

Note from the Director

It is with great pleasure that the UTSA Office of Undergraduate Research presents the seventh edition of the *Journal of Undergraduate Research & Scholarly Work*. This edition contains the scholarly work of undergraduate students from across the country, representing a variety of fields and disciplines. The journal is a celebration of scholarship, and I hope it motivates the next generation of undergraduate researchers.

The work that was selected for this edition range in a variety of topics, research questions, and methodologies. Each article published is the culmination of each student's undergraduate research experience. As you read through this journal, you will see discoveries of new ideas. I congratulate the scholarly efforts of each undergraduate researcher. We're proud of your efforts and wish you continued success on your research path.

Lastly, a special thanks to the UTSA Journal editor and faculty editorial board for their time and effort in reviewing all of the submissions for this publication. And we're also grateful to all of the faculty mentors and supervisors for their guidance and support in developing student researchers. Your commitment to students and the research process is a critical part of the process, and I applaud each of you.

I challenge all undergraduate students to seek opportunities for experiential learning, engage in the research process, and get published.

I look forward to reading about your contributions!

Sincerely,



Darrell C. Balderrama, MPA

Director, Office of Undergraduate Research