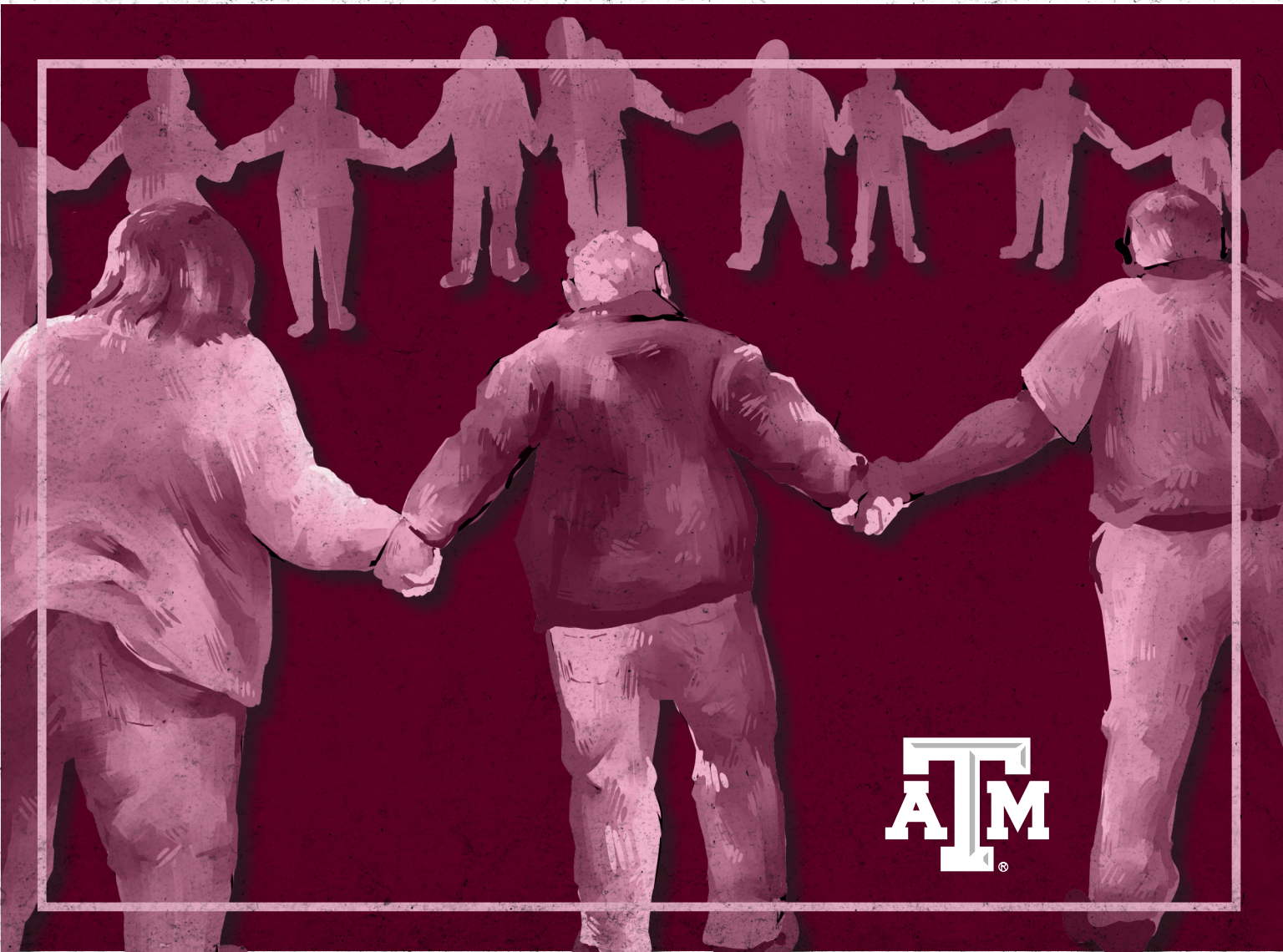


TEXAS TARGET COMMUNITIES

FIVE YEAR REVIEW

2013-2018



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**TEXAS TARGET
COMMUNITIES**
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Texas Target Communities fosters service-learning experiences for the next generation workforce, works collaboratively with communities to address needs that would otherwise go unmet, and connects faculty to a network of leaders to pursue researcher endeavors.



John T. Cooper



Jaimie H. Masterson



Jeewasmi Thapa

In the fall of 2012 I stepped in to lead the Texas Target Cities (TXTC) program and soon after Jaimie Hicks Masterson joined me. We immediately began to review TXTC's mission and goals to determine the most promising strategies for maximizing the impact of our work. We spoke to faculty, current and former students of the Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning (LAUP) program, as well as potential collaborators and former clients of TXTC about the value of TXTC in its form. In the process we learned a lot about the unmet needs of rural counties and those of marginalized communities in urban areas. As a result, we crafted a new and expanded vision for TXTC, recommended changing the name to Texas Target Communities, and beginning in the fall of 2013, we set out to do exemplary work connecting communities in need of technical support to faculty and students from across Texas A&M and the Texas A&M University System.

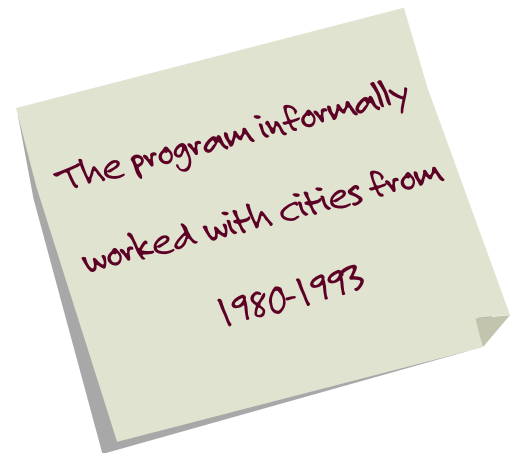
It has been an eventful five (5) years since we reimagined TXTC's role in connecting communities to high-impact service learning opportunities for students at Texas A&M. We've transformed from a departmental initiative in the College of Architecture to a university-wide initiative of the Office of Public Partnership and Outreach in the Texas A&M Provost's Office of External Affairs. Since 2013, we have worked in rural places, like the cities of Nolanville and El Campo, and counties including Liberty and Grimes County. We've also partnered with civic clubs and nonprofit organizations in inner-city Houston. We have worked with small communities like Buffalo, TX with less than 2,000 in population, to large multi-county regions, like the Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission. We have worked with cities close to Texas A&M University like Bryan and Navasota and as far away as Hidalgo in the Rio Grande Valley. We have worked side by side with communities to think about hazards, such as the ones presented in Liberty County, and we've been a resource to communities recovering from disasters like Bastrop, West, Granbury, and La Grange.

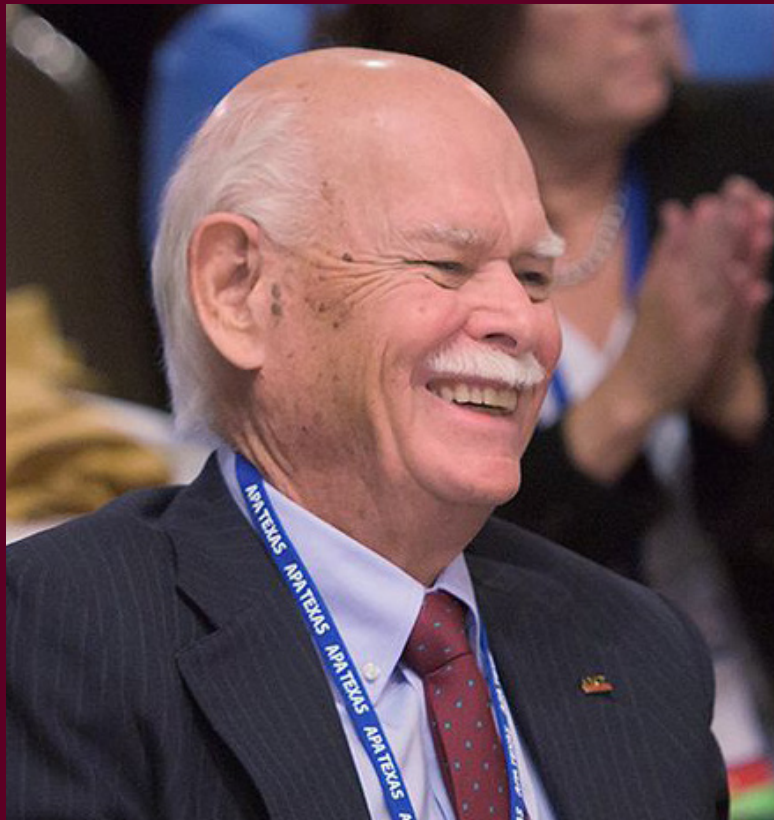
Today we are thrilled to have played a role in shaping the futures of small communities across Texas and we are blessed to have sustained relationships with the amazing people we have met in the process. We are seeing a revival in places many had written off. Over the next 5 years, we are excited to continue shepherding locally driven change and fostering experiential learning opportunities for students that will soon bear the responsibility for adapting to our rapidly changing world in multidisciplinary and collaborative ways if they are to be successful. In the past all we have required of our students, faculty and community partners is to believe in themselves and in the TXTC process. This report is the culmination of our faith.

