Urban Resilience Fellowship Program

North Texas Innovation Alliance is proud to partner with UT Arlington's Office of Sustainability for the Urban Resilience Fellowship Program.

This program will connect faculty experts and students to local government and industry partners to develop innovative solutions for pressing sustainability challenges facing our community. The program cultivates innovative talent in North Texas by providing a collaborative, interdisciplinary environment for students to research, ideate and make recommendations on key issues in the community.

The program will begin in the Spring 2024 semester. Starting Fall 2023, faculty experts can apply to participate and identify students from all levels/majors to support in the implementation. **Each faculty expert and student team will work with a community partner** from the public or private sector to problem-solve a specific community-focused issue that has been identified by the partner. The role of the faculty expert will be to understand the problem statement of the partner, design strategies to address those challenges and work with the student team on finding solution along with a plan of implementation. The faculty expert will guide the students on how best to approach the problem and manage the engagement of the student team throughout the semester. The faculty expert will have weekly touchpoints with the student team and serve as a main point of contact for the community partner. The work of the faculty expert and students will be supported by stipend.

Faculty experts will bring together students from multiple disciplines, including those listed below, as needed, to develop **implementable solutions** for the stated problem:

- Public policy
- Planning
- Design
- Engineering
- IT
- Business
- Architecture
- Social Work
- Law
- Public Health

The program will address key community issues, with a focus on **generating solutions for the public good.** All key issues identified will cross at least two of the following focus areas:

- Mobility / transportation
- Cyber security
- Data analytics
- Environmental / social governance
- Climate change
- Sustainability
- Workforce readiness
- Open data /governmental transparency
- Food systems
- Industry innovation
- Law and regulation

The program will be **a semester engagement** starting with introductions of the community partner, faculty and student team, along with the development of a baseline understanding of the problem and ideation. The final deliverable will be a report and powerpoint presentation to the community partner.

Tentative Schedule:

Summer 2023: Community partners identify key issue to address

Fall 2023:

    9/5 & 9/14: Faculty sessions on program

    End of September: Identify interested faculty

    End of October: Announce faculty experts

Spring 2024:

    1/16 - 1/30: Introduce faculty experts, student and community partners

    End of May : Final deliverables and reports

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