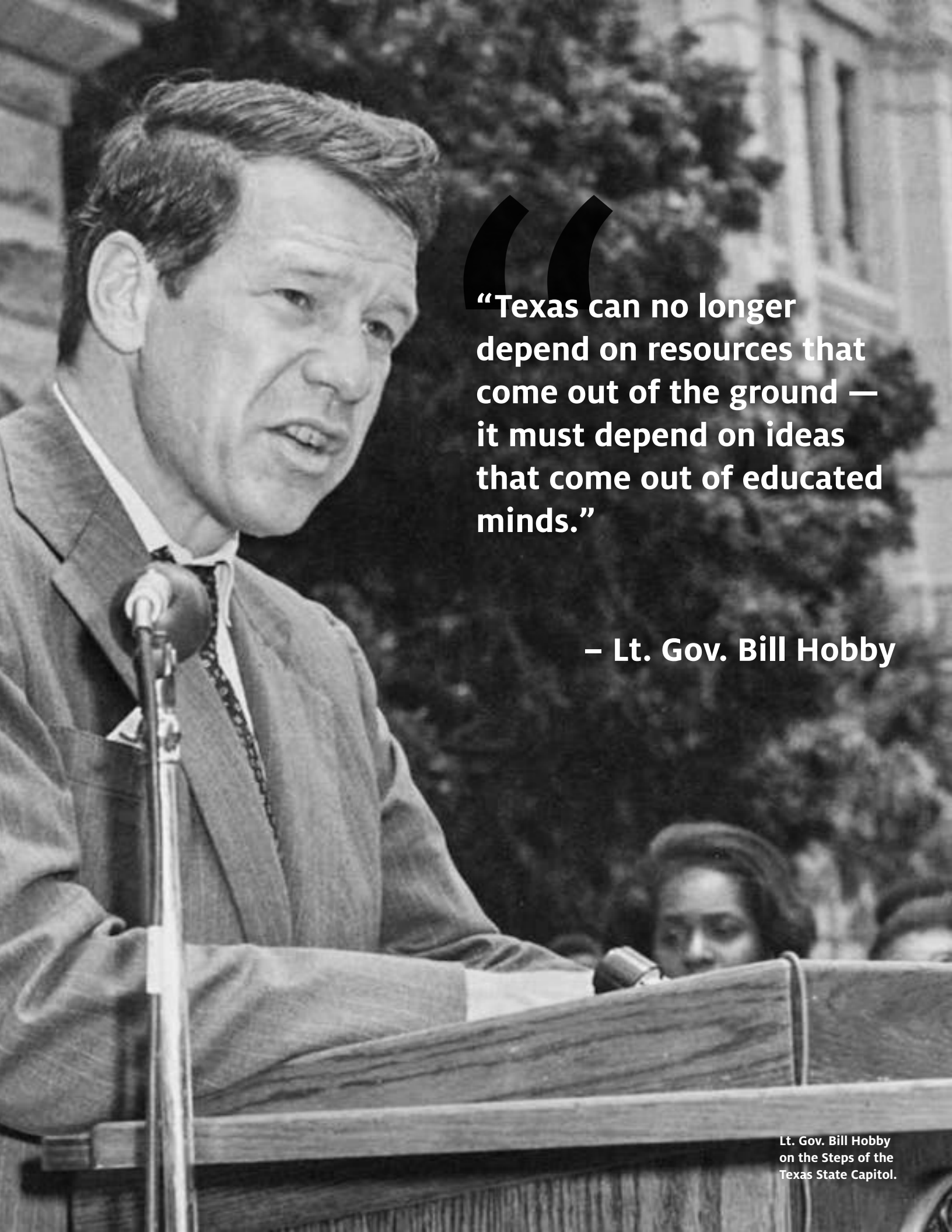


IMPACT **REPORT**

FY22-FY23



“Texas can no longer depend on resources that come out of the ground — it must depend on ideas that come out of educated minds.”

– Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby

Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby
on the Steps of the
Texas State Capitol.

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HOBBYSCHOOLUH

A MESSAGE FROM DEAN GRANATO

Reflecting on the recent past, I am proud to be a part of the progress at the Hobby School of Public Affairs, including the many milestones and achievements we celebrate in this report.