John T. Cooper, PhD

History

The Texas Target Cities Program (TXTC) was formed in 1993 under the direction of Dr. David Pugh in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning (LAUP). In 2012, TXTC was a small service learning program managed by the planning capstone course faculty member in LAUP. In efforts to serve low capacity places, the directors of the Center for Housing and Urban Development and Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center, the College of Architecture, and the Office of Multicultural Services welcomed Dr. John T. Cooper, a leading community engagement scholar and practitioner, reviving the program we now know.





“We’re here to try to help the average Joe or Jane working for x-city or x-county in the state of Texas. That’s it. That’s the whole 9 yards. If we’re not doing that then we’re not doing our job.”
- David Pugh

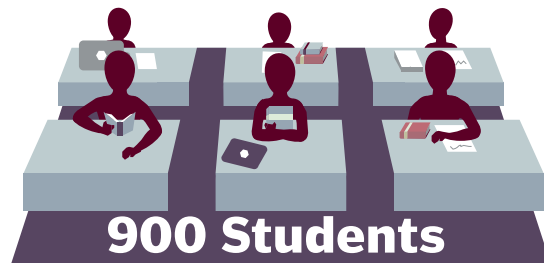
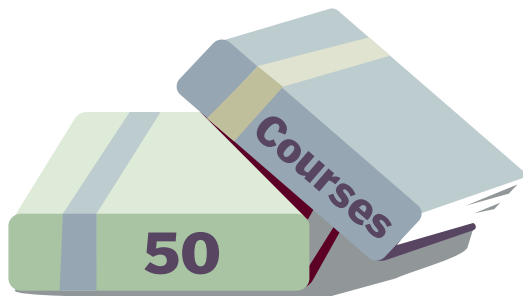
Dr. Pugh, who founded TXTC and received the Texas Legends Award from the Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association, passed away in 2017. In honor of his memory, the David Pugh Urban Planning Scholarship was established.

Service Learning

Our philosophy is to wrap our arms around communities through the resources we have on campus and beyond. Primarily we do this through teaching and service learning opportunities within Texas A&M University.

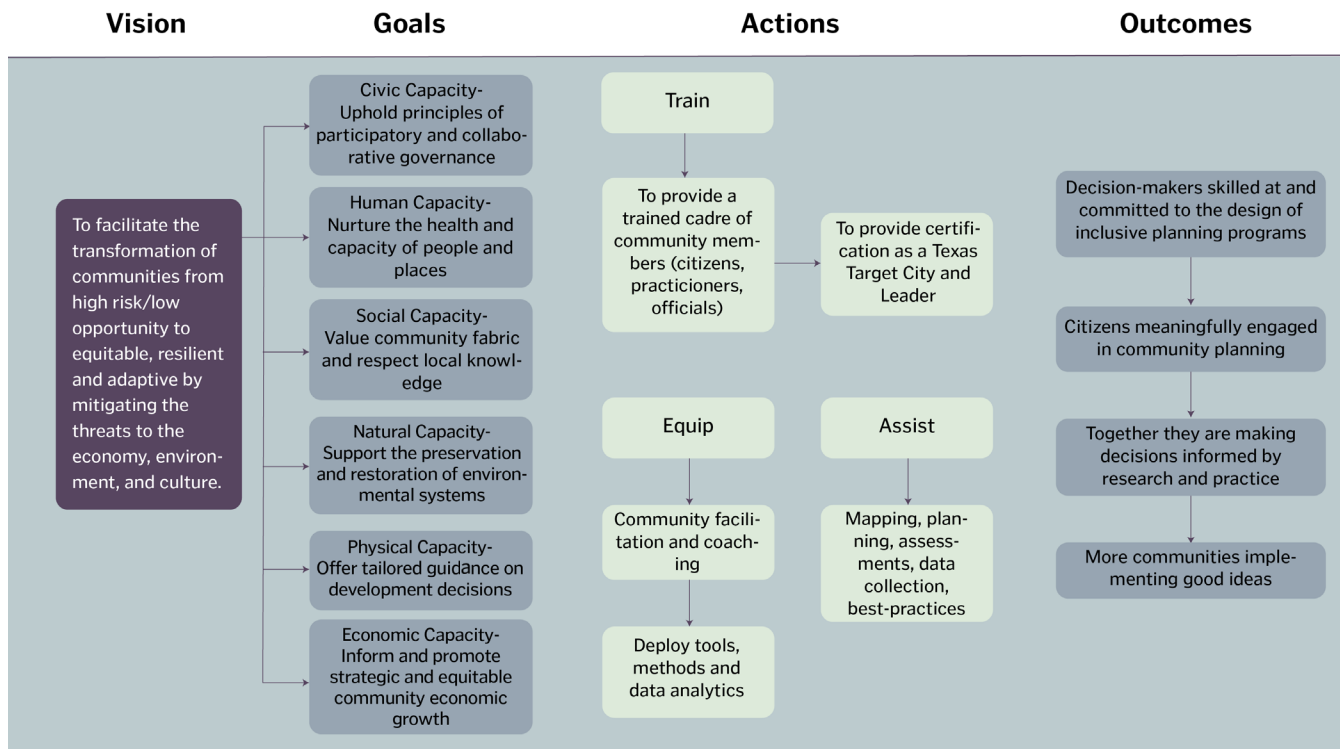
Over the last five years, almost 50 courses, nearly 100 faculty members, and 900 students from across Texas A&M campuses have worked with 30 communities.

In that time, TXTC has engaged communities by facilitating more than 100 community meetings to create place-based strategies that fit the local context.

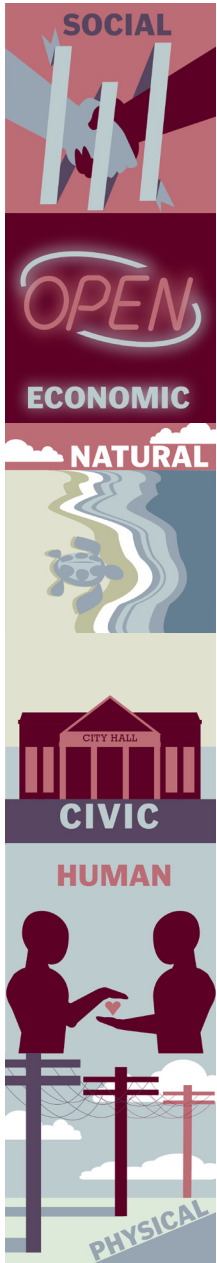


Current Situation: People working to make a difference in their Texas community (citizens, planning professionals, extension professionals) have a need for up-to-date support and training informed by research and practice in community planning.

Assumptions: There is a mutual interest across the TAMU system to make a joint investment in the design and implementation of a program to fill gaps in planning knowledge.



Values



We value community fabric and respect local knowledge.

