



Sam Houston State University

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

Michael T. Stephenson

Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to announce the 2023 awardees of the BRIDGE Program (Building Research, Innovation, Discovery, and Growing Engagement). Out of the 27 full submissions received, the review committee selected four projects to fund. In no particular order, they are:

Effectiveness of a Community-Based Intervention of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Type 2 Diabetes Management in a Rural and Underserved Community

PI: Ryan Marek (Primary Care & Clinical Medicine)

Team: Michael Griffin (Molecular & Cellular Biology), Owen Kelly (Molecular & Cellular Biology), Oluwaseun Olaiya (Primary Care & Clinical Medicine), Chelsea Ratcliff (Psychology & Philosophy)

Establishment of the Biomedical Research, Innovation, Training, and Employment (BRITE) consortium at Sam Houston State University

PIs: Mardelle Atkins (Biological Sciences), Donovan Haines (Chemistry), Sharmin Hasan (Biological Sciences)

Team: Diego Alvarez (Physiology & Pharmacology), Meagan Hinze (Chemistry), Khalid M. Khan (Public Health), Aaron Lynne (Biological Sciences), Jailenne Quiñones (Clinical Anatomy), David Thompson (Chemistry), Stephen White (Psychology & Philosophy)

Machine-Learning Algorithm to Optimize the Carbon Sequestration and Noise Attenuation of Roadside Vegetation in Texas

PI: Momen Mousa (Engineering Technology)

Team: John Pascarella (Biological Sciences)

Urban Agribusiness Ventures to Connect and Engage our Hispanic Community

PI: Shyam Sivankutty Nair (Agricultural Sciences)

Team: Alma Contreras-Vanegas (Teaching & Learning), Mark Hainline (Agricultural Sciences), Kaitlin Hopkins (Agricultural Sciences), Roozbeh Irani-Kermani (Agricultural Sciences), ABM Rezbau Islam (Computer Science)

Congratulations to these interdisciplinary teams, who represent five of our eight colleges! I can't wait to see the impactful work that will come from these researchers and how these projects will go on to be competitive for large-scale, sustainable state and federal funding.

Thank you to our thoughtful internal review committee as well as those of you who submitted proposals. This was a competitive program, and I'm proud of the incredible research pursuits happening at SHSU.

About BRIDGE

The BRIDGE Program was established in 2023 as part of the Provost Innovation Fund (PIF) with the allocation of \$500,000 in one-time funds to advance interdisciplinary research teams with an established track record of addressing contemporary problems through applied, basic, or translational research. The PIF was designed to sponsor university-level initiatives in support of strategic priority 2 – goal 1 “Academic Excellence.”

Through an internal review process, interdisciplinary research teams were awarded up to \$175,000 in seed funds to conduct preliminary research that makes them competitive for large-scale, sustainable external funding. [Visit the BRIDGE website](#) for more details about the program.

If you have questions about BRIDGE grants, please email the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs at funding@shsu.edu.

I look forward to seeing SHSU faculty continue to take their research to the next level!



Michael T. Stephenson
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

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*This email has been approved for distribution to AA Faculty and Staff
by Michael T. Stephenson, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs.*

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