



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences

INSIDE EPPS

News from the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences at The University of Texas at Dallas

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Welcome to the Inaugural Issue

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Inside EPPS*! It is an honor to share the accomplishments of our faculty, students and alumni with you.

In each issue, we will share excerpts from recent faculty publications and highlights from news stories showcasing EPPS faculty and students.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions. Alumni, please also share your good news with us for the alumni notes section in future issues. Send updates or suggestions to epps@utdallas.edu. I hope you will share this newsletter with your colleagues and friends.

Best,

Jennifer S. Holmes, PhD
Interim Dean
School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences



Research Spotlight: Pension Reforms and Public Sector Turnover

Over the past decade, many states have reformed their retirement systems by reducing benefit generosity, tightening retirement provisions, introducing non-defined-benefit (DB) plan options and even replacing DB plans with defined-contribution plans. Many of these reforms have affected post-employment benefits that public workers will receive when they retire. Dr. Evgenia Gorina and Dr. Trang Hoang ask, "Have these reforms also affected the attractiveness of public sector employment?"

[Read More](#)



Research Spotlight: Study Ties Fire Station

Proximity Firmly to Prevention of Injuries

Does living closer to a fire station equate to a higher level of safety? It's a commonly held belief, and now Dr. Dohyeong Kim has gathered empirical evidence that does indeed support that assertion. [Read More](#)



Alumni Spotlight: Mary Elbanna

Mary Elbanna BA'16, MPP'16, chief of staff for Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson, discusses the value of her experiences at UT Dallas and her internships as a student. Elbanna's first internship, which she discovered through UT Dallas, led to her jobs as campaign manager and chief of staff for Johnson. [Read More](#)



Submit Your Note for the EPPS Welcome Wall

The fall semester begins at UT Dallas on August 19. With just under a month until classes begin, we invite you to help welcome new and returning students with a note of welcome and encouragement for the "EPPS Welcome Wall." We'll print your note and hang it on a wall inside Green Hall. Notes will also be included on the EPPS website. Leave your message to let EPPS students know that you're thinking of them! [Write A Message](#)

Save the Dates: Upcoming Events

August 31: [UT Dallas Night at the Texas Rangers](#)

September 17: [Leaders & Luminaries Lecture - Dallas District Attorney John Creuzot](#)

September 19: [North Texas Giving Day](#)

EPPS In the News

A curated look at recent articles by or about EPPS faculty, students and alumni

[UT Dallas Graduate Who Survived Haiti Earthquake Inspires Others](#)

[Opinion: Diversity is Not Inclusion. Organizations Need Both](#)

[For a growing number of Americans, Socialism is OK](#)

[Will Americans Vote for a Woman? Obsessing Over the Question Makes it Less Likely](#)

[Hands-Off Parenting Tied to Higher Risk of Teen Gun Use](#)

[Four Years in a Row, Police Nationwide Fatally Shoot Nearly 4,000 People](#)

[Professors Earn University Honors for Mentoring Aspiring Researchers](#)