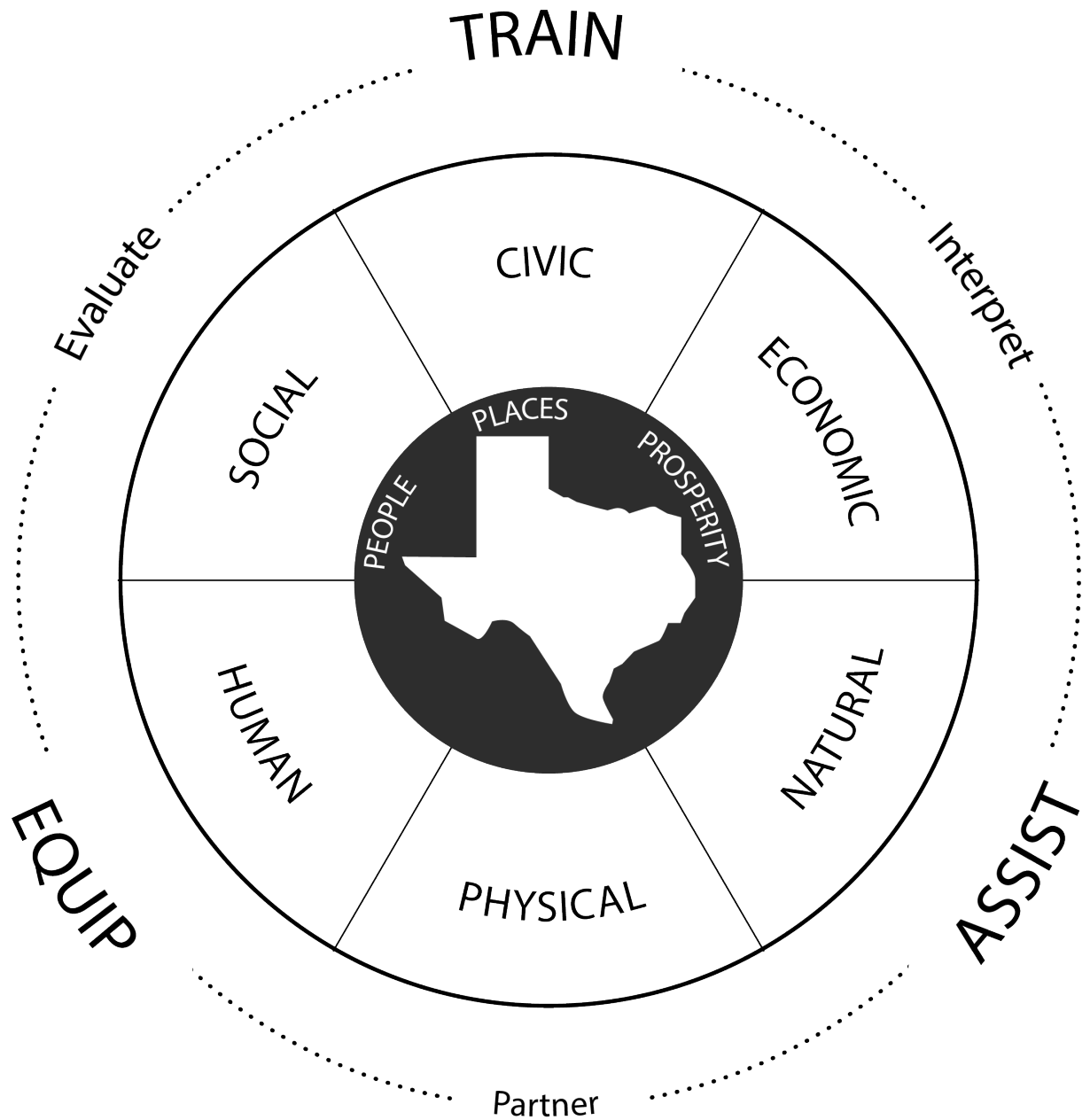
We inform and promote strategic and equitable community economic growth.

We support the preservation and restoration of environmental systems.

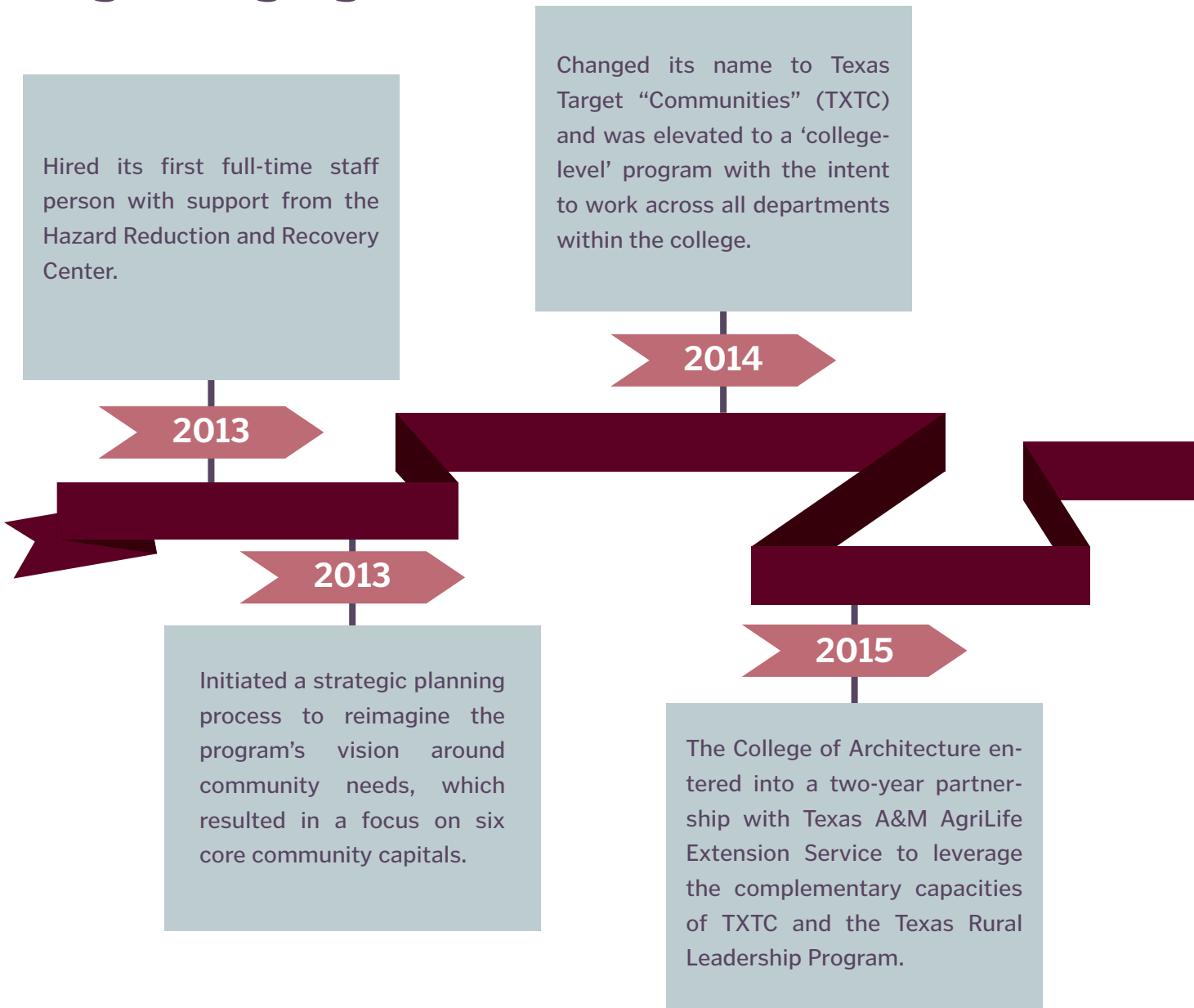
We uphold principles of participatory and collaborative governance.

We nurture the health and capacity of people and places.

We offer tailored guidance on development decisions.



Program Highlights



In 2015, TXTC worked closely with a team of interdisciplinary faculty to launch the Institute for Sustainable Communities (IfSC), a provost-level institute, established in 2016.

2015

Elevated to a 'provost-level' program of the Public Partnership and Outreach office to leverage the capacity of faculty and students across campus.

