

**Project Name:** UT Dallas' Student Engagement through Collaboration, Mentorship, and Service Learning

**Abstract:**

UT Dallas' Student Engagement through Collaboration, Mentorship, and Service Learning stimulates efforts to rethink student belonging on campus by focusing on collaboration, peer mentoring, and service learning. New students need to feel connected to the university through their encounters with peers, faculty, and staff while, at the same time, feeling as if the university as a whole welcomes them to campus. We will establish a New Student Engagement Board to coordinate the first-year programs offered among multiple offices at UT Dallas to help new students feel a sense of belonging on campus.

UT Dallas will establish a peer mentor training and leadership institute. All aspiring and current peer mentors will receive high-impact levels of training through a research-backed certification process coordinated by the Center for Reading and Learning Association. In addition to offering consistent training and certification, UT Dallas will establish a transfer student peer mentor program and expand its existing peer mentor programs to serve more first-time-in-college and underrepresented minority students.

Students' sense of belonging is strongly tied to their belief that what they do matters. As a way of reinforcing the positive effects of new student programming and peer mentorship, UT Dallas will expand its service learning opportunities by scaling up a project piloted in our School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences.

The combined elements of the project enable each student who comes to UT Dallas to have the opportunity to increase their sense of belonging by connecting with their peers, faculty, staff, and the institution in meaningful ways.