



COLLEGE★TOWN, UTA★West

THE MAVERICK NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025



A NEW FRONTIER

UTA WEST BREAKS GROUND

L-R: John Hall (UTA), Robert Allen (FW Economic Development Partnership), Jennifer Cowley, Chris Strayer (Parker County Economic Development Council), Steve Montgomery (FW Chamber)

On April 3, The University of Texas at Arlington ushered in a new era of academic excellence with the groundbreaking of its new satellite campus, UTA West.

Located on 51 acres of property at the intersection of Walsh Ranch Parkway and Highland Hills Drive, UTA West will bring all the benefits of a top-tier research university to Fort Worth and Parker County, two of the fastest-growing regions in the country. The new campus will enable the University to continue its mission of providing greater access to an affordable higher education and equipping students with the knowledge they need to thrive.

The groundbreaking ceremony featured UTA administrators, government officials, and community leaders. In her

opening remarks, UTA President Jennifer Cowley called UTA West “the right idea, in the right place, at the right time.”

Initial infrastructure installation at the site will begin later this year, with development starting in 2026. The planned opening is slated for fall 2028.



WANT MORE DETAILS ON UTA WEST AND OUR PLANS FOR ITS FUTURE?

This spring, the University is opening a storefront in Willow Park where future Mavericks can learn more about UTA West and the community can gather for information sessions. Visit uta.edu/west for updates on this and all our future plans.

MAVRC MILESTONE

Drone Facility to Take Flight

The UTA Research Institute in Fort Worth is building a new state-of-the-art outdoor netted drone facility set to open this fall. The Maverick Autonomous Vehicle Research Center (MAVRC) will be equipped with lighting, an advanced suite of cameras and other sensors, and an adjacent control/education building.

The facility is important for research in part because it will allow for testing in all weather

conditions, which is necessary for Federal Aviation Administration compliance.

“The new facility will allow me, other researchers, and UTA students, plus local companies and stakeholders, to safely test and experiment with unmanned vehicles as our society speeds up its use of these technical marvels,” says electrical engineering Professor Yan Wan, who spearheaded the project.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

HI, NEIGHBOR!

As planning continues for our new UTA West campus, we're excited about the growing ties we're building in Parker County and west Fort Worth. We're creating more opportunities for families, students, and lifelong learners because this region is an important part of our Maverick story.

One way we're showing up? Summer camps! We're bringing fun, hands-on programs to Aledo, Fort Worth, and Weatherford designed to spark creativity and curiosity in kids and teens. These aren't your average camps. Think exploration, bold creativity, and real-world inspiration.

We're also hitting the road for summer events—come say hi to us at the Parker County Peach Festival! We'd love to meet you, answer your questions, and share what's ahead for UTA in your community.

You'll find all the details about what's happening at UTA and UTA West in this newsletter. Whether you're a prospective student, proud parent, or community member ready to dream big with us, y'all are always welcome here. Let's build a bold future—together.

GO MAVS!

Jennifer Cowley, UTA President





STUDENT SPOTLIGHT Lights, Camera, Mavericks!

In 2023, the Texas legislature set aside \$200 million in incentives to encourage more filmmakers to bring their productions to Texas—and to hire local film crews and background actors. It’s the highest amount the state has ever allocated toward the Texas Moving Image Industry Incentive Program, and UTA is helping prepare the workforce to meet the demand.

“These incentives enable our students to participate in significant productions without leaving Texas, providing them essential hands-on experience,” says August Davis, chair of the Department of Art and Art

History. “By tailoring our curriculum to leverage these new opportunities, we’re fostering a new wave of filmmakers who will help position Texas as a premier destination for film and television production.”

UTA Cinematic Arts Program trains its young filmmakers in theory and technique under a studio art model. As students move through the program, they’re immersed in all aspects of making a film, including directing, cinematography, editing, screenwriting, motion graphics, and much more. Students explore different areas of filmmaking—animation, documentary, live-action,

commercial, video arts, and narrative—and go on to specialize in the direction best aligned with their passions and career goals.

The University recently added a commercial filmmaking minor and microcredentials to certify students as “on-set” ready for working on film sets. With Weatherford-based 101 Studios, UTA will soon also launch a production assistant program to prepare students for their first job in the film industry after graduation.

[Read more and watch a video about the program here:](#)



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Tarrant County Age Study

We know factors such as where we live, what we eat, and how we spend our time affect how we age, but the specifics are still unclear to scientists. To help answer these vital questions, researchers at UT Arlington have begun a multiyear study on healthy aging—and they’re looking for the community’s help.

Researchers are enrolling volunteers from Tarrant County for the Arlington Study of Healthy Aging (ASHA), which will use advanced imaging, genetics, exercise science, neuroscience, and remote monitoring to investigate age-related health decline. The goal is to help individuals and

health care practitioners better prevent the impact of disease on older adults.

The team aims to enroll 600 volunteers between the ages of 50 and 80 to participate in the program. Each person will undergo two days of testing at UTA. On the first day, they will receive a full-body MRI, including images of the brain, heart, and skeletal muscle. On the second day, the team will study their blood vessel functioning, memory, and physical performance, and draw a small blood sample.

For more information on ASHA or to become a volunteer, visit [asha-study.uta.edu](#).



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

TESTING AIRPLANE SAFETY

UTA Professor Endel Iarve is working to make airplanes safer, right here in Fort Worth. The mechanical and aerospace engineer received a contract from the Air Force Research Laboratory to use computer models to predict how composite materials will perform under real-world conditions, improving aircraft durability and safety.

Dr. Iarve, who directs the Institute for Predictive Performance Methodologies at the UTA Research Institute in Fort Worth, is collaborating with researchers from the Michigan Institute of Technology, University of Utah, Columbia University, and Lockheed Martin on the project. His models will allow researchers to test materials virtually, reducing the need for costly and time-consuming physical experiments.

