

## FAQs

UTEP Interdisciplinary Exchange Event

Interdisciplinary Research Building

3-30-22

Event starts at 12:30pm

RSVP at <https://springexchange.questionpro.com>

**1. Who is invited to this event?**

UTEP faculty and staff who are engaged in, or are interested in, interdisciplinary research (IDR) or creative efforts. UTEP students who are working with faculty on interdisciplinary projects are also invited to attend.

**2. What is the purpose of this event?**

This is a discovery event that facilitates the exchange of ideas and resources for those who are engaged in, seeking, or support interdisciplinary efforts:

- a) Present or learn about ongoing or emerging interdisciplinary projects/ideas/resources and receive/offer immediate feedback.
- b) Network with a cross-section of interdisciplinary leaders.
- c) Connect with other interdisciplinary leaders on campus in an informal environment. Participants may attend the entire event or drop-in as their schedule permits.

\*This event is scheduled to be an in-person event but may be moved to an online platform pending factors associated with COVID-19.

**3. What is the format of this event?**

There will be a series of 5-minute presentations from individuals representing ongoing or new interdisciplinary research teams at UTEP, as well as emerging ideas. These brief IDR presentations will outline interdisciplinary research questions and activities pursued by these existing or emerging teams. Presentations will occur concurrently in different parts of the Interdisciplinary Research Building. Following each presentation, there will be a 15-minute 'engagement period' where attendees interact in their small group. Scheduled breaks will provide open networking time. There are also sessions reserved for student presenters.

**4. In what ways can I participate?**

- a. Attend the event as an active participant! Attend the brief presentations of interest to you, interact with the interdisciplinary presenters, and network with colleagues who may be interested in pursuing interdisciplinary research activities and teams. IDR presentations will occur concurrently and there will be several rounds of presentations.
- b. Volunteer in advance to deliver a brief presentation in multiple time slots during the event and respond to questions and comments about your topic. No PowerPoint presentations are allowed for faculty or staff presenters, but you are encouraged to bring a visual aid. We may be able to provide you with a flip chart and markers with advance notice as well. Presentations can reflect funded

research, emerging research ideas, or tools/resources accessible to the UTEP community.

- c. Students working with faculty on interdisciplinary projects can present their team's research during a session at the event, in the form of a PowerPoint presentation. Interested students should follow the instructions in the Student Presenter Guide Sheet document.
5. **How do I register for this event?**  
General attendees as well as interested faculty/staff student presenters should RSVP via the link on our webpage. There is one RSVP link for both general attendees as well as for presenters. Selected presenters will be notified by email well before the event date.
  6. **How many rounds of presentations will there be?**  
The number of rounds will be determined by the number of presenters who sign up.
  7. **I am a faculty or staff member who is interested in presenting. What are the guidelines for presenting and what will make my brief presentation captivating to a diverse audience?**  
First and foremost, presentations should respond to the following questions:
    - 1) If you are a part of an interdisciplinary research team or are interested in forming a team, what does your research involve? If you are part of a center/campus unit, what research and activities do you sponsor or coordinate that is related to interdisciplinary efforts?
    - 2) What are the challenges that you face in elevating your research/activities? To you, this may mean gaining greater visibility and interest, becoming competitive for the next round of funding, and/or advancing the research and activities. Have you identified some workarounds that could be valuable for others facing similar challenges?
    - 3) What are the opportunities for collaboration with your research team, center, or campus unit?

*Presentations should be intelligible to a broad audience since people outside of your field will be in attendance. Communicating your interdisciplinary research, activities, and associated challenges in a way that is relatable will elicit more engagement. Avoid showing complicated graphs, avoid using jargon that is only understood by people in your field, and avoid approaching this as a teaching exercise.*

*Describe why your interdisciplinary research and activities have broad impact and outline what is needed to take your endeavors to the next level. Do you need a consultant or collaborator added to your team? Do you need a referral to an individual/agency/organization? Do you need access to equipment or data sets? Are you interested in integrating your research with an education component? Are you interested in disseminating your research/activities to internal and/or external stakeholders and/or engaging community stakeholders? Someone may be able to connect you to what you are looking for or provide some insight that may have not been considered previously.*

*Be creative in presenting.* You may want to bring objects as props. Engage the audience with questions, role play, or use any other device that deviates from the common slide presentation since no Power Point presentations are allowed for faculty/staff presenters (students can use PowerPoint).

*Keep the number of people presenting on your topic to one or two.* You may opt, however, to have more of your team members, center affiliates, or unit members responding to questions during the engagement period that follows each presentation.

**8. I am student who is interested in presenting. What are the guidelines for presenting?**

If you are interested in presenting your interdisciplinary work, please check the Student Presenter Guide Sheet. Student presenters will be selected by the IDRE committee, based on thematic coverage and programmatic needs.

A limited number of slots during the event are dedicated to student presenters for “lightning talks”. Student presenters will have approximately 7-10 minutes to present and may show a slide deck as a visual aid. There will also be approximately 10-15 minutes after student presentations for Q&As.

This event is also an opportunity for students to collaborate with other faculty members and students. Student presentations should be responsive to the following elements, either by providing answers within their slide deck, or by offering the information as part of the Q&A session:

- Introduction to the interdisciplinary research area and your research problem
- What are the broad impacts of your research? [Answer the question in one or two sentences]
- What is the main significance of your project? [Answer the question in one or two sentences]
- In what ways do you consider your work interdisciplinary?
- Are there any techniques, tools, methods, or approaches that you don’t currently have but would be useful to advance your team/lab?
- Are there any human resources (e.g., mentor, collaborator) who you think would be helpful in the research project?

Please bear in mind that your audience members may not be experts in your field, and the purpose of your talk is to invite conversation and attract attention.

**9. What are some examples of presentations titles using both a captivating title and academic title?**

Paper, are you just paper?

Graft DNA codes on paper for biosensing

Quenching thirst in the desert

Interdisciplinary collaboration around water treatment and desalination

Where the streets have no name

Mapping uncharted connections in the brain