The Hobby School expanded its footprint in the public service education sphere with the transfer of the Master of Public Administration program from the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences in the fall of 2023. We have added seven full-time faculty and hosted two visiting professors. These moves broaden the academic options for University of Houston students and expand the network of practitioners in our communities.

The school continues to make progress in its interdisciplinary programs and offerings. Chief among them are new experiential learning opportunities to add to the already robust internships and fellowships. The Hobby School received a \$100,000 grant from The Volcker Alliance to direct the Next Generation Leadership Academy for mission-oriented students seeking the leadership skills and values needed to take on the most pressing challenges in our community. A grant from UH’s Cougar Initiative to Engage helped launch the Social Economy and Enterprise Academy, which allows students working as consultants to be matched with area nonprofits to address local issues through data analysis.

Funding for a new Hobby School building was made possible with consistent support from the Texas Legislature, especially from now-retired state Rep. Garnet Coleman and state Rep. Armando Walle. The anticipated state-of-the-art facility will serve as a thriving hub for public affairs education, civic engagement opportunities and research initiatives critical to our growth.

Navigating the higher education landscape while continuing to serve our students, conducting research and contributing to meaningful conversations on relevant public policy and Texans’ opinions on issues taught us to find innovative ways to pursue our mission. The following pages are more examples of what we have accomplished together and our lasting impact.

Thank you for joining us on our journey to transform public affairs education and research.

Jim Granato, Ph.D.
Dean, Hobby School of Public Affairs
University of Houston



A MESSAGE FROM THE PROVOST

Since its inception, the Hobby School of Public Affairs has fostered a culture of collaboration and community engagement. It’s also supported student success through a range of programs and initiatives. I credit the school’s leadership for its momentum and look forward to working with Dean Jim Granato and the members of the school on future endeavors.

The Hobby School’s mission mirrors that of the university to transform lives through education, research, service and innovation in a real-world setting. The school leads with an interdisciplinary approach to public policy, with faculty members from diverse disciplinary backgrounds guiding students to reach their full potential. I recognize the contributions and partnerships that have defined the school’s expanding coursework and training, and I look forward to challenging the Hobby School community to continue to surpass its own expectations.

Diane Z. Chase, Ph.D.
Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UH System
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, University of Houston



A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

It is my honor to have led the Hobby School’s advisory board, a dedicated group of community leaders invested in student success and the future of Houston, as its first elected chair. During my eight-year tenure, I have witnessed tremendous growth and milestones in degree, certificate and internship programs, an increasing Hobby School endowment, national accreditation for the Master of Public Policy program and state funding for a new building. As the school propels into a new era, I look forward to seeing it reach new heights under the able leadership of my friend and newly elected board chair Ashley Smith.

Houston is a diverse and economically dynamic city that deserves objective and applicable research. Through an interdisciplinary approach, the Hobby School trains tomorrow’s leaders to analyze complex data and leverage innovative and ethical solutions to evolving policy challenges.

The school is fittingly named for the Hobby family, whose generations of public service and deep commitment to education led to the development of the Hobby School. The mission of the Hobby School could not be fulfilled without the community’s support.

Alice Aanstoos
Immediate Past Chair, Hobby School of Public Affairs Advisory Board



SIGNATURE PROGRAM

After a yearlong application process and rigorous peer review, the Master of Public Policy received official approval for accreditation from the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration. The NASPAA Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation found the five-year-old program demonstrated a substantial commitment to quality public service education. NASPAA is the global standard for excellence and the recognized accreditor of graduate degree programs in the discipline.

The Master of Public Administration program, which was transferred to the Hobby School in 2023 from the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, will seek accreditation in the next cycle. Since 1972, the MPA has produced graduates prepared for professional careers in the public sector. Its dynamic curriculum innovations help the next generation succeed in the changing government sphere.



“Welcoming the MPA program to the Hobby School benefits our programs and enhances student success by offering more academic and career opportunities,” said Sunny Wong, Ph.D., associate dean for graduate studies. “The shared resources will help students build a diverse network in both public policy and public administration, opening doors for further collaboration and professional growth.”

ECONOMY OF TIME

The Hobby School has new graduate dual degrees, certificates and accelerated pathway programs, giving students more options to meet their academic and career goals. Dual degree programs allow students to earn two degrees in less time than if taken separately. Graduate certificates offer working professionals and students the opportunity to earn academic credentials and training in a brief period.

