

Bio
Dr. Scott D. Ryan

As Dean of the School of Social Work at the University of Texas at Arlington, Dr. Scott Ryan oversees the largest social work program in the state of Texas and one of the largest in the nation with more than 2,200 students, 55 full-time faculty and 56 full-time staff.

Dr. Ryan has served as the dean since 2009. He is also the Interim Director of UTA's Interdisciplinary Studies Program and a Faculty Affiliate with the Center for African American Studies. He has been a Senior Research Fellow at the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute and is the current Editor of the journal *Adoption Quarterly*.

Under Dean Ryan's leadership the School of Social Work has secured more than \$4 million in donor funding, has more than doubled in student enrollment and has increased the number of tenure and non-tenured full-time faculty by more than 35%.

Under his leadership, the School of Social Work has consistently ranked among the most research productive and the most successful in securing external funding.

He helped secure a \$1.7 million gift commitment from the Amon G. Carter Foundation, which is the largest gift in the School's 50-year history, to establish the Innovative Community-Academic Partnership program (iCAP) to create cutting-edge/research-informed 'best practice' programs with community providers.

Before moving to Texas, Dean Ryan was the Jeanene M. Janes Professor of Child Welfare and Associate Dean for Research at the Florida State University's College of Social Work. He has worked extensively with at-risk families for almost two decades as a clinician, educator, trainer and researcher. He has taught both research and clinical classes; with the goal of building bridges so researchers understand the 'real world' needs of clinicians and practitioners - and vice versa. For his work, Dr. Ryan received the Friend of Children Award from the North American Council on Adoptable Children, an Angel in Adoption Award from the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, and an Adoption Excellence Award from the U.S. Children's Bureau.

Dean Ryan served as the treasurer and president of the Texas Association of Social Work Deans and Directors, mentor for new deans/directors through the National Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work, treasurer of the National Association of Social Workers (Texas and Florida Chapters), member of the Council on Social Work Education's Council on Leadership Development, and a board member of the United

Way of Tarrant County. In 2021, Dean Ryan received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Texas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers North Central Texas Fort Worth Area Branch.

Dean Ryan has participated in several leadership development programs (including the Harvard University Institutes for Higher Education and the American Council on Education Leadership Fellows Program) and earned a Certificate in Integrated University Planning through the Society for College and University Planners, as well as a Certificate in Fund Raising Management from Indiana University's Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.

As currently the only Dean at UTA with a Hispanic background, Dean Ryan has worked tirelessly to support diversity at UTA. He co-led the establishment of the interdisciplinary Center for African American Studies - only the third in Texas. In addition, for almost four years, he chaired the Presidential Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, which was tasked with assessing and improving the University's overall climate of diversity, tolerance and respect. Under his leadership, the committee created a number of initiatives including a mentoring program and new interdisciplinary Diversity Minor.

He was a member of the Presidential Task Force to aid UTA in becoming a newly designated Hispanic Serving Institution. Lastly, as Dean, in collaboration with the UTA Center for African American Studies and the Center for Mexican American Studies, he helped create two new scholarships for undergraduate social work students seeking minors in African American or Mexican American Studies. Dean Ryan's research has primarily focused on LGBT issues; specifically on issues of adoption and family formation. He has published more than 50 scholarly articles and book chapters, and has presented his work nationally and internationally.

Dean Ryan earned an MSW from Columbia University, an MBA from Howard University, and a Ph.D. in Social Work from Case Western Reserve University. In addition, he has a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in marketing and a Bachelor of Social Work degree. His wife is an MSW social worker at the Veterans Administration and they have two daughters.