to EVO (Evolution).

Reviewed by Leonarda Horvat. Director, Research Information Systems, TAMU.
Reported by CPI representatives to the Steering Committee: Lee Tarpley (ltarpley@tamu.edu) and Kerri Gehring (kbgehring@tamu.edu)

AnSRS4U On-Demand Presentation – Is it a Gift or a Grant?

The recent ASRS4U presentation on Is it a Gift or a Grant is now available to watch on-demand. This presentation provides insights on how to determine if funding should be categorized as a gift or a grant. The slides and the recording of the presentation are available from the SRS website at under the Resources tab at https://srs.tamu.edu/resources/ansrs4u/
AnSRS4U Presentation – Safe and Inclusive Working Environment

Texas A&M University Sponsored Research Services (SRS) of the Division of Research will host a presentation on Safe and Inclusive Working Environment, on Thursday April 20, from 10:00 to 11:00am.

Background: Effective January 30, 2023, NSF’s new requirement states that there must be a plan for a safe and inclusive work environment created, and distributed to each participant, in advance of departure for an off-campus research activity. At the time of proposal submission for each proposal that proposes to conduct research off-campus or off site, the Authorized Organizational Representative must complete a certification that the organization has a plan in place for that proposal. Thus, prior to the submission of the proposal, Sponsored Research Services (SRS) will require the PI to certify that a plan has been created.

This presentation will briefly discuss the new NSF plan requirements. In addition, NSF has new Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training requirements that become effective July 31, 2023. The Responsible Conduct of Research office will discuss the TAMU implementation plan to meet this requirement. The bulk of the presentation will be presented by Jennifer Smith, Assistant Vice President & Title IX Coordinator, University Risk, Ethics, and Compliance and will discuss safe research environments – those that promote inclusion and are free of discriminatory harassment and components of plans for safe and inclusive work/research environments.

Contracts and Negotiation Taskforce Committee

Report from the CPI Representative Rafael Lara-Alecio

The newly created Contracts and Negotiation Taskforce Committee met for the first time on Tuesday February 14, 2023 at the JKW Building. After a welcome note from Mr. John Crawford, Vice-President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer, there were introductions from representatives of the different offices including Colleges, Schools, and the CPI representative. Multiple issues were presented and discussed including the Taskforce charge, timelines, identification of issues impacting contracts and negotiation, deliverables, barriers, and implementation plan development.

Main goals for this Taskforce were presented including: Formalizing process and procedures; creating a culture of improvement as well as to prioritize contract negotiation, delegating purchases authority. Other goals included reducing the time intake to signature, delegation purchasing authority as well as to offer workshops to educate key stakeholders about decisions and policies in place and revising flowchart in place to secure procurements.

This taskforce committee will be meeting biweekly.

As your CPI representative to this new taskforce, I would appreciate any comment and/or recommendation that I can share to this Taskforce so CPI colleagues can receive the benefits of this important and critical area. Please email me at a-lara@tamu.edu
What's new in NASA Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences (ROSES) 2023?

The requirements regarding archiving of data, software, and publications have been strengthened. In particular:

1) Publications (or as-accepted manuscripts) that derive from ROSES-2023 awards must be publicly available at the time of publication.

2) Data and software developed using ROSES funding in support of a peer-reviewed publication shall be made publicly available at the time of publication.

3) Scientifically useful data and software developed during the award that was not already published must be made available by the end of the award, and

4) To be eligible to receive funding, PIs and Co-Is must provide their digital persistent identifier (e.g., ORCID) via NSPIRES under Account Management -> Personal Profile.

Most proposers to ROSES-2023 must provide an "Open Science and Data Management Plan", (formerly called the Data Management Plan) or an explanation of why one is not necessary given the nature of the work proposed. This Open Science and Data Management Plan (OSDMP) must address how publications, data, and software will be made available. The budget for the proposal should include any costs needed to implement the OSDMP.

The 2023 version of Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Science (ROSES-2023) was posted at https://solicitation.nasaprs.com/ROSES2023 on February 14, 2023.