- New dual master’s programs:
 - Master of Arts in Applied Economics/Master of Public Policy
 - Juris Doctorate/Master of Public Administration
- New certificate program:
 - Public Policy and Ethics
- New accelerated pathway programs:
 - Bachelor of Business Administration/Master of Public Policy
 - Bachelor of Public Policy/Master of Public Policy

SHE MOVES MOUNTAINS

As a graduate student, Master of Public Policy alumna Ana Silbas’ professional and civic leadership earned her the distinction of 2022 student commencement speaker. Silbas first served as a legislative aide in the Texas House of Representatives through the Moreno-Rangel Fellow at the Mexican American Leadership Foundation and found her call to public service. At age 23, she was elected president of the local council of the League of United Latin American Citizens in Freeport, Texas, making her the youngest-serving LULAC president in the state.

After graduation, Silbas completed the Women’s Campaign School at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas. Today, she is applying her passion and skills in her hometown as the Freeport Main Street Coordinator for a nationwide network of state-coordinating programs focused on the historic preservation and economic revitalization of downtown historic commercial zones.

“Master of Public Policy graduates utilize their quantitative and qualitative skills to make a difference and bring about innovative ideas in government, education, nonprofit, corporate, medical and advocacy organizations – all for the betterment of our communities.”

- Ana Silbas, MPP ‘22



COMMENCEMENT

2023

Among the class of 2023 were 11 members of the Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society of public affairs and administration. Of the 26 graduates, 21 were Master of Public Policy graduates, two received dual degrees in Master of Arts in Applied Economics/Master of Public Policy, six earned graduate certificates and nine are two-time Coogs. They distinguish themselves as having the interdisciplinary blend of social sciences, critical thinking and data analysis indicative of skilled public policy professionals.



Commencement Speaker: Teneshia Hudspeth, Harris County Clerk

Student Speaker: Jon Buman, MPP

Garnet Coleman Award for Student Excellence Recipient: Karen Banda, MPP

2022

After navigating remote and classroom learning, rigorous coursework, weather and world events, the Master of Public Policy graduates celebrated their accomplishments at the spring 2022 commencement. Student-athletes, first-generation students and a panorama of diverse cultures and origins represented the Class of 2022.

Student Speaker: Ana Marie Silbas, MPP

Garnet Coleman Award for Student Excellence Recipient: Matthew Moseley, MPP



2022



2023



PUBLIC SERVICE LEADERSHIP

The Hobby School introduced 53 members of the 2023-2024 Certified Public Manager Program, making it the largest class of government and nonprofit leaders. The nationally accredited program helps public service leaders sharpen their management skills and knowledge through lectures, learning best practices and networking with peers. They study personnel administration, public finance, organizational communication, program evaluation and information systems. The program was established in 1996 at the William P. Hobby Center for Public Service at Texas State University to enhance the quality and efficiency of executive and emerging government leaders. Previous graduates include Hobby School team members Diana Benitez, Chelsea O'Hara, Scott Mason, Celeste Zamora and Emily Janowski, who co-directs the program with professional executive management consultant Arquella Hargrove. Hobby School business administrators Yvette Farnum and Cherish Wallace are part of the current cohort.



EXPANDING THE FOOTPRINT

The Hobby School introduced the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Public Policy in spring 2022 with students such as Abraham Guzman, Jr., a transfer student from San Jacinto College in nearby Pasadena, Texas. Guzman wanted to pursue a public policy degree so he could examine the issues affecting his community such as housing, reproductive healthcare, environmental protections and immigration.



"I chose the public policy degree at the University of Houston to discover ways to provide fresh and creative solutions to global and community issues and hardships while maintaining integrity, ethics and knowledge of my core work."

– Abraham Guzman, Public Policy

The undergraduate degrees are designed for mission-oriented students with leadership potential to gain life skills and training in ethics, communication and writing. Abraham and his peers are enrolled in coursework that blends social sciences, critical thinking and qualitative and quantitative analysis for careers that will support effective public policy.

