

Dr. Kirk A. Foster Bio

Kirk A. Foster is Dean and Professor of Social Work at the University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work. His research focuses on poverty, social capital, collective action, and restorative justice in and for African American communities.

Dr. Foster uses community-based research methods to examine how residents of urban neighborhoods mobilize resources to address the most pressing issues they face. His research has been funded by the National Science Foundation and private foundations and he has published in top journals such as *American Journal of Community Psychology*, *Urban Affairs Review*, *Journal of Urban Affairs*, and *City & Community*.

He was recognized with the Outstanding Book Award (2016) from the Society for Social Work and Research for his co-authored book *Chasing the American Dream* and is currently co-authoring two books – *Black Spaces of Empowerment* and *Setting a 21st Century Agenda for Community Science*. Dr. Foster has taught in the areas of community practice, human behavior, and community-engaged research.

As Dean at UTA, he leads one of the largest schools of social work in the United States with nearly 2,100 students and more than 110 full-time faculty and staff. Prior to joining UTA, he was the Carolyn Freeze Baynes Distinguished Professor & Director of the School of Social Work at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina and Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion at the College of Social Work, University of South Carolina.

Dr. Foster earned his BA from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; his MDiv from Eden Theological Seminary; and his MSW and PhD from the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.