

13TH ANNUAL

# Diversity Awards Honoree Dinner

*Shining the Light:  
Promoting Inclusion through Unity*

| June 9th, 2022

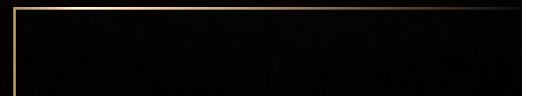
| 5:30 - 7:00 PM

| Davidson-Gundy

| Alumni Center



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS  
Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



# A Message from Dr. Pearson



**Yvette E. Pearson,  
Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE**

*Vice President for  
Diversity, Equity and  
Inclusion*

*UT System Regents'  
Outstanding Teacher*

Greetings Colleagues, Students, and Friends:

On behalf of the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI), it is my pleasure and honor to welcome you to the 2022 Diversity Awards Celebration. One of the key strengths of UT Dallas is that we recognize our excellence is achieved, in part, as a derivative of the differences we all bring to the community from our various backgrounds, identities, cultures, disciplines, and experiences.

I'm honored to celebrate the accomplishments of all of our awardees and the excellence in which you all operate on a daily basis. Having agency for DEI across the university, not only in ODEI, strengthens us as we strive to become "a place where all members of the community from all backgrounds are welcomed, treated fairly, and encouraged in their pursuit of excellence."

Please join me in thanking Mrs. Rosie Peterson, Ms. Jasmine Johnson and their team in the Department of Institutional Diversity Initiatives for organizing this event, along with our partners, co-sponsors and presenters for their support. This evening would not be possible without you.

Thank you to everyone in attendance for joining us to celebrate our community members who lead us in being United Through Diversity.

# Order of Program

## **Introduction of Host**

**Raul Hinojosa Jr.**

*Interim Assistant Vice President  
Director of Community Engagement*

**Alicia Makaye, Ph.D.**

*Program Host*

## **Entertainment**

**Matt Winser-Johns**

*Director  
Galerstein Gender Center*

**Dee Lambert**

*Director of Administration & Operations  
Office of Facilities & Economic Development*

## **Welcome**

**Yvette E. Pearson, Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE**

*Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
UT System Regents' Outstanding Teacher*

**Richard C. Benson, Ph.D.**

*President  
The University of Texas at Dallas*

## **Dinner Break**

## **Student & Student Organization Award**

**Clayton Gabel**

*Chairperson  
Student Diversity Advisory Council*

## **Community Champion & Corporate Diversity & Outstanding "HUB" Vendor of the Year Award, Diversity Advisory Council Recognition**

**Kyle Edgington, Ph.D.**

*Vice President  
Office of Development & Alumni Relations*

## **ERG Recognition, Staff Award**

**Jennifer Klunk**

*Undergraduate Program Administrator  
Erik Jonsson School of Engineering  
& Computer Science*

## **Inclusive Teaching Award**

**Ravi Prakash, Ph.D.**

*Professor  
Department of Computer Science  
Collegium V Honors College*

## **Closing Remarks and Recognitions**

**Yvette E. Pearson, Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE**

## **Door Prize Drawing**

**Dee Lambert**

# Introduction of Host

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## Alicia Makaye, Ph.D.

*Program Host*

Dr. Alicia Makaye (the “A” in GXA) is a philanthropist, entrepreneur, and co-founder of GXA. This IT Solutions provider helps other businesses take command and control of their IT. Dr. Makaye is a U.S. Air Force Veteran and a graduate of UT Dallas with a Ph.D. in Public Affairs. She is also an alumna of Goldman Sachs’ 10,000 small businesses entrepreneurship program (cohort of 10). Dr. Makaye most recently served as a Tech Titans judge, helping to nominate some of the best IT industries for 2018. She frequently speaks and participates in activities that foster youth development and encourage youth to consider a profession in Information Technology.

# Welcome



**Yvette E. Pearson,**  
**Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE**

*Vice President for Diversity,  
Equity and Inclusion*

*UT System Regents'  
Outstanding Teacher*

Dr. Yvette E. Pearson is Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) at the University of Texas at Dallas. A Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Pearson is recognized globally for over 25 years in higher education, particularly for her work to advance sustainability, justice, equity, diversity and inclusion. Her efforts have led to over \$30M in funding for initiatives to support DEI in STEM and changes to policies and practices of global engineering organizations. Among her awards and honors are ABET's Claire L. Felbinger Award for Diversity and Inclusion, ASCE's Professional Practice Ethics and Leadership Award, University of Texas Regents Outstanding Teaching Award, the Society of Women Engineers' Distinguished Engineering Educator Award, and ASCE's President's Medal. Pearson is a registered Professional Engineer, a Commissioner on ABET's Engineering Accreditation Commission, and host of Engineering Change Podcast, which has audiences in over 70 countries on six continents.