LEARNING ON THE JOB

Experiential learning takes many forms at the Hobby School, engaging students with hands-on experience and reflection to connect the theories and knowledge they learn in the classroom to various aspects of public service in legislative, political and non-profit environments in Houston, Washington and Austin. In addition to the established Civic Houston Internship Program, the Hobby School has added paid positions, including the Harris Fellows working as full-time interns in Harris County offices, Hobby Fellows assigned to work as legislative aides during Texas' biennial legislative session and Leland Fellows as full-time congressional interns on Capitol Hill. Program Director Jessica Ruland leads the undergraduate internship programs as well as the popular Civic Engagement Boot Camp.



HOBBY SCHOOL JOINS NATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



The Hobby School received a \$100K grant from The Volcker Alliance to join the Next Generation Service Corps and launch the Next Generation Leadership Academy at the University of Houston for undergraduate students seeking careers focused on public service and social impact. The 18 emerging leaders in the 2022 and 2023 cohorts were enrolled in the public leadership courses and led by Program Director Emily Janowski. The program incorporates skill-building through unique learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom.

Four academy students took part in the first Next Generation Service Corp Summer Summit, a national gathering of program participants for a weeklong series of immersive workshops on team building, leadership and change-making skills, hosted by The Volcker Alliance at Montclair State University. They capped their week of activities with a local service project and historical site tours in New York City and New Jersey.

Public Leadership Minor

The new public leadership minor offers undergraduate students a curriculum where they gain knowledge and skills in leadership and are introduced to public policy through activities in the classroom, on campus and in the community.



“I would like to use my voice to create social change in my community. When I heard about the Next Generation Leadership Academy and the public leadership minor, I realized the program would help me improve my skills as a communicator.”

– Alexia Aguilar, Strategic Communications, 2022-2023 Next Generation Academy



27 YEARS OF CIVIC HOUSTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Hobby School’s Civic Houston Internship Program was recognized at Harris County Commissioners Court for its history of creating transformative opportunities for students and inspiring the next generation of leaders. Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones sponsored the county resolution highlighting the opportunity afforded to University of Houston students for hands-on experience and real-world application in governmental offices at local, state and federal levels in the Houston region and with area nonprofit and private organizations and electoral campaigns.

The fall 2023 cohort of Civic Houston Interns was the largest in the program’s history, with 52 students representing different classifications and majors across the university. Several students and alumni joined program director Jessica Ruland at the resolution presentation, where she shared the program’s profound impact seen in the alumni serving as leaders in various sectors.

Since its inception in 1996, the Civic Houston Internship Program has introduced over 1,700 undergraduates to public service.

ELEVATED CONNECTIONS

More than 100 current and former students, interns, alumni, host office representatives, elected officials and community leaders gathered on the terrace of the Center for Civic and Public Policy Improvement for the 2023 fall mixer. Former state Rep. Garnet Coleman welcomed the robust crowd to the new office building that houses organizations engaged in affordable housing advocacy, administration and a range of support services.



INTERNS LEARN THROUGH DATA ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH



Master of Public Administration candidate Dahlia Chaudhury wanted to participate in the Social Economy and Enterprise Academy to use her research and data analysis skills to benefit a Houston nonprofit. Her work with the Fifth Ward Community Redevelopment Corporation helped empower new homeowners and enrich the historic Houston neighborhood. She and her team developed best practices for lease-to-purchase agreement programs to expand access to homeownership. The group evaluated their program eligibility requirements, delinquency risks and regulatory considerations.

“Before I began my master’s program, I worked in a nonprofit and enjoyed my experience,” said Chaudhury. “The Social Economy and Enterprise Academy experience taught me to look at nonprofit work through a different lens and how to tailor our team’s ideas to what the organization wanted. I also took on a leadership role because of the skills I was developing as a graduate student.”

In three years, the summer internship has matched more than 50 University of Houston students with local nonprofits in need of support with complex data management and research projects, such as the impact of affordable housing on health outcomes, maximizing the benefits of community gardens and increasing economic development in low-income areas. The interdepartmental initiative with the UH College of Liberal Arts Department of Economics is supported through the University of Houston’s Cougar Initiative to Engage, also known as CITE.

IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

Hobby School leaders, professors and researchers work with practitioners, scholars and partners across disciplines, universities and communities to create measurable impacts through education, civic engagement and research.