2017

2016

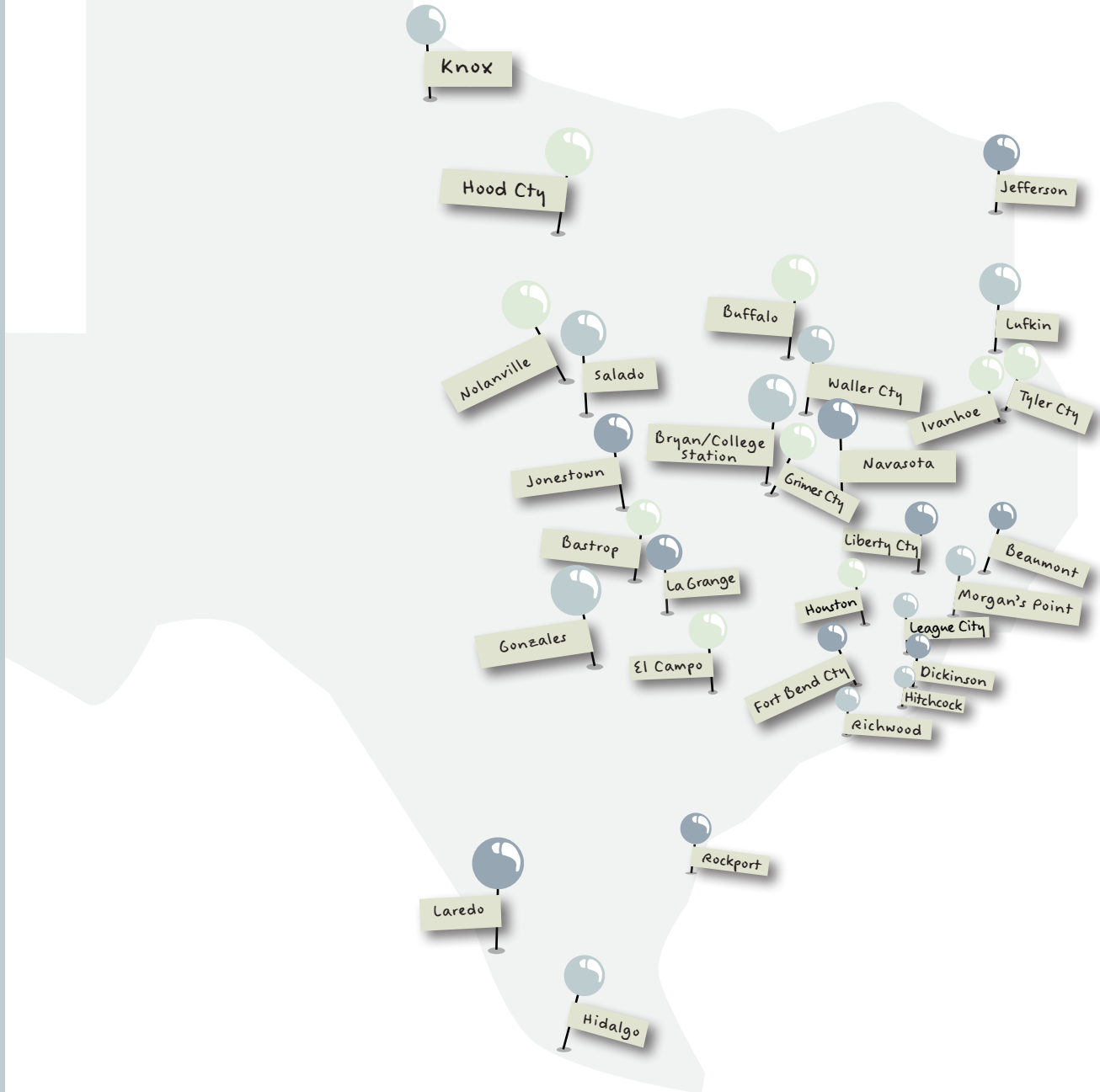
Hired its second full-time staff person to support the role of engagement in the newly established Institute for Sustainable Communities.



Community Highlights



Community Partners



La Grange

- Housing Needs Study
- City of La Grange Signage and Wayfinding Plan
- City of La Grange Comprehensive Plan

Liberty County

- Liberty State of Community Report
- Liberty County Strategic Plan
- Master Drainage Plan
- Marketing Material
- Asset Map

Jonestown

- Quadruple net value analysis
- Transportation plans
- Public sewer feasibility study
- Master Parks plan

Dickinson

- Dickinson Comprehensive Plan

Navasota

- Navasota Comprehensive Plan
- Navasota Neighborhood Day

Beaumont

- SETRPC- Regional Hike and Bike Plan

Fort Bend County

- Fort Bend County Heritage Museum Recreational Site Plan Project

Laredo

- Bruni Plaza Design

Rockport

- Rockport State of Community Report
- Rockport Comprehensive Plan

Jefferson

- Marion-Cass Long-Term Resilience Study

Hidalgo

- Hidalgo Comprehensive Plan

Richwood

- Richwood Map

Salado

- Main Street Concept Plan

Lufkin

- North Lufkin Neighborhood Resource Center and Master Planned Community

Knox

- Asset Mapping

Morgan's Point

- Col. James Morgan New Washington Prairie Master Plan

Waller County

- Waller County State of Community Report

Gonzales

- Gonzales Comprehensive Plan

Bryan/College Station

- North University Parking Study
- Traditions Plaza Redesign

Hitchcock

- Hitchcock State of Community Report
- Hitchcock Comprehensive Plan

League City

- Neighborhood Master Plan

Nolanville

- Nolanville Comprehensive Plan

Bastrop

- Affordable Housing Assessment
- Asset Mapping Tool

Tyler County

- Community Capital Assessment
- Thoroughfare Plan Report + Poster

El Campo

- El Campo Downtown Revitalization Plan

Ivanhoe

- City of Ivanhoe Comprehensive Plan

Buffalo

- Buffalo Comprehensive Plan

Hood County

- Hazards Vulnerability Assessment

Grimes County

- Grimes County Thoroughfare Plan

Houston

- Sunnyside Neighborhood**
- Community Capital Assessment
- Master Plan
- Vacancy strategy
- Affordable Housing Strategy
- Brownfield Park
- Manchester Neighborhood**
- Neighborhood Master Plan
- Near Northside Neighborhood**
- Padel Site Design

The City of Nolanville

The City of Nolanville (Pop. 4,200), near Fort Hood Army Base, was a place people said could not be helped. When we met local community members and staff, we sensed a desire in the people that wanted to affect change in their community. Soon after we began in 2014, the city manager resigned and the remaining city staff included the city secretary and public works director. As a part of the TXTC approach, we established a task force of community members that would represent the various communities within the community. Community members spoke of the lack of identity, history, and culture at task force and public meetings. The city identified assets and a shared vision for the future, which resulted in a comprehensive plan.



*“The plan is like our little Bible,
I’m glad we did it.”*

-Community Member

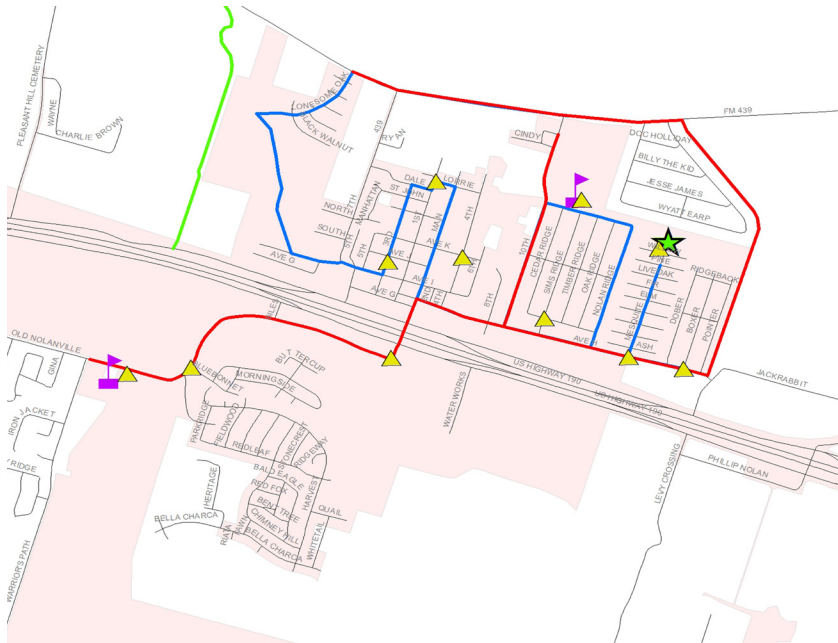
*“We were moving backwards
for years and now it’s making
us go forward.”*

- Community Member

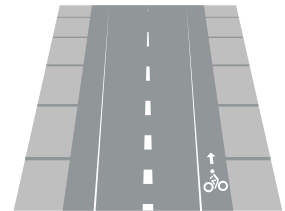
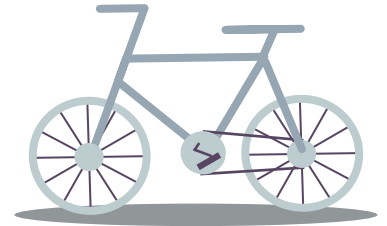
*Students designed the Nolanville City
Park to be more accessible. The city
broke ground on the park in 2016.*

The plan documented the:

- Redesign of a derelict and crime-ridden park, including new community center
- Conceptual designs of a revived Main Street
- Improved drainage, roads, and sidewalks in the manufactured home park
- Proposed sidewalks and bike lanes for a healthy and active community and safe routes to schools
- Concern for the trains that divided the community for long stretches of time
- Desire for more community events to meet and connect with neighbors
- Focus on implementing a recycling program in the community



Community members identified priority paths to create a healthier, safer, and more accessible community.