FUN FOR ALL AGES



FOR KIDS & TEENS

UTA Summer Camps Out West

This summer, UTA is bringing its innovative, hands-on camps to Aledo, Fort Worth, and Weatherford. From STEAM adventures to creative arts to leadership programs, our camps are designed to inspire and engage kids and teens. Whether your child dreams of becoming a scientist, an engineer, an artist, or a future leader, there's a camp for them! Sign up today at go.uta.edu/WestSummerCamps.

JULY 7-11 IN FT. WORTH

- Badge Dash: Girl Scouts Adventure (Grades 6-8 & 9-12)
- Conceptual Engineering (Grades 6-8)
- Instamazing: Urban Photography (Grades 6-8)
- Digital Creators: Video Transitions (Grades 6-8)
- Building with Hydraulics (Grades 6-8)
- Create Your Own Podcast (Grades 9-12)
- Principles of Engineering Section 1 (Grades 9-12)
- Principles of Engineering Section 2 (Grades 9-12)
- Instamazing: Urban Photography (Grades 9-12)
- DFW Future Leaders at Ft Worth (Grades 9-12)

JULY 14-18 IN ALEDO

- Engineering Adventures: Construct and Build (Grades 3-5)
- Junior Med Camp (Grades 6-8)
- Building with Hydraulics (Grades 6-8)
- Conceptual Engineering (Grades 6-8)

JULY 21-25 IN WEATHERFORD

- Space: The Final Frontier (Grades 1-2)
- Space: Stars and Beyond! (Grades 3-5)
- Secret Agent Section 1 (Grades 3-5)
- Maverick Chemistry! (Grades 3-5)
- Building with Hydraulics (Grades 6-8)
- Principles of Engineering (Grades 9-12)

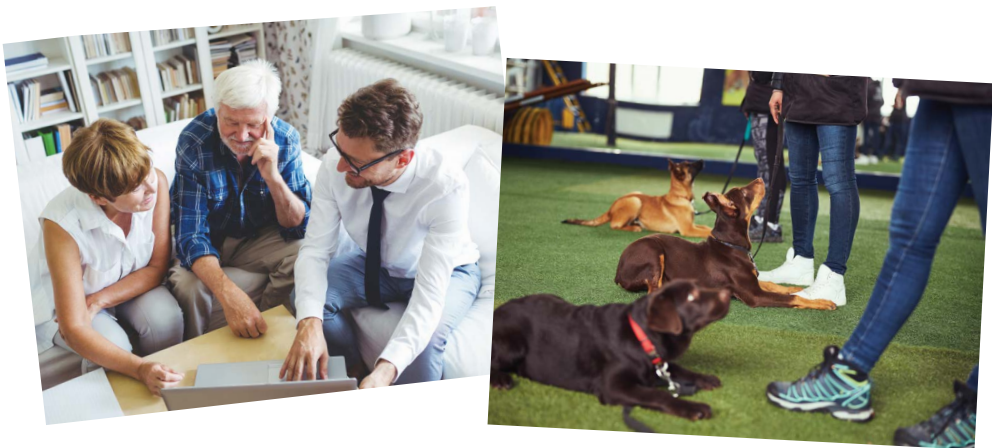
FOR ADULTS & WORKERS

More Classes and Training Out West

UTA's Extension and Extended Campus is expanding its offerings into Parker County. Attend fun and informative Continuing Education courses, receive training in safety and health topics, and earn microcredentials at the Public Works Institute.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CLASSES

- June 19 & 26** Tax Planning in Retirement
- Sept. 6** Puppy Manners & Training: The Basics
 - Dog Training 101 for Adult Dogs: Using Balanced Reinforcement
- Sept. 11 & 18** Social Security Strategies
- Sept. 22** Yoga for Sleep
- Sept. 26** Practical Project Management Fundamentals
- Oct. 9** Effective Communication in Health Care
- Oct. 9** Effective Communication & Customer Service
- Oct. 15** Business Writing Basics
- Oct. 17** Wills, Trusts, & Estate Planning
- Oct. 20** Yoga for Injury Prevention
- Oct. 21** Time Management & Productivity
 - Team Building & Collaboration
- Oct. 24** Wills, Trusts, & Estate Planning
- Nov. 7** Yellow Belt Lean Six Sigma Fundamentals
- Nov. 12** Puppy Manners & Training: The Basics
 - Dog Training 101 for Adult Dogs: Using Balanced Reinforcement



SAFETY AND HEALTH TRAINING

- Aug. 11** Introduction to Safety & Health Management
- Aug. 12-14** Safety & Health Management Program
- Sept. 2-5** Respiratory Protection
- Sept. 30-Oct. 2** Excavation, Trenching, & Soil Mechanics
- Nov. 18-21** Occupational Safety & Health Standards for the Construction Industry
- Dec. 16-18** Fall Protection

PUBLIC WORKS INSTITUTE

- Aug. 11** Subsurface Utility Locating & Marking Workshop
- Sept. 12** Traffic Management for First Responders
- Nov. 4** Qualified Flagger Train & Trainer
- Nov. 6-7** Traffic Control Supervisor
- Dec. 11** Pipeline Locating, Marking, & Damage Prevention Training

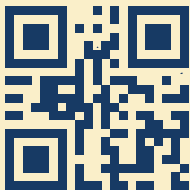
Explore the full lineup of programs available this summer by scanning the QR code or visiting uta.edu/ded/parkercounty.



MAVERICKS GO WEST

Coming Fall 2028

STAY UP
TO DATE
ON OUR
JOURNEY
TO 2028



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UTA.EDU/WEST



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