NASA Requires Inclusion Plan for Selected Proposals

Inclusion is defined here as the full participation, belonging, and contribution of groups and individuals within an organization or endeavor. Note that inclusion is distinct and different from diversity. Inclusion requires that all individuals can participate fully, regardless of the diversity dimension, do their best work and advance, and feel welcomed, valued, connected, engaged, and supported to reach their full potential. The Inclusion Plan should focus on inclusion, not diversity or accessibility.

Inclusion Plan Pilot Study - A growing number of program elements in ROSES require an Inclusion Plan. Those that do so will indicate this clearly. In general, two pages are allocated for this plan but see individual program elements for the required proposal location and page limits for Inclusion Plans.

NSF New Requirement for a Safe and Inclusive Work Environment

Effective January 30, 2023, with the implementation of the NSF 23-1 PAPPG, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has a new requirement which states that there must be a plan for a safe and inclusive work environment created and distributed to each participant, in advance of departure for an off-campus research activity. Off-campus or off-site research is defined by NSF for this requirement as "data/information/samples being collected off-campus or off-site, such as fieldwork or research activities on vessels and aircraft."

At the time of proposal submission for each proposal that proposes to conduct research off-campus or off site, the Authorized Organizational Representative must complete a certification that the organization has a plan in place for that proposal. Thus, prior to the submission of the proposal, Sponsored Research Services (SRS) will require the PI to certify that a plan has been created.
Several solicitations from the Directorates for Biological Sciences (BIO) and Geological Sciences (GEO) will soon require the submission of a Safe and Inclusive Work Environments Plan that will be considered as part of the Broader Impacts criteria during the review process.

As a reminder, this 2-page supplementary document must address the following four sections:

1. a brief description of the field setting and unique challenges for the team;
2. the steps the proposing organization will take to nurture an inclusive off-campus or off-site working environment, including processes to establish shared team definitions of roles, responsibilities, and culture, e.g., codes of conduct, trainings, mentor/mentee mechanisms and field support that might include regular check-ins, and/or developmental events;
3. communication processes within the off-site team and to the organization(s) that minimize singular points within the communication pathway (e.g., there should not be a single person overseeing access to a single satellite phone); and
4. the organizational mechanisms that will be used for reporting, responding to, and resolving issues of harassment if they arise.

The Office of Hispanic Serving Institution Proposal Development

The Office of Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) and Inclusivity Research Services assists research faculty with proposal development for HSI federal funding. The Office’s Goal is to increase knowledge of and accessibility to resources for the Texas A&M Research community and assist with research proposals targeting HSIs and/or inclusivity.

Inclusivity can be defined as including all types of people, things or ideas and treating them all fairly and equally. We also work with Texas A&M’s Office for Diversity on the university’s HSI Priorities (scroll down link for listing) set by Texas A&M University.

Activities and services of the office include:

1. Proposal Development
   • Working with researchers and their teams to strategically develop HSI proposals.
   • Helping develop text related to HSI or DEI requirements for proposals.
2. Resource Development & Communication
   • Creating resources to enhance development of required diversity, equity, and inclusion proposal components.
   • Expanding communication and knowledge of HSI funding opportunities electronically.
3. Linkages & Contacts
   • Forming relationships with existing programs to link and leverage in HSI proposals.
   • Linking researchers to A&M System HSI institutions with similar interests or desired expertise

Contact: Jorja Kimball, Executive Director
979.458.5794
jkimball@tamu.edu
Limited Submission Proposal Opportunities
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The Division of Research has a limited proposal submission and review portal. The system will be used for limited submissions and most internal grant programs. You will find available opportunities at: https://tamu.infoready4.com/#limitedsubmissions. If you have any questions, please contact limitedsubmissions@tamu.edu.

Proposal Assistance for Large Multidisciplinary Funding Opportunities
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The Division of Research, Research Development Services, offers free assistance to teams pursuing large multidisciplinary funding opportunities. To learn more about the types of assistance offered or to request assistance, click here.