Since the completion of the project:

- A community member on the task force, so impassioned by the effort, applied for and is currently Nolanville's city manager
- The community adopted the plan
- Residents have been more civically engaged
- The city has secured close to \$2 million in grants to implement the students' recommendations (prior to this the city had not applied for any grants)
- The city implemented a recycling program through the Keep Nolanville Beautiful program
- The city hosts regular annual events, including the 5k Fox Trot, the Train hop Jamboree, Keep Nolanville Beautiful Clean Up days, and more.
- There are new businesses and updated building facades on Main Street
- Residents are taking pride in their neighborhood
- State agencies are considering how to address the train that blocks the community
- Drainage improvements and new roads in the manufactured home park
- The city broke ground on the redesign of the park and new community center

"TXTC was definitely a strength to foster collaboration. The final open house, where students presented recommendations, was a great example of this collaboration with over 100 residents and one of my best days as City Manager. Also, I framed and hung the community vision boards with goals (developed by the students) in my office. When people come into my office and ask what they want to do (in the city), I point to the boards and show them the community's vision. The city was stagnant before, and TXTC helped reenergize the community."

-Kara Escajeda, Nolanville City Manager



More than 150 community members attended the final community meeting, where students presented recommendations based on 12 months of community feedback.



“I learned a great deal about planning from the hands-on experience with several communities on TXTC’s projects. Currently working as a Planner with Asakura Robinson in Houston, it has been a very smooth transition from school to work in terms of planning process, public engagement, project management and so on, and the credit goes to the work I had the opportunity to do with TXTC.”

-Saima Musharrat

Liberty County

In 2015, Liberty County invited TXTC to the community. Three catalyzing events resulted in the county working collaboratively with its cities to develop an innovative plan for long-term resiliency.

1. Plans were drafted to build the third loop around Houston, or the Grand Parkway Highway
2. Unincorporated land was subdivided into 900 small lots—only large enough for mobile and manufactured homes
3. The county experienced five disaster declarations and over 100 days of flood waters within one year



LIBERTY★COUNTY
established 1836





The community task force prioritizes issues and assets.

Together, TXTC and the County designed a planning process. The project facilitated seventeen public forums and community engagement meetings to discuss the community’s vision and goals for growth and development (from 30 in attendance to over 200). The County Extension Agent, a trusted community leader, reached out to community members County Judge Jay Knight led the charge by organizing regular meetings with the cities to discuss priorities. Cities, once with fierce rivalries determined that “we are stronger as a county when we all work together.”

Together the community decided they wanted to focus on a high quality of life that strives to be:

1. Family-Friendly
2. Resilient
3. Equitable

Other class work:

- Engineering students analyzed areas expected to grow and provided guidelines to limit the amount of impervious runoff, incentivizing green infrastructure.
- Students developed a logo design, also seen on the cover of the plan. The three lines of the river, three trees, and three rings of the sun represent the Trinity River. Additionally, the team developed a tourism map of assets and a website to support an online presence.
- Three youth in the community began a blog called The Trinity Time Hop, to document their concerns, perspectives from older residents, and history of the past to envision the history of the future.



Family Friendly



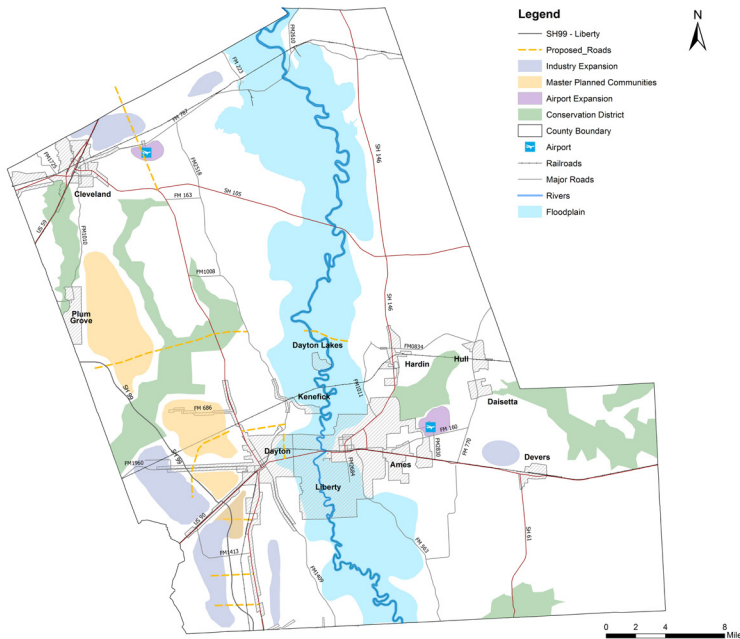
QUITABLE

Since the completion of the project:

- The county has adopted the plan.
- County officials testified to the Texas Legislature about the need for greater land use controls in rural areas, particularly those on the urban fringe and in hazardous areas.
- The cities within the county are developing their own plans in line with the region.



The “Liberty County Strategic Plan” received the 2017 Current Planning Award from the APA Texas Chapter, the first time a project moved from a student award category into the professional award category. In 2019, the project won silver award for Resiliency Planning from the National American Planning Association, only four universities have ever won at that level before.



Liberty County developed a regional growth map to guide development to safer areas and preserve floodplains.

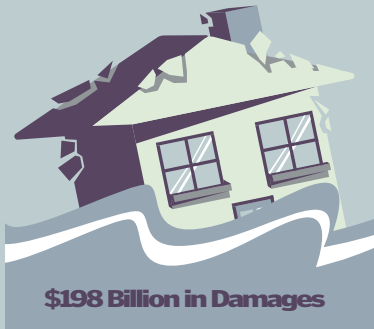
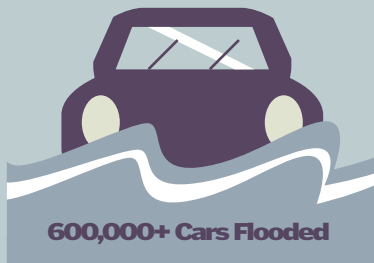
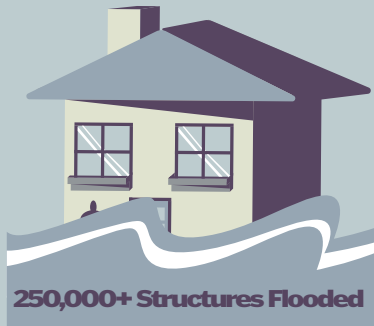
“Local leaders are now trying to work together, which did not happen in the past. Together, the county and municipalities are thinking about the future. The county judge uses the maps and student work to explain growth, which is used at city council meetings. The City of Liberty has used the student work to apply for park grants. Also, the County continues to use the marketing materials and has adopted the logo. Working with TXTC was a great experience and the students were so welcoming!”
–Alexis Cordova,
Liberty County Extension Agent

Hurricane Harvey

While more than 300 miles of the Texas coast was impacted, few considered how far inland the hurricane would wreck havoc. Following Hurricane Harvey, staff reached out to community partners and asked what we could do in support of the community. The Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (t.e.j.a.s.) asked if we could cook food at their donations drive. Faculty, staff, students, and the College of Architecture at Texas A&M cooked burgers for a Sunday lunch and handed out food, clothing, and supplies in the Manchester/Harrisburg community.



Students, faculty, and staff in the College of Architecture with the Institute for Sustainable Communities and the Texas Target Communities Program, cooked and served lunch for victims of Hurricane Harvey.



Our team also:

- Fielded calls and provided advice for next steps
- Attended several community events at the invitation of a community-based organization to talk with residents and show support
- Connected our community partners to disaster researchers which provided advice and a network of communities that have experienced a disaster in the last 5 years
- Co-hosted three workshops on community resilience
- Worked with the City of La Grange to analyze the integration of plans and develop a comprehensive plan



Together, the College of Architecture and the Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services pose for a picture after the clothing and supply drive for Hurricane Harvey victims.