**Richard C. Benson, Ph.D.**

*President  
The University of Texas at Dallas*

Dr. Richard C. Benson is the fifth president of The University of Texas at Dallas. With purpose and passion, he is leading UT Dallas in its pursuit of Tier One status as an innovative research university positioned to make a difference around the globe. President Benson is committed to growing student enrollment, expanding the research portfolio, strengthening ties across Dallas-Fort Worth and the state, enhancing campus infrastructure, and hiring dynamic faculty and staff members.

# Entertainment

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Musical performances  
provided by:



The Jazz Bytes is a subset of the full 18-piece Texins Jazz Band. The Texins Jazz Band is composed of members with STEM degrees. The Jazz Bytes quartet consists of Paul Westbrook (B.S. Mechanical Engineering), Dr. Gerry Burnham (Ph.D. Electrical Engineering), Ron Iovine (B.S. Computer Science), and Bill Sallee (M.S. Electrical Engineering).

For more information, please visit: [enerjazz.com/jazztech](http://enerjazz.com/jazztech)

# Student Organization Award



## Zaina Syed *on behalf of* Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)

*“Doctors Without Borders,” UT Dallas Chapter*

Zaina Syed is a rising junior at UT Dallas majoring in Psychology, she currently works as a hearing screener for Pediatrics and plans to go to medical school or graduate school for Psychology. She is serving as an officer for the UT Dallas student organization: Friends of MSF, which is the student chapter of the international organization Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders).

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international, independent medical humanitarian organization, and translates to Doctors without Borders. They provide medical assistance to people affected by conflict, epidemics, disasters, or exclusion from healthcare. Their teams are made up of tens of thousands of health professionals, logistic and administrative staff—bound together by their charter. Their actions are guided by medical ethics and the principles of impartiality, independence and neutrality. They are a non-profit, self-governed, member-based organisation.

MSF was founded in 1971 in Paris by a group of journalists and doctors. Today, they are a worldwide movement of nearly 65,000 people.

For more information, please visit: [www.msf.org](http://www.msf.org)

# Student Award

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## Josue Fonseca

*JAMP Ambassador, Health Professions Advising Center*

From Houston, Texas, Josue Fonseca graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Healthcare Studies. He served as a Peer Advisor for University Housing, Service Chair for the scholar organization, Student Delegado for the Center for US-Latin American Initiatives, Joint Admission Medical Program-HPAC Student Ambassador, and a Contact Tracer for Dallas County Health and Human Services. He has volunteered in his community through various volunteering opportunities, notably as a Spanish Translator for Hope Clinic McKinney- a free medical clinic for the uninsured. He participated in the Clark Summer Research Program, Teaching Apprenticeship for Biology lab, internships at Baylor College of Medicine and UT Southwestern Medical School, and the Last Writers Program. Josue loves to be outside, eat good food, dance, and dance even more! Josue will be attending The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine participating in a dual MD/MPH degree with UT Health School of Public Health. He plans on serving the refugee and immigrant population on the U.S./Mexico border.



# Community Champion Award

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## Laura Ramirez

*Founder & CEO, Three DEI & ERG Consulting*

In her previous role at Invitation Homes (IH), she created the Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) function from scratch. She led all D&I initiatives. Her efforts around D&I helped to elevate employee engagement, employee experience, external brand, attracting diverse talent, fostering an inclusive company culture, and retaining talent. Laura partnered with all internal stakeholders, she influenced and supported all D&I priorities. She was privileged to lead all Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) at IH. Laura implemented an anti-discrimination policy, ERG framework and launched six new ERGs. She empowered her ERGs towards being best in class. As an active influencer, she helped to elevate Invitation Homes.

Prior to joining Invitation Homes, Laura successfully built out the D&I function from for Ericsson North America. She helped Ericsson gain recognitions such as Forbes List of “2019 Top Employers of Choice for Diversity”, US Veterans Magazine, and ranked in “Top 100 for Diversity” by Mavens. During her time at Ericsson, she also launched four new ERGs and co-created their first acceleration program R.I.S.E. Before Ericsson, Laura spent 17 years at AT&T. At AT&T, she held numerous roles within various organizations at AT&T.

