

# UTA School of Social Work

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## THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

### NOVEMBER IN REVIEW

*Thrive Here, Thrive Forever!*



**Watch the Dean's November Pep Talk to Students and read the stories below.**

Video edited and produced by Douglas Gutierrez

[CLICK TO WATCH THE DEAN'S NOVEMBER PEP TALK VIDEO](#)



*Volunteers loading up a vehicle for 2025 Trunk or Treat and Food Giveaway*

# UTA School of Social Work Hosts Trunk-or-Treat and Food Giveaway to Support Families

**By Jaelon Jackson**

What began as a rainy morning turned into a bright afternoon of community connection as the University of Texas at Arlington's School of Social Work hosted its annual Trunk-or-Treat and Food Giveaway.

The event blended family fun with social impact, offering candy, games and decorated car trunks alongside free food boxes provided through the school's partnership with the Tarrant Area Food Bank.

"Our goal is to create a welcoming and supportive environment where all individuals and families can come together to enjoy a day of fun, obtain essential food resources, and connect," said Jobanet Flores, UTA School of Social Work marketing manager. "We hope that everyone joining us can find meaning in connecting, giving back, and building a stronger community for all."

[CLICK TO READ MORE ABOUT THE 2025 ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT](#)



*Shamarah Tezeno, UTA social work student (UTA Photo)*

## From choppers to community: A veteran's new mission

**By Drew Davidson**

Shamarah Tezeno has always been driven to serve.

She served her country, spending six years in the [Army](#) as an avionics mechanic working primarily on Black Hawk and Chinook helicopters. Now, she is pursuing a mission to serve her community as a social worker.

As a student at The University of Texas at Arlington, which has one of the nation's leading [schools of social work](#), she recently took part in the University's 8th annual Veterans Resource Fair.

Tezeno is expected to graduate in fall 2027.

[CLICK TO READ MORE ABOUT SHAMARAH TEZENO](#)



*Native American students, Phyliss Nuno (Left), Stephen Silva-Brave (Center), and Sampson Dewey (Right) sit together at the University of Texas at Arlington. (Photo by Randy Gentry)*

# Native American Heritage Month Highlights Traditions That Live All Year

By Thomas Johns

Each November, Native American Heritage Month honors the traditions, languages and stories of Native American and Alaska Native communities, recognizing their enduring history and ongoing contributions. But for Indigenous people, heritage is not confined to one month. It is a living, evolving part of daily life.

Stephen Silva-Brave, a Lakota Ph.D. student in the University of Texas at Arlington’s School of Social Work and President of the Native American Student Association, said the observance provides a reminder of visibility but also an opportunity for others to learn.

[CLICK TO READ MORE ABOUT NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH](#)

## Research and Faculty Highlights



*Dr. Noelle Fields from the School of Social Work, Dr. Tracy Greer from Psychology and Dr. Denise Hernandez from Kinesiology and Public Health.*

# Building a Healthier Mind: UTA Researchers Unite to Strengthen Brain Health in Arlington

Three University of Texas at Arlington researchers have joined forces to create a new community-based initiative that aims to strengthen brain health research, education and outreach in Arlington.

The Arlington Healthy Brain Collaboratory, led by Dr. Noelle Fields from the School of Social Work, Dr. Tracy Greer from Psychology and Dr. Denise Hernandez from Kinesiology and Public Health, was launched through a planning grant from UT Southwestern's Clinical and Translational Science Award Program.

[CLICK TO READ MORE ABOUT THEIR RESEARCH ON BRAIN HEALTH](#)

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## Upcoming SSW Events:

- **Dec 24 - Jan 1:** Winter Break
- **Jan. 11:** Registration ends for Spring
- **Jan. 12:** First Day of Class

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## Other SSW News Products:

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