City of La Grange

In the fall of 2017 and spring of 2018, more than 130 students in six urban planning and landscape architecture classes worked closely with the City of La Grange (pop. 4,700). Hurricane Harvey hit the week of the first community kick-off meeting, postponing the projects and the start of the fall semester. La Grange is 100 miles inland on the edge of the Texas hill country along the Colorado River. As Harvey hovered over the state, La Grange received 26 inches of rainfall and the river crested to 54 ft. (flood stage is 26 ft.). Nearly 300 homes were flooded, mostly impacting manufactured homes and neighborhoods with higher populations of racial minorities.



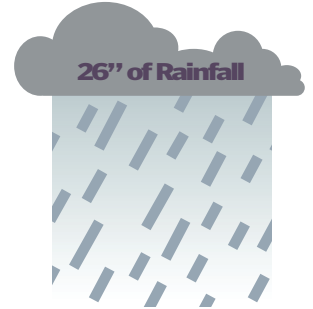
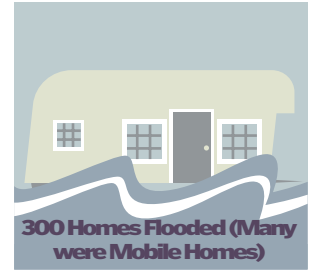
TXTC staff, Jaimie Hicks Masterson facilitates the final community meeting in La Grange, with over 80 students and 100 residents.



La Grange task force members identify transportation needs throughout the community.



Residents provide feedback to student recommendations in April 2018.



Students developed signage templates for better wayfinding of community assets in La Grange.

Students and faculty developed a comprehensive land use plan, infusing resiliency practices and flood mitigation throughout. The plan includes strategies for future housing and restoration of damaged housing, economic development, community facilities, transportation, parks and the environment. Additionally, students developed a wayfinding plan, downtown design and revitalization plan, as well as sustainable strategies to reduce the consumption of natural resources. In total, ten community meetings were held with additional outreach events with the long-term disaster recovery group and at the annual Schmecken Fest.



Students present design recommendations for downtown La Grange.

***“I worked for TXTC as an intern in 2015 and I continued to work as part time job in 2016 scholastic year. Working with TXTC on Bastrop County Affordable Housing assessment helped me to enhance my analytical skills and gave me exposure. Currently, I work for UNICEF on rehabilitating public schools in my country Lebanon. I believe that my experience at TXTC and my masters in Urban Planning strengthened my resume, which supported me in my career.”
-Vera Abu Shakra***



Over 30 students developed designs for downtown La Grange, which resulted in this final master plan after community feedback.

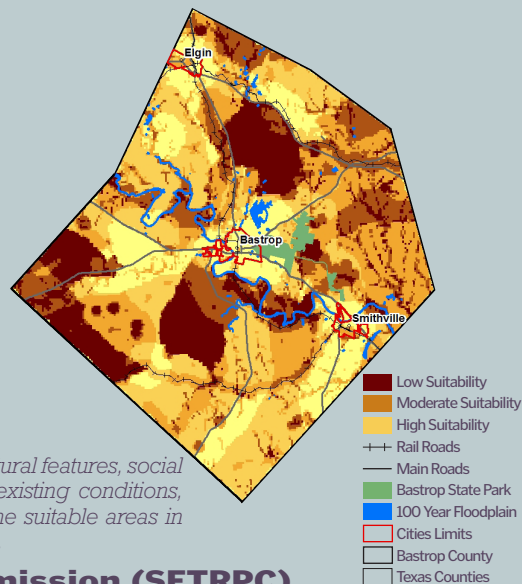
Connecting with APA Ambassadors

In La Grange, we met local resident Diana Wilson, a Planning Ambassador for the American Planning Association, a voluntary educational outreach program that teaches kids about planning. Wilson previously spoke to kids about parks for different ability levels and water to conservation. At a public meeting, we combined efforts to learn from local youth about their needs and wants for the comprehensive plan. Wilson spoke about the value of play, physical fitness, and places for social interaction. The city manager encouraged the students to talk about what they like in the current park system. Students used stickers to indicate their favorite activities including swinging, climbing and musical instruments.

Other Notable Projects

Bastrop Housing and Asset Map

Bastrop Community Cares, a non-profit social service organization, contacted us to develop a housing assessment in Bastrop County, Texas. We studied the housing supply and demand and recommended strategies to encourage affordability. The report documented suitable parcels for affordable housing in the major cities of the County.



Based on the Bastrop County's natural features, social needs, physical capacities, and existing conditions, the housing assessment shows the suitable areas in the county for affordable housing.

South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC)

We partnered with South East Texas Regional Planning Commission to create a hike and bike plan in the three-county region of Jefferson, Orange and Hardin. Urban planning students in the transportation studio worked with a community advisory group to identify the most suitable bicycle-friendly routes in the region. The plan prescribed design recommendations and aimed to connect major employment centers, schools, and recreational areas through bicycle facilities.

Grimes County

In partnership with Grimes County, TXTC developed the Grimes County Thoroughfare Plan. This plan articulates community priorities and values, presents case studies, and reveals existing conditions--current road functional classification hierarchy, paving surface types, traffic accidents, traffic volumes, a land suitability analysis, and an analysis of Highway 249.

North Lufkin

In 2018, we worked with Impact Lufkin to rethink a 170-acre former Lufkin Country Club to create a master planned community. Building on the appreciative inquiry conducted by Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA) School of Social Work, the plan includes a neighborhood center with parks, athletic fields, trails, housing, commercial development, and various neighborhood services.



Landscape architecture students led by Dr. Chanam Lee and Dr. Ken Hurst developed the Neighborhood Master Plan for North Lufkin.

Morgan's Point

The Colonel James Morgan New Washington Prairie Preservation Design is a long-range master plan for the 50-acre parcel owned by the City of Morgan's Point. The Coastal Prairie is located along the western Gulf coast, in southwest Louisiana and southeast Texas. The project focuses on restoring the prairie and native ecosystem as a natural buffer between the residential area and the shipping terminal facilities. The designs tell the story of Morgan's Point by highlighting the rich history of the city.



“My work at VIA Metropolitan Transit involves making predictions, identifying sites for facilities, and simulating route improvements. My time at TXTCP working on the Liberty County Strategic Plan and Grimes County Thoroughfare Plan prepared me to make realistic predictions for a region. The TXTCP team consistently presents recommendations appropriate to a specific location. I learned to start with context, because it makes plan implementation a real possibility. Also, while working for Grimes County, I remember my advisor's insistence that I find the “heart” of a project before moving forward with analysis. That emotional connection to planning continues to motivate me.”

-Lauren Simcic

Inner-City Neighborhoods

TXTCP is the engagement arm of the Institute for Sustainable Communities (IfSC), the University's focal point of interdisciplinary sustainable community research, engagement, and high impact service learning led by Dr. Phil Berke. TXTCP cultivates partnerships, co-designs projects, and enhances community capacity translating highly technical research to community action. Since 2014, IfSC has developed relationships with several community-based organizations and high schools: Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services, Charity Productions, Furr High School, and Jones Futures Academy.

Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (t.e.j.a.s.) is a community-based organization aims to address the inequitable adverse health outcomes resulting from exposure to toxic industrial emissions among low-income, minority area residents.

Toxic Tours. T.e.j.a.s. conducts toxic tours to highlight environmental justice issues of the East End of Houston with some of the largest refineries and chemical plants.

