THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS SYSTEM
FOURTEEN INSTITUTIONS. UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES.

Office of Governmental Relations
210 West 7th Street
Austin, Texas 78701-2903
512-499-4255
WWW.UTSYSTEM.EDU

Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP)

BACKGROUND:

During the 81st Legislative Session in 2009, Representative Dan Branch passed HB 51, creating the Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP). TRIP was designed to incentivize the private sector to help Texas build more Tier One universities. TRIP was created to provide matching funding for private gifts given to enhance research activities at the state's emerging research institutions. When HB 51 was passed, the emerging research institutions included UT Arlington, UT Dallas, UT El Paso, UT San Antonio, the University of Houston, the University of North Texas and Texas Tech University. In 2012, Texas State University joined the other seven public institutions designated as emerging research institutions by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB).

Eligible institutions are entitled to receive matching funds equal to: 50 percent if a private gift or endowment is between $100,000 and $999,999; 75 percent if between $1 million and $1,999,999; and 100 percent if $2 million but not more than $10 million.

For 2010-11, $50 million in General Revenue was appropriated to the THECB to provide matching funds to the emerging research institutions that receive gifts or endowments from private sources for the purpose of enhancing research activities at the institutions. Due to mid-biennium budget cuts, these funds were reduced by 5% in FY 2011.

The 82nd Legislature appropriated only $35.6 million to the THECB for allocation to the seven emerging research universities to match private gifts for research, a reduction of more than 25% from the prior legislative session. In the 83rd Session, the Legislature appropriated $35.6 million in General Revenue for the 2014-15 biennium and $34.4 million in the supplemental appropriations bill for FY 2013.

With a more robust budget to work with during the 84th Legislative Session, $138.1 million was appropriated for TRIP for the 2016-17 biennium, including $9 million from the Emerging Technology Fund. In contrast, the appropriation was reduced to $35 million in both the 85th session and the 86th session, the lowest allocations in the program's history.

The success of TRIP has been astounding. TRIP support to the emerging research institutions has

Office of Governmental Relations
210 West 7th Street
Austin, Texas 78701-2903
512-499-4255
WWW.UTSYSTEM.EDU

provided the additional leverage needed to assist in recruiting and retaining highly competitive faculty and doctoral students who will generate additional research proposals and funding. TRIP has become a very attractive program for philanthropic gifts, and the program has accelerated the momentum of institutions toward becoming National Research or Tier One Universities.

HOW HAS TRIP BENEFITED UT SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS?

Each emerging research institution in the UT System has qualified for multiple gifts for TRIP matching funds. The following are examples for each institution.

UT ARLINGTON: *Shimadzu Institute*

Established in 2013, the Shimadzu Institute is a centralized facility providing access to instrumentation and expertise that supports research in biochemistry, bioengineering, biology, chemistry, cognition, genomics, geoscience, materials science, nanotechnology, and neuroscience. Its multiple research centers—each with a different focus—operate on the premise that eliminating barriers to research technologies creates a mutual space for meaningful interaction and pioneering exploration not found in traditional approaches.

By partnering with the Shimadzu Institute, corporations gain access to powerful instrumentation, leading to increased efficiency and data quality while paving the way for more creative and competitive research endeavors. The Institute also offers access to UTA's renowned scientists and engineers, who possess a mix of academic and industry experience. Their collective knowledge of instrumentation and experimental theory can help expand corporate research capabilities while boosting productivity.

This Institute was funded through combined gifts of $7.45 million and a $7.45 million TRIP funding match.

UT DALLAS: *Texas Biomedical Device Center*

The Texas Biomedical Device Center (TBDC) was created in 2012 as a result of two donors and significant matching dollars. An anonymous donor contributed $5 million, which received a $5 million TRIP match. Texas Instruments (TI) also committed $3 million to establish two chairs in bioengineering. These new chairs allowed UT Dallas to recruit top faculty working in the field of

Office of Governmental Relations
210 West 7th Street
Austin, Texas 78701-2903
512-499-4255
WWW.UTSYSTEM.EDU

biomedical devices. The TI gift resulted in a $3 million TRIP match, which was designated to support the TBDC.

The creation of the TBDC also coincided with the establishment of the Department of Bioengineering within the University's Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science. Thanks to the valuable initial donation and TRIP match, the TBDC and the Department have now in less than a decade trained over 400 students in neuroscience and bioengineering, hired 28 Ph.D. level biomedical scientists and educators, attracted over $30 million in additional funds from NIH, DARPA and private foundations, and spun out a new Texas based company for manufacturing a medical implant.

UT EL PASO: *Laser Capture Microdissection (LCM) System for High Impact Life Science Research*

The University of Texas at El Paso used TRIP funds to acquire a $300,000 Laser Capture Microdissection System, as part of the core facilities that support biomedical researchers across campus. During the past year, the National Institutes of Health has awarded nearly $20 million of new funding to UTEP researchers. The sophisticated LCM system will increase the quality, quantity, progress and impact of UTEP's biomedical research by enabling researchers to isolate pure cell populations as small as a single cell from complex tissues for further analyses of DNA, RNA, proteins, lipids, metabolites, hormones and neurochemicals.

UT SAN ANTONIO: *H-E-B Faculty Research Excellence Fund*

In 2013, the H-E-B grocery chain made a five-year, $5 million commitment to The University of Texas at San Antonio to match donations for new endowed academic positions. The H-E-B gift alone generated $3.75 million in TRIP matching. Additionally, it brought in another $2.25 million in TRIP matching funding as a result of the donations generated by the matching gift challenge. The total result was $6 million TRIP matching fund impact.

Through the combined investment of H-E-B, other donors and the TRIP matching funds, UTSA created 13 new academic positions: four professorships, three chairs, three distinguished chairs, and three distinguished university chairs. The establishment of these high profile endowed academic positions has helped the university recruit and hire faculty members of the highest caliber who are advancing research and innovation in Texas as well as preparing our students with leading-edge knowledge.

Office of Governmental Relations
210 West 7th Street
Austin, Texas 78701-2903
512-499-4255
WWW.UTSYSTEM.EDU

Current Status:

As of December 18, 2019, there was an unfunded backlog of gifts made to emerging research universities eligible for a state TRIP match of more than $210 million.

Institution	TRIP Match Backlog
UT Arlington	$11,438,828.42
UT Dallas	$47,160,750.43
UT El Paso	$2,606,135.75
UT San Antonio	$19,909,973.40
University of Houston	$57,716,678.98
University of North Texas	$20,722,237.35
Texas Tech University	$38,911,777.52
Texas State University	$11,930,406.01
UT System Total	$81,115,688.00
Overall Total	$210,396,787.86

Source: THECB 12/18/2019