# Corporate Award

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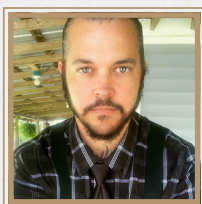


## Capital One

- Lifetime giving of \$573,000. Capital One's current philanthropic focus is on advancing equal opportunity through racial equity, affordable housing, small business support, workforce development and financial wellbeing.
- Capital One professionals have volunteered for the Young WISEI Program as mentors and research competition judges
- Capital One has been a consistent supporter of Young WISEI, and most recently donated \$22,500 to the program in 2021. They have also donated to the ECS student organization Women Mentoring Women.
- They support the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and have sponsored several capstone projects including the InnovateHER program to encourage young women to enter business and entrepreneurship
- Girish Bachani, Senior VP and Divisional Chief Financial Officer, serves on UTD's executive board.
- Most recently, our primary contact at Capital One has expressed an interest in connecting ERGs with our first-generation student programs. They would like to provide ongoing volunteer and fundraising support.

# HUB Vendor Award

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**Jordan Payne**

*on behalf of Logotricity*

Logotricity is proud to have partnered with UTD for nearly 30 years, helping buyers select impactful promotional products, apparel, and awards to promote brand loyalty and recognition. In the past ten years alone, we have worked with over 700 different buyers across many departments. Jordan is our point of contact for UTD buyers-he has received numerous accolades and praises from them for his dedication, swift response, and continued commitment to get them their products-perfect and on time.



# Employee Resource Groups

Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) can be beneficial to the culture within an organization and its bottom line. Many of these groups often start because of an employee's need to network with other employees with similar interests and needs. These groups can also become a model of service for the institution in the area of recruitment of talent, morale boosting, retention and professional development.

In an effort to attract and retain a diversity of talented people at all levels, it is important for the ODEI to support activities creating a welcoming campus climate in which to promote and celebrate diversity at UT Dallas.

If you would like to have more information on ERGs at UT Dallas, please see the back of the brochure for extended contact information, otherwise contact:

*Rosie Peterson at (972) 883-4560 in the Department of Institutional Diversity Initiatives.*

## Current ERGs

*Black Faculty & Staff Alliance*

*Latino Faculty & Staff Association*

*QuTD*

*Asian-American Pacific Islander ERG (In Progress)*

*UTD Counseling & Advising Network*

*Military & Veteran ERG*

*Universal Access ERG*

*Young Professionals ERG*

*UT Dallas Women ERG*

# Diversity Advisory Council

The Diversity Advisory Council is made up of prominent leaders from local community and industry partners. They support the University's goals and strategic initiatives—providing guidance through financial support, awareness and advocacy, and expertise in diversity and inclusion.

For more information, please visit:

<https://diversity.utdallas.edu/partners/DAC/council.html>

## Current Members



**Helen Dorsey**  
*Blue Cross Blue  
Shield of Texas*



**Vanessa Randall**  
*The Tradition  
Senior Living*



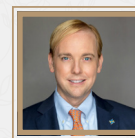
**Felicia Johnson**  
*The Gatson Group*



**Drew Walls**  
*Collins Aerospace*



**Mohammed  
Farshori**  
*AT&T*



**Mitch Dean**  
*Baylor Scott &  
White Health*



**Laura Ramirez**  
*Three DEI & ERG  
Consulting*



**Chris Bhatti**  
*UT Dallas*



**Alicia Makaye,  
Ph.D.**  
*GXA*



**Lindsay  
Bedard**  
*Lennox  
International*

# Staff Award



## Aurora Becerra

*Academic Support Coordinator*

Currently, Aurora serves as VP of Staff Relations for the Latino Faculty & Staff Association. With the help of her fellow LFSA cabinet members, she spearheaded, sought funding, and organized the virtual appearance of bestselling Latinx Author and Poet, Elizabeth Acevedo, to speak to the UTD community during Hispanic Heritage Month (HHM) 2021. She was later made the HHM 2021 Kickoff Speaker.

In addition, she serves as a Co-facilitator of the #BLM Planning Committee and has co-led, organized, and executed multiple UTD community engagement programming centered on social justice and fighting racism and anti-blackness. Furthermore, she serves as a member on the A&H teach-ins which is a social justice and social awareness group on campus. They put on programs like the #BLM Planning Committee and Ms. Becerra has partnered with them on various occasions over the past two years. As an MPA student, she serves on the Graduate Advisory Council for EPPS providing guidance to the dean on the betterment of the school from a student perspective.