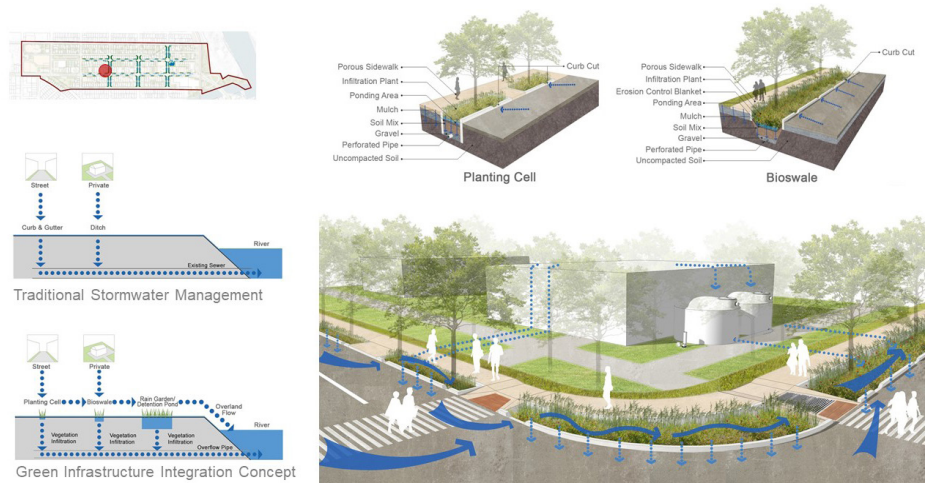
Neighborhood Designs. Landscape architecture students lead by Dr. Galen Newman developed a master plan for the Manchester neighborhood to 1) inventory and locate flood-prone areas and on-site problems, 2) spatially locate new land uses, 3) develop desired functions for proposed open spaces, 4) suggest new job opportunities for enhancing the local economy and 5) designate green infrastructure to mitigate pollution and flood issues. One of Houston's oldest neighborhoods, Manchester is surrounded by industries, resulting in one of the highest impairments and lowest water qualities in the state. In cooperation with Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Service (t.e.j.a.s.) and Furr High School, the team met with residents to discuss on-site problems and identify flood-prone areas in a series of meetings.

Charity Productions. Charity Productions, a community-based organization which began in 1984, provides community outreach and services to underserved neighborhoods in Houston and Beaumont/Port Arthur.

Coming Together at Community Breakfasts. The IfSC regularly attends the community breakfasts hosted by Charity Productions. The largest of its kind in Texas, with attendance averaging 400 community members, the quarterly breakfast began in October 2002 and are considered the “Super Community Partnership Breakfast-The Place where Good Friends and Good Biscuits Meet.”

Neighborhood Designs. Landscape architecture and urban planning students developed a number of community-scaled master plan with infrastructure provisions for Sunnyside, & South Park, marginalized and flood prone super-neighborhoods affected by Hurricane Harvey in south Houston, TX. The designs include community retrofits, infrastructure enhancements to support flood mitigation. Integrated into the strategies are provisions for repurposing vacant land, walkability enhancement, and ecological services.

Flood Intervention: Regulating Stormwater Flow Paths



Design recommendations for Manchester led by Dr. Galen Newman.



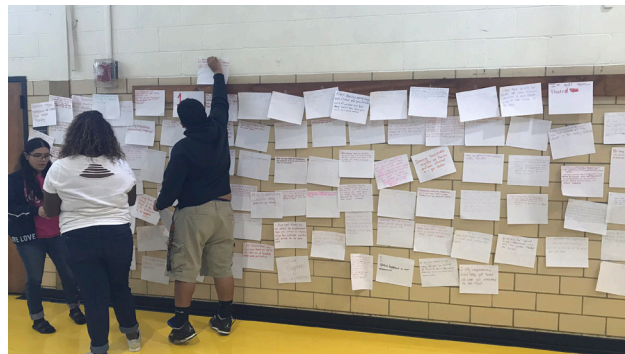
In 2016, Furr H.S. received the XQ Super School Project Grant of \$10 million over 5 years. The XQ Foundation celebrated the award by visiting the high school and holding a pep rally. This bus, outfitted with innovative educational tools, was one of the fun activities during the celebration.

Furr High School. Furr High School (FHS), a magnet school in the Houston Independent School District (HISD) on the East End, is considered the Green Institute focused on environmental sustainability and real world applications. Since 2014, teachers and students at FHS have worked closely with IfSC researchers and trained on data collection methods to perform “citizen science.” In 2015, the “green ambassadors” (the Woodsy Owl Conservation Corps Green Ambassadors supported by the U.S. Forest Service Friends of the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas - Latino Legacy) were awarded the highest honor of the United States Department of Agriculture with the Abraham Lincoln Award for Diversity, Outreach, and Inclusion. Additionally, with support from the College of Architecture at Texas A&M and IfSC, FHS was awarded the XQ Foundation Grant and \$10 million over 3 years.

Citizen Science in the Manchester/Harrisburg Neighborhood. Graduate students in public health, urban planning, landscape architecture, and engineering worked with FHS students to collect reliable and valid data in the neighborhood. Together, students mapped pooling and ponding water using a geographic information system smart phone application. Additionally, students collected water samples to test for heavy metals, evaluated the quality of stormwater infrastructure, and conducted health surveys.

Jones Futures Academy

Just days before the Hurricane Harvey made landfall, the IfSC facilitated a workshop with teachers at Jones Futures Academy (JFA), a magnet school focused on health and construction within HISD. JFA sought to build on the success of a previous IfSC citizen science project. Teachers focused on project-based learning assignments to improve community conditions related to flooding and infrastructure. HISD was closed for weeks following Hurricane Harvey and when teachers returned it became clear the project was timely and relevant for their students and community. JFA participated in an oral history training and citizen science project on infrastructure inspections.



Jones Futures Academy students reflect on their experiences in Hurricane Harvey, facilitated by Dr. Andrea Roberts.

Oral History Training

Dr. Andrea Roberts trained 300 students at JFA on how to conduct an oral history. The project sought 1) to understand the impacts of Hurricane Harvey on students, teachers, and community elders and 2) to train young people as a means to document the untold histories in communities. Students wrote their experiences and impressions of media coverage during the hurricane. Students then practiced by interviewing community elders who volunteered their time at the school.

Infrastructure Inspections with Citizens

With funds from the National Science Foundation (NSF), Grant No. 1645193, Dr. Nasir Gharaibeh, Dr. Marccus Hendricks, graduate student Isaac Otti, and others worked with students from JFA to develop a technique to identify the quality of neighborhood stormwater infrastructure. High school students were trained to evaluate infrastructure, which was then compared to professional inspections and LiDAR data. Because there is a lack of reliable data on stormwater infrastructure at the neighborhood level and an increased intensity of storms, this technique provides a method to obtain data communities so desperately need to mitigate flooding.

Coastal Communities

After Hurricane Harvey, Texas Sea Grant began brainstorming ways to support recovering communities. With support from the IfSC, Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning, TXTC, and the Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center, the Community Resilience Collaborative (CRC) was born. The CRC hired city and regional planners located in the field along the coast, to better support community needs. The partnership aims to strengthen the mission of all collaborating partners in support of low-capacity communities exposed to hazards. The planners work closely with TXTC to extend project work and include Steven Washington and Walter Peacock (Houston), one planner in Corpus Christi, Ashley Bennis (Corpus Christi), and Kate de Gennaro (Brownsville). In the fall of 2018, TXTC and CRC began working with the cities of Hitchcock and Rockport, both significantly impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

Goals of the Program:



1. Communities adopt high-quality plans to achieve locally defined visions of sustainable development.



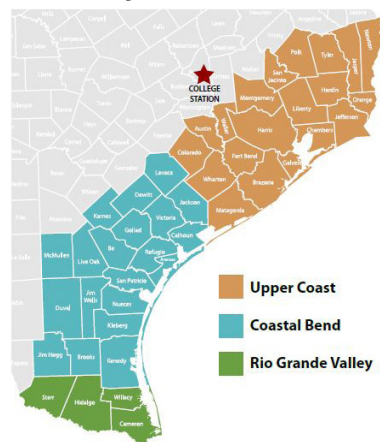
2. Communities increase resilience to natural and technological hazards.



3. Habitat, ecosystems and the services they provide are monitored, enhanced and/or restored.



4. Local and scientific knowledge is leveraged in planning and other decision making processes.



The Community Resilience Collaborative has planners in the field to support small communities across these three regions of the Texas coast.