The Hobby School partnered with Houston Public Media and Univision Houston on “Your Houston, Your Vote,” a mayoral debate to reach and empower Houstonians days before the city election’s early voting cycle. Dean Jim Granato opened the debate, which was hosted at Houston Public Media’s studios with Hobby School students, board members and longtime supporters in the audience.

In research, projects with regional partners Texas Southern University and Rice University have yielded more than 30 elections and issues reports.

- The Hobby School was ranked third in the nation for the accuracy of its election surveys by RealClear Politics, a national nonpartisan political news website known for its aggregation of polling data.
- A three-state survey project conducted by researchers at the Hobby School of Public Affairs, Arizona State University’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Stanford University’s Bill Lane Center for the American West and Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research examined and compared attitudes toward transgender policy issues, immigration, influence of political affiliation and perceptions of these national issues within each state.
- A data analysis presentation by Hobby School researchers at the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce’s The State of Hispanics Data Summit featured the influence and economic impact highlights of the Hispanic community in the region.
- The Center for Public Policy and Elizabeth D. Rockwell Center for Ethics and Leadership harness a broad selection of scholars, experts and practitioners to bring research to communities, students and academicians.

Students introduced to the Hobby School through internship programs provide from 4,700 to 7,000 hours a semester to government offices, nonprofit organizations and electoral campaigns. Additionally, outside their internship assignments, they volunteer at least ten hours in the community. Students from across the campus and community have had the opportunity to participate in the annual Hobby School Civic Engagement Boot Camp with primers on voter education, data, trends and registration or worked on projects through the public policy laboratory course.



Panelists Michael Adams of the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs, JR DeShazo of the LBJ School of Public Affairs, Jim Granato of the Hobby School of Public Affairs, David Satterfield of Baker Institute for Public Policy and moderator Jodi Sandfort of the Evans School of Public Policy and Governance covered an array of topics including how public policy schools are addressing the needs of students, program and research opportunities and the field's contributions to our communities. Education, healthcare and energy issues were among the state's top challenges that benefit from sound public policy. Panelists expressed their commonalities, mutual goals and historical philosophies as a foundation for a shared vision for the public policy school of the future in Texas.



HOBBY SCHOOL IN THE NEWS

Hobby School faculty members and researchers are sought-after experts in their fields, contributing to conversations on the most pressing topics of the day that affect public policy and address Texans' opinions on issues of importance to the state and nation. Research reports were prominently featured in local and national media delivering information important to elected officials, business and community leaders.

In 2023, Hobby School news collectively appeared 1,788 times in broadcast, online and print media outlets, according to online media monitoring company Meltwater, Inc. In 2022, the figure was 1,291 – accounting for a 38 percent increase in appearances.



Prominent headlines in 2023

New York Times

Race for Houston mayor heads for a runoff

Nov. 8, 2023

Forbes

Hacks on gas, eh. Canada's natural gas distribution network is the latest target for Russian hackers

April 13, 2023

NBC News

Inside the rural Texas resistance to the GOP's private school choice plan

March 21, 2023

The Dallas Morning News

More state money for water, electric generators, parks, broadband is popular, poll finds

Oct. 23, 2023

Texas Monthly

The Texas GOP's war on renewable energy

June 2023

Houston Business Journal

Pillars of the economy; Laura Murillo wants to showcase the economic strength of Houston's diverse population

Sept. 1, 2023

FOUNDED IN RESEARCH

As one of its primary endeavors, Hobby School research contributes to an international academic landscape while informing policymakers and decision makers on a wide range of issues such as the impact of natural disasters, energy transition and sustainability, voter opinions, international tariff wars, cyberbullying, vaccine hesitancy and presidential elections.

Since 2020, the research division of the Hobby School has generated more than \$350,000 in research revenue contracts and has been part of more than \$2,100,000 in research grants. It interacts with more than 75 entities in various outside partnerships and collaborations to produce unblinking results driving policy decisions.

CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY

Pablo M. Pinto, Director

The Hobby School Center for Public Policy directs objective research using rigorous methodologies focused on the issues important to Texas and the nation. Led by the Hobby School’s Distinguished Professor Pablo Pinto, researchers from a variety of disciplines, universities and research units work with academic partners across the University of Houston System, the state, nation and throughout South America, Asia, Africa and Europe. Teams also tackle themes of the day such as education, transportation, political participation, energy and other issues important to public officials, business professionals, policymakers and community leaders.