Bulletin for Principal Investigators
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The Division of Research at Texas A&M University publishes a weekly bulletin about research. The Research Bulletin accepts news items about researchers and their teams from the colleges, schools, campuses and agencies within the Texas A&M research enterprise, including honors, funding, presentations, and appearances in news media. To subscribe or unsubscribe to the Research Bulletin, email: research-communications@tamu.edu.

TAMU CHIPS and Science Act Task Force
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The TAMU CHIPS and Science Act Task Force’s goal is to develop, coordinate, and implement a TAMU-wide strategy for responding to opportunities presented by the CHIPS and Science Act. The task force also facilitates communication across all the members from the flagship campus (TAMU, TEES, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, and TTI) and System. One of the objectives is to document TAMU's strengths, capacity, and capabilities in relation to the CHIPS and Science Act. Information about the Task Force and related funding opportunities can be found in the TAMU CHIPS ACT Resources Drive. Faculty can request access to the Drive by contacting Dr. Sharmila Pathikonda (sharmila.pathikonda@tamu.edu), and for additional information, please contact Dr. Henry Fadamiro (henry.fadamiro@tamu.edu).

Nominations for the Appointment of Associate Vice President for Research - Health
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The Division of Research at Texas A&M University and Texas A&M Health are jointly seeking faculty nominations for the appointment of Associate Vice President for Research (AVPR)-Health.

Faculty nominations (including self-nominations) will be accepted. Nominations should include a description of relevant experience, a resume or curriculum vitae, and contact information for three references. For consideration, nominations should be received no later than Tuesday, April 18, 2023. Nominations should be submitted through email to Ms. Mona Somers, at vpr@tamu.edu. Additional information can be found on the back two pages of this newsletter.
The Division of Research at Texas A&M University and Texas A&M Health are jointly seeking faculty nominations for the appointment of Associate Vice President for Research (AVPR)-Health.

The AVPR Health provides leadership in the strategic advancement, coordination, and development of health-related research:

- Provides research continuity among the Division of Research and Texas A&M Health to ensure alignment in strategic approaches in support of the university mission and to determine and attain health-related strategic priorities
- Identifies and builds transdisciplinary programs in biomedical, health and life sciences to establish national leadership such as in clinical trials and NIH research
- Establishes a research network through stakeholder engagement to grow the health-related research enterprise based on external funding opportunities
- Serves as the Division of Research point-of-contact, liaison, and representative for health-related research areas, engaging as appropriate with other university and system offices

The AVPR Health provides oversight to centers, institutes, and Division of Research units as assigned; assists with the management and review of health-related research support; drafts, in collaboration with Texas A&M Health, policies, procedures, and guidance materials related to the health sciences; assists the Division of Research and Texas A&M Health with health compliance; collaborates with University divisions, colleges, schools, departments/units, research-related committees, System member partners, and others to address compliance issues, and to implement solutions.

The AVPR Health provides executive guidance to the Vice President for Research, and others, on national trends and activities affecting the health-related research enterprise, as well as guidance on the development and administration of the annual budget process, while providing guidance to division units.

This position reports directly to Texas A&M’s Vice President for Research as well as the Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice President of Texas A&M Health (SVPH).

Qualified candidates will be a M.D. or Ph.D. in a medical related field, have ten years of experience in performing research in biology, neurology, or related medical field, including experience with compliance issues, higher education administration, progressively responsible
management/leadership experience, experience as a faculty member at a research university, familiarity with faculty-associated rules, guidelines, and administrative procedures.

Qualified candidates must also possess strong verbal and written communication skills; a demonstrated ability to manage and develop professionals; an ability to work collaboratively with all segments of the university and its external constituencies; a demonstrated commitment to Aggie core values; experience in financial management with appropriate stewardship and administration of metrics-oriented evaluations of outcomes and results; and working knowledge of state and federal regulations and compliance.

Faculty nominations (including self-nominations) will be accepted. Nominations should include a description of relevant experience, a resume or curriculum vitae, and contact information for three references. For consideration, nominations should be received no later than Tuesday, April 18, 2023. Nominations should be submitted through email to Ms. Mona Somers, at vpr@tamu.edu