





TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY. College of Science & Engineering

## Symposium on **Student Success**





WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3RD, 2025 LBJ STUDENT CENTER BALLROOM. SAN MARCOS, TX





#### SYMPOSIUM ON STUDENT SUCCESS

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

#### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**



Andrew Hamilton, Ph.D. Vice Provost, Academic Success Texas State University

A long-time advocate for undergraduate students and the critical importance of public higher education, Andrew Hamilton is the author of three dozen articles and book chapters. In 2012 he published a book entitled The Evolution of Phylogenetic Systematics with the University of California Press. In addition, he has served as principal investigator or co-principal investigator on more than a dozen federal grants, including National Science Foundation (NSF) Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation grants at the University of Houston and UNC Greensboro, an NSF Hispanic Serving Institutions grant, and a VISTA grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service. He also served as the lead on UNCG's Frontier Set efforts, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. These grants have yielded more than \$13 million, mostly in support of student success. He has also won numerous awards for teaching and program administration.

In addition to his role as Vice Provost for Academic Success at Texas State, he is a member of the board of trustees of Sampoerna University in Jakarta, Indonesia and chairs the US Higher Education Advisory Council for Cambridge International. Prior to his current appointment, he held positions at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (Associate Vice Provost and Dean), the University of Houston (Associate Dean), and Arizona State University (faculty member in the School of Life Sciences). Hamilton is a graduate of Berea College (Bachelor's), Boston College (Master's), and the University of California, San Diego (Ph.D.).

### SYMPOSIUM ON STUDENT SUCCESS

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

TIME	SESSION
8:00 am	Opening Remarks - State of the College Dr. Barrett Bryant, Dean Dr. Doug Morrish, Associate Dean for Student Success College of Science and Engineering
8:30 am	College Readiness of Incoming Students Mr. Nicholas E. Weimer, Assistant Vice Provost for Experiential and Academic Initiatives
9:00 am	Evolving Advising for Academic Success Dr. Gabriel Bermea, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Advising and Transitions
	Session: Course and Curricular Transformations Impacting Student Success
9:30 am	The TXST Course Transformation Project  Dr. Candace K. Hastings, Associate Vice Provost, Faculty Success Center for Teaching, Learning, & Scholarship  Dr. Mary Jane Patterson, Professor of Instruction, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry  Dr. Erica N. Nierth, Professor of Instruction, Department of Biology
10:15 am	Readiness for General Chemistry & Fundamentals of Chemistry  • Dr. Mary Jane Patterson, Professor of Instruction, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
	Session: STEM Student Success Programs
10:30 am	Getting COSE: How Familiarity and Collaboration with SLAC Leads to Student Success  • Lindley Alyea, Director, SLAC, Co-Presenter: Dr. Tyler Laughlin
10:45 am	Findings from the TSUS STEM Student Success Collaborative  • Dr. Leslie L. Huling, Professor, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Executive Director, LBJ Institute for STEM Education and Research, Co-Author: Karen Fabac
11:00 am	Supporting Student Agency in Undergraduate STEM Courses  • Dr. Carlton Fong, Associate Professor, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Co-Presenters: Pedram Zarei, Dr. Kristy Daniel, Carolyn Jess, Pegah Peimani
11:15 am	Supporting Student Success through TRIO SSS-STEM & McNair Scholars  • Melissa Menchaca, Grant Specialist, TXST TRIO, Co-Presenter: Jaxson Schoening
	Session: Career Development & Marketable Skills in the Classroom
11:30 am	Leveraging the Texas State STEM Pathway to Guide Students and Strengthen Programs  • Dr. Omar S. Lopez, Professor, Department of Organization, Workforce, and Leadership Studies
11:45 am	Bridging Water Resources Engineering with Data Analytics and Machine Learning  • Dr. Icen Yoosefdoost, Water Resource Coordinator, Watershed Studies, Meadows Center
12:00 pm	Break for Lunch & Poster Presentations
	Keynote
1:00 pm	Excel-lent Adventures in Academic Success: Pivoting Toward Better Outcomes in CoSE and Beyond Dr. Andrew Hamilton, Vice Provost for Academic Success



### SYMPOSIUM ON STUDENT SUCCESS

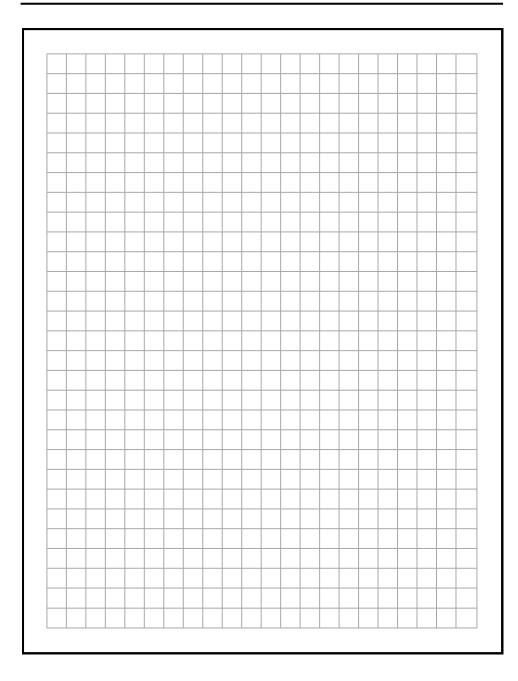
Wednesday, December 3, 2025

TIME	SESSION
2:00 pm	Community Forum
	Session: Strategic Student Success Initiatives
3:00 pm	The ASPIRE Program  • Dr. Paula Williamson, University Distinguished Professor, Department of Biology
3:15 pm	Promoting Student Recruitment, Retention & Degree Attainment in Materials Science through Educational and Research Partnerships  • Dr. Tania Betancourt, Professor, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry
3:30 pm	The Texas Doctoral Bridge Program  • Dr. Steven Whitten, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry
3:45 pm	Alumni in Industry: Influences of the Learning Assistant Experience  Olivia Saunders, Graduate Student, Department of Physics, Co-Authors: Keegan Collums, Dr. Alice Olmstead
	Session: Industry-Synced Degree Plans
4:00 pm	Engineering Technology - Industrial Internship as a Catalyst into the Profession     Dr. BJ Spencer, Associate Professor of Practice, Department of Engineering Technology
4:15pm	TRIBEC - Regional Biotechnology Credentialing via Existing Degree Plans  • Dr. Carolyn T. Chang, Director of Bioscience Education and Training Research Programs, Translational Health Research Center
4:30pm	Elevating Student Success through the Medical Laboratory Science Major and Minor at Texas State University  • Dr. Rodney E. Rohde, University Distinguished Professor & Program Chair, Medical Laboratory Science
4:45 pm	Closing Remarks & Student Success Champion Awards Dr. Barrett Bryant, Dean College of Science and Engineering
5:00 pm	College of Science and Engineering Experiential Education Certificate Program Milestone 4 Capstone Poster Presentations

**Symposium Sponsor** 



## **NOTES**







# From Lab to Landscape: Building a Bigger, Better Texas



### **Register Today!**

March 27, 2026 LBJSC Grand Ballroom Texas State University San Marcos, TX