2022-2023 Major Research Initiatives

- Research Initiative for Sustainable Energy Policy, a collaboration with UH Energy
- Hobby School Houston Panel, a collaboration with the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago
- Vulnerability, Resiliency, Adaptability, and Preparedness (VRAP) Dashboard in collaboration with Civis Analytics
- UH Energy Transition Index, a collaboration with UH Energy
- Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models (EITM) Summer Institute, an initiative with the National Science Foundation
- Social Economy and Enterprise Academy (SEEA)
- Data Science for Energy Transition, a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant
- Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) in collaboration with University of Michigan

Elections, Trends and Issues

Three Texas legends who shaped the political history of Texas politics, Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, U.S. Rep. Barbara Jordan and U.S. Rep. Mickey Leland, inspired the Texas Trends survey series. In the spirit of their common goal to create a better state for everyone, the Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston and the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University launched the five-year project in 2021 to study Texas’ changing population and opinions on the issues impacting the region and the nation.

In 2023, the Hobby School embarked on a three-state polling project to survey the public opinion and how political affiliation influences the perceptions of Texans, Californians and Arizonans on issues such as abortion, transgender issues and immigration. The surveys are a collaboration with the Hobby School, Arizona State University and Stanford University.

Hobby School researchers study additional local, state and national elections and issues, the COVID-19 pandemic, Hurricane Harvey, energy and the economy, public policy and Winter Storm Uri to answer difficult questions at the center of global and domestic policy.

In 2022, the Hobby School was named one of the nation’s top election polling organizations in the RealClearPolitics Polling Accountability Initiative for the accuracy of its findings.

Collaboration and Innovation



To help the Houston Food Bank better respond in times of emergencies, a team of nationwide researchers, including the Hobby School’s joint faculty member Elizabeth Anderson-Fletcher, have been granted a \$1 million Civic Innovation Challenge grant from the National Science Foundation. The pilot project will use artificial intelligence to identify gaps in equitable food acquisition and distribution during disasters such as the current COVID-19 pandemic and extreme weather events. Fletcher is senior personnel on the team led by Principal Investigator Ionnis Kakadiaris, director of the UH Computational Biomedicine Lab, and joined by Hiba Baroud (Vanderbilt University, co-PI), Aron Laszka (UH, co-PI), Bruce Race (UH, co-PI), Casey Durand (UT Health, co-PI), Susie Gronseth (UH, Senior Personnel) and Kenia Way (Houston Food Bank, Senior Personnel).

Research is Interdisciplinary

Hobby School faculty pursue a variety of interdisciplinary research interests that give insight into how governments work and the people working in public service.



Professor Alan Witt divides his Hobby School associate dean of undergraduate studies responsibilities with roles as a psychology professor at the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and a management professor at the C.T. Bauer College of Business. In a study of city and county public health departments, Witt examined possible service overlaps between the Harris County Department of Public Health and the City of Houston Department of Health and Human Services to help increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the public health delivery system. In partnership with researchers at the Kinder Institute at Rice and the Harris County Commissioners Court’s Analyst’s Office, Witt and graduate research assistant Nikola Federowicz looked at several factors where the two departments could work collaboratively in an effective way. Witt’s own research focuses on strategy-cultural alignment and how leaders can shape the work culture

endowing employee values, priorities and behavioral norms for successful implementation of an organization’s strategy.

ELIZABETH D. ROCKWELL LECTURE ON ETHICS AND LEADERSHIP

Daniel Engster, Director

The Elizabeth D. Rockwell Lecture on Ethics and Leadership at the University of Houston was established in 2004. Elizabeth D. Rockwell believed the university should host important discussions about leadership and ethics for students and the university community. Held annually, it brings nationally prominent speakers to campus to discuss important issues of ethics and leadership.

DISTINGUISHED LECTURERS

The University of Houston community welcomed legal scholar, professor and author Anita Hill to deliver the 2023 Elizabeth D. Rockwell Distinguished Lecturer. Hill brought the discussion of workplace sexual harassment into public consciousness with her landmark testimony against then-Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas in 1991.

Past distinguished lecturers include former U.S. NATO ambassador and U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, attorney, political commentator and politician Bakari Sellers and activist, poet, author and chef Caroline Randall Williams.



