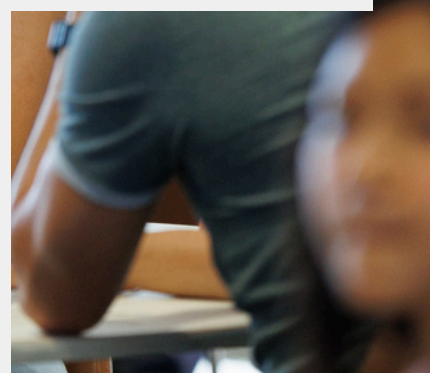




The University of Texas at Austin  
RGK Center for Philanthropy  
and Community Service  
*Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs*

2024

# ANNUAL REPORT





# NONPROFIT STUDIES GRADUATE PORTFOLIO

## PREPARING THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW

The Nonprofit Studies graduate portfolio program continued to expand this year, with students representing eight CSUs across campus, including Public Affairs, Business, Social Work, Education, and Liberal Arts. Our alumni network grew to more than 550 leaders across the globe working in the nonprofit, public, and private sectors.

“The RGK Center connected me with a community of people who wanted to explore the different ways we help others with our skill sets, in addition to policy. Not only did it encourage me to take interesting classes...it also gave me an arena to work on newfound skills.”

-- Hannah Claire Reyes, MPAff/MSSW | Class of 2024

35



Currently enrolled  
graduate and PhD  
students

8



CSUs represented  
by current students

18



Students  
graduated in 2024

# GLOBAL FELLOWSHIPS

## BUILDING A VIBRANT GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY

The RGK Center awarded \$10,000 in fellowships through the RGK Global Fellowships program to graduate students who secured an internship with an international NGO or nonprofit. Five students at the LBJ School were selected to receive fellowships for their work on sustainability and environmental-focused projects ranging from water quality issues at the Texas-Mexico border to natural resource management in Hiroshima, Japan.

NEĚMA LUBIN  
Hiroshima, Japan

ZANDER MINTZ  
Hayama, Japan

SAM STONE  
Mexico City, Mexico

MARLENE PLUA  
Mexico, Texas, New Mexico

BRANDON MULDER  
Nueva León, Mexico



“The overall experience had unquantifiable impact on my career. Upon returning to the US, I’ve found a position where I will be able to continue working in the carbon policy space across North America and Latin America. My new role is completely indebted to my experience in Mexico and the financial support from RGK and other sources that made it possible.”

-- Brandon Mulder, LBJ School

# SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP CERTIFICATE



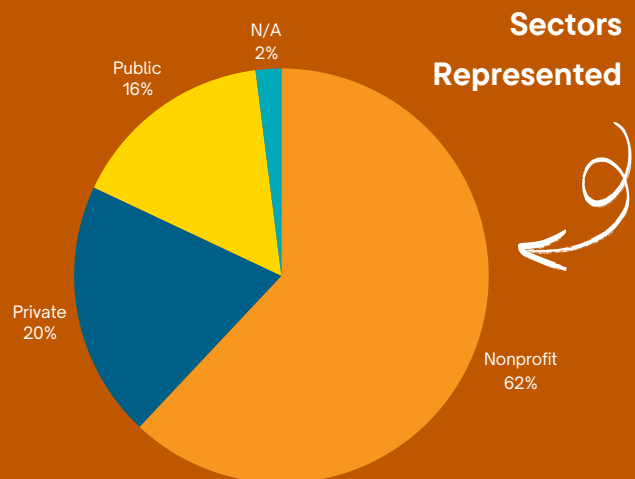
## BUILDING SKILLS FOR SOCIAL IMPACT

The Social Entrepreneurship Certificate at the LBJ School of Public Affairs launched in October with 49 participants representing organizations from all sectors. Over the course of eight months, students will engage in learning from instructors and each other to transform their approach to social impact from the inside out, providing them with the knowledge and tools necessary to think like a social entrepreneur. The program was developed in collaboration with UT alumna Suzanne Smith of Social Impact Architects.



“I feel like I was in a masterclass on social entrepreneurship. I thought I knew what it was, but was surprised by how much I didn’t know.”