Overall, her mission in life is to better the world through social justice programming centered around diversity, equity, and inclusion issues. As a leader, she is very effective in elevating the voices of marginalized individuals and minorities that do not receive the attention or support that they deserve. Through her leadership, she wants to make a lasting impact by raising the consciousness of injustice within the UTD community and beyond.

# Inclusive Teaching Award



## Shawn Carraher, Ph.D.

*Clinical Professor, Organizations, Strategy and  
International Management*

Shawn M. Carraher, received his Ph. D. from the University of Oklahoma and was awarded the Oxford Journal Distinguished Research Professorship at the University of Cambridge. He has served as Division Chair of the Management History and Technology & Innovation Management Divisions as well as past President of the Small Business Institute & the SouthWest Academy of Management as well as Dean of the Counsel of Endowed Chairs and Past Division Chairs within the AOM TIM Division. He is Clinical Professor of International Business at the University of Texas at Dallas. In 2015 at the Said Business School Shawn was named one of the top 50 Outstanding Global Business Educators and then in 2016 was named among the dozen most impactful professors in Business in the world in Switzerland. In 2022 Research.com named him one of the top 550 professors in terms of academic impact in Business & Management in the USA. He supports the academic potential of his students without regard to their background and is one of two faculty in the School of Management identified as mixed race.

# Sponsorships

Thank you to our 2022 Diversity Awards Honoree Dinner sponsors!

For more information, please visit: [giving.utdallas.edu/DiversityAwards](https://giving.utdallas.edu/DiversityAwards)

Prizes sponsored by:

**AT&T** Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Vanessa and Clark Randall

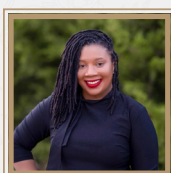


# Credits to the Production Team



**Rosie Peterson**

*Director  
Department of Institutional  
Diversity Initiatives*



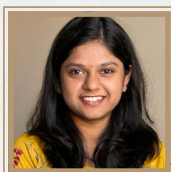
**Jasmine Johnson**

*Assistant Director*



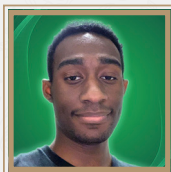
**Srija Kodali**

*Project Coordinator*



**Sudeeksha Golla**

*Web Administrator*



**Xavier Brown**

*Graphics Designer*



**Shaun Wilson**

*Research Associate*

## **Thanks to all volunteers, as well as:**

- Student Diversity Advisory Council
- Diversity Advisory Council
- Committee for the Support of Diversity and Equity
- Academic Bridge Program
- Academic Senate
- Staff Council
- All UTD Employee Resource Groups

# Contact Information

## Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

**Phone:** 972-883-ODEI

**Webpage:** [diversity.utdallas.edu](http://diversity.utdallas.edu)

**Building:** AD.26

**VP:** Yvette E. Pearson, Ph.D.

## Department of Community Engagement

**Phone:** 972-883-4546

**Webpage:** [community.utdallas.edu](http://community.utdallas.edu)

**Building:** HH.2406

**Director:** Raul Hinojosa Jr.

## Multicultural Center

**Phone:** 972-883-6390

**Webpage:** [multicultural.utdallas.edu](http://multicultural.utdallas.edu)

**Building:** SS.23

**Director:** Bruce August Jr.

## Galerstein Gender Center

**Phone:** 972-883-6555

**Webpage:** [gendercenter.utdallas.edu](http://gendercenter.utdallas.edu)

**Building:** SSB.41

**Director:** Matthew Winsler-Johns

## Additional Contact Information

Department of Institutional Diversity Initiatives  
[didi.utdallas.edu/](http://didi.utdallas.edu/)

Student Diversity Advisory Council  
[didi.utdallas.edu/about/student-diversity-advisory-council/](http://didi.utdallas.edu/about/student-diversity-advisory-council/)

Diversity Advisory Council  
[diversity.utdallas.edu/about/standing-committees/diversity-advisory-council/](http://diversity.utdallas.edu/about/standing-committees/diversity-advisory-council/)

Employee Resource Groups (ERGs)  
[diversity.utdallas.edu/ergs/about-ergs/](http://diversity.utdallas.edu/ergs/about-ergs/)

## Department of Institutional Diversity Initiatives

**Phone:** 972-883-4549

**Webpage:** [didi.utdallas.edu](http://didi.utdallas.edu)

**Building:** AD.26

**Director:** Rosie Peterson

*Thanks  
for attending!*

13TH