In addition to hosting the lecture series, the center has become a regional brain trust of ethical leadership, scholarship and activity, where scholars, business leaders, community members and government and policy officials explore their place in public policy, law, education, business and applied science.

Faculty Support

Distribution of \$17,000 a year in faculty funding, research, training, conferences and teaching to support academic study and education to explore the intersection of ethics and public policy.

Student Scholarship

Since 2021, the center has distributed \$30,000 in scholarships to students whose area of study combines ethics and leadership elements with decision-making, policy development and civic engagement.

Faculty Spotlight

Sarah Munawar, Ph.D.



Sarah Munawar is using her visiting professorship at the Hobby School Elizabeth D. Rockwell Center on Ethics and Leadership to delve further into the boundaries of political theory as a practice and tradition using her Muslim cultural heritage and its history of care for the disabled and their caregivers, and their place in Islam.

"I turn away from imagining more epistemologies of care to focus on the praxis behind care-based epistemologies of Islam and its vast potential for coalitional politics and decolonial movement building."

-Sarah Munawar, In Hajar's Footsteps: A Decolonial and Islamic Ethic of Care

RICHARD GELWICK ENDOWED LECTURE SERIES



The Richard Gelwick Endowed Lecture Series was created to honor the memory of Dr. Richard Gelwick. Gelwick encouraged the exploration and discovery of how science, faith and reason can help improve solutions to challenging public policy issues. Recent lecturers have included one of the foremost scholars in constitutional law, Erwin Chemerinsky and New York University law professor and reproductive rights scholar Melissa Murray. Chemerinsky covered the Supreme Court decisions and the influence of an originalist approach on constitutional interpretation, sharing his insight into the role of the justices and their effect on American values. Murray shared her insights on the Supreme Court's role in our democracy, examining recent historical rulings and the implications of the decisions by the highest court.



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE LECTURE SERIES

The Elizabeth D. Rockwell Center hosts a series of lectures on restorative justice, the theory of repairing the harm caused by crime and conflict. Notable speaker, Harvard University School of Law Professor and founder of the national nonprofit Gideon's Promise, Jonathan Rapping, spoke in 2022 about the complexities public defenders navigate to provide equal justice in marginalized communities.

STANDING OUT IN THE CROWD

Awards and scholarships help Hobby School students alleviate some of the financial responsibilities during and after their academic experience, allowing them to focus on the coursework, projects and research needed to become the policy influencers of the future. Support from donors, endowments and foundations toward scholarships and awards contribute to our graduates' impact as leaders in their professions and on the communities that benefit from informed policymaking.



Cassidy Lee was among the first Elizabeth D. Rockwell scholars. Before graduating in May 2022 with dual degrees in political science and Spanish, Lee interned in the district office of Texas state Rep. Armando Walle as a Civic Houston Intern and in the office of Harris County Clerk Teneshia Hudspeth as a Harris Fellow. She graduated from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs Women's Campaign School and is a candidate in the Master of Global Policy Studies Program, where she's focused on exploring gender and sexuality policy and its intersection with immigration and education policy.

The \$1,500 annual scholarship awarded to students with demonstrated ethical leadership to pursue their academic studies with an emphasis on ethics is part of the \$6.5 million endowment from the Elizabeth D. Rockwell Foundation.

"Because of the Elizabeth D. Rockwell scholarship, I was able to continue my studies in political science and Spanish, volunteer as a peer mentor and connect with other campus leaders. As a campus leader, I was dedicated to making sure students' voices were heard through voting initiatives, civic education nights and campus resource fairs."

– Cassidy Lee, Political Science, '22 ; Civic Houston Intern, '21; Harris Fellow, '21; Elizabeth D. Rockwell Center Scholar, '21; Civic Houston Intern Program Award, '21

The **Hobby School Civic Houston Internship Program** awards \$1,000 to students whose government internship exemplified their dedication to public service.

- Spring 2023: Marina Coronado Fernandez, Headcount, political science
- Fall 2022: Emily Cruz Sariles, Teach for America, political science and Spanish
- Spring 2022: Lailla Ahmady, Houston City Council Member Sallie Alcorn, political science
- Fall 2021: Eesha Ahmed, Houston Crackdown, political science, Indian Studies
- Spring 2021: Cassidy Lee, Texas State Rep. Armando Walle, political science and Spanish

The **Richard Murray Endowed Scholarship** of up to \$2,000 is awarded to outstanding undergraduate students for their passion for politics and policy and strong academic commitment.