Our Reach



Faculty

Koichiro Aitani
Eric Bardenhagen
Phil Berke
Geoffrey Booth
Elise Bright
John Cooper
Bill Eisle
Tara Goddard
Donna Hajash
Ken Hurst
Fouad Jaber
Kenneth Joh
Carol Lafayette
Chanam Lee
Wei Li
Jaimie Masterson
Kim Mickelson
Rabi Mohtar
Galen Newman
Michael O'Brien
Walt Peacock
Russell Reid
Andrea Roberts
Jon Rodiek
Jesse Saginor
Mike Teal
Shannon Van Zandt
Sierra Woodruff
Yu Xiao

"I have completed a multitude of participatory projects in conjunction with Texas Target Communities over the past five years, each resulting in many scholarly publications and numerous state and national awards. The outputs generated during these projects could not have been as successful without the coordination efforts of TXTC and the ability to 1) utilize the TXTC network of residents and stakeholders, 2) fully execute the participatory process to develop citizen science, 3) develop and analyze data sets and 4) seamlessly collect and share information within an interdisciplinary environment."
- Dr. Galen Newman

*TXTC Faculty designated
Service Engagement
Fellow at
Texas A&M University*

- Jennifer Horney
- Galen Newman
- Geoffrey Booth



Working with TXTC means being engaged in a truly inspiring process of delivering high-impact and real-world learning experiences to our students.
- Dr. Chanam Lee

Hosting Peer Network Events

EPIC-Network Conference. TXTC coordinated the 6th annual gathering of the Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities Network (EPIC-N) “Sustainable City Year Conference.” EPIC-N is an award-winning professional organization for university-community partnership programs. The conference is a three-day workshop for university staff to foster improved service-learning and community engaged scholarship. (April 2017)

Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning Speaker Series. TXTC hosted two nationally recognized researchers from the University of Oregon, Dr. Nico Larco and Dr. Marc Schlossberg, to discuss their research on a suitability urban design framework and complete streets. (April 2017)

Campus Sustainability Day. TXTC worked with the Texas A&M Office of Sustainability and the Master of Urban Planning Program to bring environmental justice experts for a film screening and panel discussion. Derrick Evans, of *Come Hell or High Water: The Battle for Turkey Creek* and Yudith Nieto of the Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (t.e.j.a.s.) spoke at Texas A&M University for the 2014 Sustainability Day. (March 2014)

Planning for Disaster Resilience Symposium. With the Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center, TXTC staff coordinated and hosted an academic symposium to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center at Texas A&M University. The event brought together academics from across the world to discuss the intersection of planning hazards. (April 2014)

Awards

- Director Dr. John Cooper received the Texas A&M University Distinguished Achievement Award in Extension, Outreach, Continuing Education and Professional Development
- Associate Director, Jaimie Hicks Masterson received Star Staff Award in the College of Architecture in 2014



Sunnyside Neighborhood

Resilience through Regeneration

- 2018 TX-ASLA Award of Excellence
- 2018 HGAC Our Great Region: The Opportunity Award Category

Protecting Home: Strategies to Prevent Gentrification

- 2018 TX-ASLA Honor Award

Sunnyside Neighborhood Reclaiming Vacancies

- 2017 TX APA Student Project Award



Grimes County

Grimes County Thoroughfare Plan

- 2017 TX APA Student Project Award Honorable Mention



Liberty County

Liberty County Strategic Plan

- 2017 TX APA Current Planning Award



La Grange

La Grange Housing Needs Assessment

- 2015 Central Texas Chapter of APA Student Project Award
- 2015 Honorable Mention for TX APA Student Project Award



League City

Climate Change Armor

- 2018 CELA Student Award for Creative Scholarship
- 2017 National ASLA Honor Award: Analysis and Planning Category
- 2017 TX- ASLA Honor Award

Wetland P.R.I.D.E.

- 2018 TX-ASLA Honor Award

Nature as Catalyst

- 2017 TX-ASLA Award of Excellence

Re.S.T.O.R.E

- 2017 TX-ASLA Honor Award



Manchester Neighborhood

Grey to Green: For Healthy Communities

- 2016 TX-ASLA Merit Award

Neighborhood Detox: Enhancing Resilience in a Hazard Vulnerable Area

- 2016 H-GAC Project Showcase: Outreach
- 2016 National ASLA Honor Award: Student Community Service Category

Idle Grounds: Maximizing Resiliency in the Urban Landscape

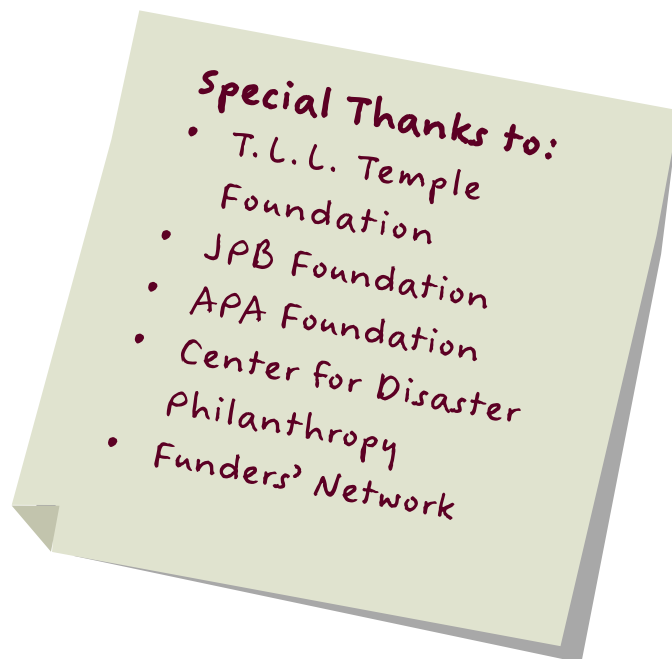
- 2016 TX-ASLA Honor Award



Collaborations

Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center
Center for Housing and Urban Development
Center for Health Systems and Design
Institute for Sustainable Communities
Texas Coastal Communities Planning Atlas
Land and Property Development Program
Office of Sustainability
TAMU AgriLife Extension
Texas Rural Leadership Program
Department of Biological and Agricultural
Engineering
Zachry Department of Civil Engineering
Center for Texas Beaches and Shores
V.G. Young Institute of County Government
Stronger Economies Together
College of Engineering
School of Public Health
College of Geosciences
TAMU- Galveston

Texas Communities That Care (CTC)
Prairie View A&M University
Texas Sea Grant
Texas Association of Counties
Texas A&M- Kingsville
Texas A&M- Corpus Christi



Contributing to the Conversation

Masterson, Jaimie Hicks, Peacock, W.G., Van Zandt, S.S., Grover, H., Schwarz, L.F., Cooper, Jr., J.T. (2014). *Planning for Community Resilience: A Handbook for Reducing Vulnerabilities to Disasters*. Island Press: Washington D.C.

Texas. Senate. Disaster Housing Recovery Program. 84th Legis. Session. SB. 1376. Austin: filed March, 2015.

Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center at Texas A&M University, Community Development Corporation of Brownsville, building community WORKSHOP, La Union Del Pueblo Entero, A Resource in Serving Equality, & Texas Low Income Housing Information Services (2015, January). *Rapid Housing Recovery Program, Policy Recommendations and Comparison Report*. Community Development Corporation of Brownsville and building community WORKSHOP: Brownsville, TX.

The Coastal Triple Threat of Natural Hazards -Island Press Blog- Jaimie Hicks Masterson- January 10, 2016 <https://islandpress.org/blog/coastal-triple-threat-natural-hazards>

Where to Live? Resiliency in Spite of Climate Change – Island Press Blog- Jaimie Hicks Masterson- December 21, 2016
<https://islandpress.org/blog/where-live-resiliency-spite-climate-change>

Diamonds in the Swamp- Institute for Sustainable Communities Blog- Jaimie Hicks Masterson- February 9, 2017.
<http://ifsc.tamu.edu/News/February-2017/Diamonds-in-the-Swamp>

How Black History Has Influenced Disaster Planning- Center for Disaster Philanthropy Blog- John Cooper and Jaimie Hicks Masterson- February 23, 2017
<http://disasterphilanthropy.org/blog/floods/black-history-influenced-disaster-planning/>

Tool for Tracking an Equitable Recovery- Center for Disaster Philanthropy Blog- Katie Kirsch and Jaimie Hicks Masterson- September 2, 2017
<http://disasterphilanthropy.org/blog/hurricanes-typhoons/tool-tracking-equitable-recovery/>

Our Commitment

Going forward, TXTC plans to broaden our reach across campus with more interdisciplinary projects to best meet community needs. We will pursue the development of high quality community-grounded products while working alongside multiple faculty, students, and courses on campus. We aim to:



Goal 1: Foster quality service-learning experiences for the next generation workforce

Outcome: Real projects for students which inspire creative thinking to solve problems for real people



Goal 2: Provide quality products for communities that would otherwise not realize their full potential

Outcome: Brokering sustaining community relationships



Goal 3: Connect faculty to a network of service-learning leaders to pursue research endeavors

Outcome: Interdisciplinary research on and off campus