-- Anonymous Participant





# 2024 EVENTS

## FOSTERING A PASSION FOR CARING AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

### Spring

- February - Shattering Barriers Between Commerce and Charity with Dana Brakman Reiser
  - Co-sponsored with the Institute for Transnational Law
- March - Democracy, Consumer Power, and Economic Rights with Marta Tellado, CEO of Consumer Reports
  - Co-sponsored with the LBJ School of Public Affairs Center for the Study of Race and Democracy, the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life, and the Global Sustainability Leadership Institute

### Fall

- August - Meet the Faculty luncheon
- September - Alumni Panel: Careers in Legislative Advocacy
  - Co-hosted with the LBJ School of Public Affairs
  - Panelists: Awais Azhar, Maritza Kelly, Peggy Kemp
  - Student moderator: Evan Wolstencroft
- October - Policy on the Rocks: Nonprofit Careers
  - Co-hosted with the LBJ School of Public Affairs
- November - Nonprofit Storytelling and Marketing
  - Co-hosted with the McCombs School of Business MBA Board Fellows Program
  - Featured alumna speaker: Traci Clayton



# 225+

Total event attendees

# FACULTY RESEARCH & UPDATES



## DAVID EATON

- Led a joint research project with the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies in Hayama, Japan for students to examine co-benefits and implementation barriers in the City of Austin's Climate Equity Plan
- Led an applied research course for students to assist the U.S. and Mexican Governments in negotiations to control and prevent salts from entering the lower freshwater Rio Grande/Rio Bravo River



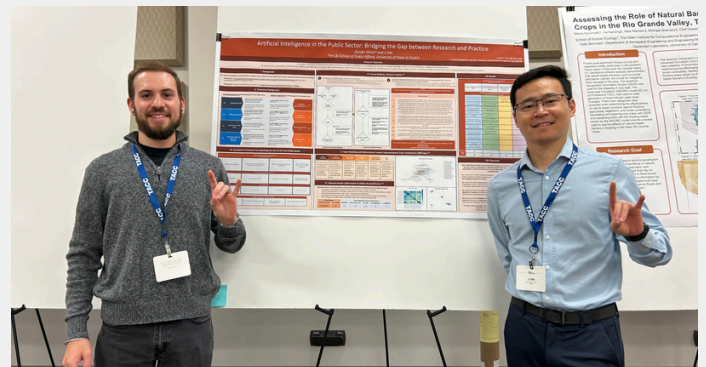
## FRANCIE OSTROWER

- Hosted a conversation with Professor Dana Brakman Reiser in collaboration with the Institute for Transnational Law and the RGK Center
- Spoke at a virtual event hosted by The George Washington University Museum and Textile Museum discussing her report on building audience sustainability
- Presented at 2024 ARNOVA conference



## PATRICK BIXLER

- Traveled to Kenya with a group of undergraduates to conduct research alongside South Eastern Kenya University and Austin-based nonprofit GivePower as part of UT's President Award for Global Learning
- Published research in Nonprofit Policy Forum with co-authors Ji Ma and LBJ PhD candidate Joycelyn Ovalle



## JI MA

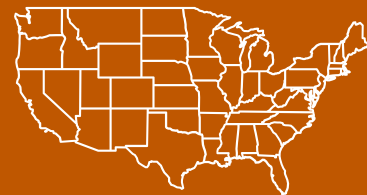
- Published research in Public Administration Review "Why do some academic articles receive more citations from policy communities?"
- Released pre-print "Can machines think like humans? A Behavioral Evaluation of LLM-Agents in Dictator Games"
- Presented at 2024 ARNOVA and APPAM conferences

# INDEX OF VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT



## GENERATING NEW KNOWLEDGE IN THE SECTOR

Professors Noel Landuyt (Institute for Organizational Excellence) and Sarah Jane Rehnborg (RGK Center), in collaboration with the Association of Leaders in Volunteer Engagement, expanded the Index of Volunteer Engagement (IVE) this year and presented findings at the ARNOVA conference in Washington, D.C. The organizational self-assessment tool is helping organizations better engage volunteers and community groups in their work. This fall, the team began developing a dashboard to visualize survey results with Huajian Gao, a PhD student in the College of Education.



Currently working with **250** organizations in **23** states

**97%** of orgs surveyed feel volunteers are essential to their mission

**\$1** spent on volunteers

**\$6** return on investment