- 2023: Alexia Aguilar, Alexis Boehmer, Andrés Espinola, Caitlyn Foret, Enrique Garcia, Gabriela Hamdieh, Cyrus Hosseini, Veronica Newanna, Winnie Pham, Saron Regassa, Matthew Tao, Drew Tonjes, Arkan Turki, Eshal Warsi

The **Hobby Leadership Award** recognizes a Certified Public Manager and Civic Houston Internship Program alum for their professional distinction and commitment to public service.

- 2023: Jason Mangum, CPM, assistant city manager, City of Missouri City and Karla Rodriguez, press secretary for U.S. Rep. Sylvia Garcia
- 2022: Paige Powell, CPM, MPP, Policy Manager, Commission Shift and Markus Benoit, CPM, Director of Public Works, City of Waller
- 2021: Mary Davis, District Deputy Director, U.S. Congressman Tory E. Nehls, former CHIP intern
- 2020: Dylan Osborne, Harris County Treasurer, former CHIP intern

The **Garnet Coleman Award for Student Excellence** is awarded at the Hobby School spring commencement to an outstanding graduate student in honor of former state Representative Garnet Coleman's support for the Hobby School programs and students.

- 2023: Karen Banda, MPP
- 2022: Matthew Moseley, MPP

Dean Jim Granato welcomed 14 Hobby School undergraduate and graduate students to **Pi Alpha Alpha**, the global honor society for public affairs and administration in 2023. Inductees exemplify the high academic standards and commitment to public service symbolic of the organization's mission. 2023 was the first year the Hobby School has inducted undergraduates into the distinguished honor society since the school began offering bachelor's degrees in public policy in the spring of 2022.

2023: Shayan Abbasi, Cruz Almonaci Vargas, Tempest Bui, Jon Bumann, Allison Dean, Andrea Duhon, Enrique Garcia, Gabriela Hamdieh, Juliana Hernandez, Dominique Lombard, Syed Naqvi, Eliz Markowitz, Emma McMahan, Christian Pelaiez, Brett Robinson, Giovanni Roselli, Lorenzo Salinas, Juyeon Song, Drew Tonjes, Trevor Toteve

2022: Karen Banda, Katy De La O. Ashley Gelato, Carolina Lopez-Herrera, Andrew Mark, Ashton Millet, Michael Ogbuigwe, Kate Ranachan, Hannah Urie, Kacey Williams

CONTINUING A LEGACY



When the Gelwick family brought the Richard Gelwick Endowed Lecture to the Hobby School, they wanted to honor their father, Richard Gelwick, Th.D., an ordained minister and scholar whose work addressed the dilemma of combining modern medical science with religious values and human needs in his life work. The annual lecture series brings respected speakers of national and international reputation to the University of Houston community to encourage the exploration and discovery of how science, faith, and reason can help improve solutions to challenging public policy issues. It supports the ideals of the Hobby School in important ways by incorporating the human elements that help create better public policy.

Gelwick’s son, Allen Gelwick, an accomplished businessman and philanthropist, has continued to further the purpose and

reach of the important lecture series with a gift of \$100,000, which was matched by the Hobby School for a total contribution of \$200,000.

“It is my honor on behalf of the Gelwick family to further endow this effort assuring continued lectures, scholarships and other student-enhanced activities,” said Allen Gelwick.

IN PURSUIT OF POSITIVE CHANGE



Gabriela Hamdieh chose the Hobby School public policy program to better understand the policies affecting our daily lives and learn how leaders make positive change. She was an inaugural Next Generation Leadership Academy member and participated in the Civic Houston Internship Program. Outside of the classroom, Hamdieh works in the University of Houston student business services department helping others find ways to finance their education and is a UH Student Program board member. She received the Richard Murray Endowed Scholarship in 2023 and is one of a handful of recipients of the Hobby School Excellence Scholarship, which lightened the financial responsibilities many students overcome while maintaining academic standards.

“The Hobby School has helped dramatically ease the stress of finances that can make or break the college experience,” said Hamdieh. “I feel encouraged to be a better student and Hobby School ambassador to pay back that sort of investment.”

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