be a mix of flexible, state-of-the-art, technology-enriched learning spaces; teaching and research labs; also provide room for social work programs to grow and evolve to meet the critical needs of North Texas'.

Research shows that when professionals in social work and nursing collaborate, patients have better outcomes and improved health outcomes. "Collaborative work within this building will set the stage for the future of health care and social work," said Teik Lim, UTA's interim president.

As I scan news channels online, I can't help but see the headlines through the lens of a Social Worker. The world is in need of social workers more than ever before. Social work is an essential part of the solution. Social workers are on the front lines of the pandemic, providing care and support to those in need. They are working to address issues of racism, poverty, and inequality. Social workers are critical partners in the recovery effort.

The UTA presenters will offer important studies on behavioral science topics including violence against women, mental health, and the impact of the pandemic on communities. The forum will be held virtually June 16-18. It will include educational sessions and Capitol Hill visits. The goal is to strengthen the connection between research and policy. Rogers recently authored a book on the topic of social work and public policy. "Social workers have a critical role to play in shaping policies that impact the lives of people," said Rogers. "We need to make sure that our voices are heard and that our insights are valued."

The two Social Work doctoral graduates for Spring 2021 – Leat and Rogers – each are expected to make significant contributions to the field. Leat is expected to focus on research related to mental health and social work interventions. Rogers is expected to focus on research related to social policy and public health. The ceremony included students finishing their studies this semester and students who will be finishing their studies next semester. Also included were students who earned doctorate degrees; 71 students who earned Master of Social Work degrees; and 186 Social Work graduates in total.

As my mentors and exemplified truly excellent teaching, Dr. Mitschke said. "Through teaching, I can help students open doors to new paradigms and new ways of seeing the world. I'm grateful to have the opportunity to teach in the School of Social Work at UTA and look forward to continuing to learn more and giving back through my membership in the Academy of Distinguished Teachers."