

UT-San Antonio and Baylor become the latest Texas universities to achieve Carnegie Tier One research status

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THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

The University of Texas at San Antonio and Baylor University have become the latest universities in the state to achieve the prestigious ranking for research activity often referred to as Carnegie Tier One. The designation is awarded by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education and is based on

the level of research activity conducted at a university.

UT-San Antonio joins eight other public universities in the state that are designated as Tier One universities with “very high research activity.” That list includes Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University, the University of Houston, the University of North Texas, the University of Texas at Arlington, the University of Texas at Aus-

tin, the University of Texas at Dallas and the University of Texas at El Paso. Baylor becomes the second private university in Texas to reach that designation, after Rice University.

“Carnegie R1 is a historic waypoint on our trajectory to transform UTSA into one of the nation’s great public research universities,” UTSA President Taylor Eighmy said in a press release. “It is one of the most prestigious research

designations that a U.S. research university can attain. I am so proud of our faculty and staff; their extensive contributions made this possible.”

Over the past five years, UT-San Antonio has made multiple strides to achieve this goal, according to a press release sent Thursday. The school increased research spending by 106% from \$68 million to \$140 million this year. Faculty received more than 300 funding grants an-

nually over the same time period, which is one factor that the Carnegie group factors in when determining a university’s research status.

Eighmy noted in the press release that UT-San Antonio is now one of about 20 universities across the country that have achieved Carnegie Tier One status and are Hispanic-serving institutions, which means at least 25% of the student population is Hispanic.

In a message to the Baylor University community Thursday, President Linda Livingstone emphasized that this designation makes Baylor a “preeminent Christian research university.”

“Our R1 aspirations have represented an incredible opportunity — one given to us by God — to do what very few, if any, universities have achieved: maintaining our foundational Christian mission while reaching R1 status as a top-tier research university,” she wrote.

Earlier this year, Baylor had projected the university

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ADOPTION FROM PG. 1A

Cheers and applause rang out among family and friends when the ceremony was over.

“It feels very exciting, and it’s settled,” Allison said. “There’s a finality to it and it’s good.”

Allison recalled how it all began.

“We heard of a situation involving three little girls needing a home. By the time they arrived it was midnight and their ages being what they were, we immediately began to panic,” Allison said. “We didn’t even have enough beds for them the first night; we were totally unprepared.”

Adding to their anxiety, Allison said they had no clothes, formula, bottles, diapers, car seats, or even a car that fit everyone. But, in less than 12 hours, she said their porch was filled with donations of all kinds from friends, family... even strangers.

“We had someone who wanted to remain anonymous with TruLight 127, our foster agency, that bought us a crib, a toddler bed, mattresses and car seats,” she said. “It was overwhelming the amount of love, prayers, support and extravagant generosity we received from our community.”

Many times, the two didn’t even know who gave what; people would just drop things off on their porch without ever ringing

the doorbell.

“We found casseroles and beverages of all kinds on our doorstep on many occasions,” Allison said. “My parents live 18 hours away in Tennessee, but they dropped everything and were in San Marcos on the second day.”

As could be expected, the pandemic made things harder to plan and prepare for, especially when it came to daycare and even finding certain formulas.

“But we were always taken care of,” Allison said. “We went from a family of three to six within two weeks. It made me think of the miracle of the five loaves and two fish. God can take whatever we bring him and multiply it ... if we just bring Him what we have, he can multiply our patience, our strength, endurance — whatever we need at the time.”

Before contemplating adoption, the couple decided to become foster parents. “Emotionally we were drained after such a long journey of heartbreak and disappointment of trying to have our own children,” the two said. “We talked about adoption but never really considered fostering.”

So the two set out on a journey to become foster parents.

“No matter how much you want something, or how much money you spend trying to find happiness, it really comes down

to being open to God’s plan,” John said. “We didn’t realize it at the time but going through the heartbreak prepared us for foster care. All the struggles, tears, and worries brought us closer together and gave us an appreciation for family and all of God’s children beyond our wildest dreams. We know each child on earth is here for a reason, and we believe everyone deserves to be loved by someone.”

In 2019, they officially became licensed for foster care in October. Shortly thereafter the couple brought home their first baby, directly from the NICU in November.

“He was required to eat every 2-3 hours, so there wasn’t much sleep but a whole lot of love and snuggles,” Allison said. “About a month after having him in our home, we discovered he had siblings who had already been adopted by foster parents; they wanted him, too. So right before Christmas we had to say goodbye after lots of tears and heartbreak.”

At the beginning of March 2020, they welcomed home another little boy, a toddler.

“We thought he was going to be with us just a few short weeks, but he wasn’t reunited with his biological parents until the beginning of December 2021,” Allison said.

During their pilgrimage as foster parents, John said



Above, John and Allison Hardy’s son Turner and their newly adopted children Ella, Maya and Joanna. Photo courtesy of John and Allison Hardy

one of their biggest challenges was knowing they had to be flexible, often having the feeling of being in “limbo.”

“So much of the process is dictated by the courts and the birth parent’s cooperation with the courts,” he said. “As foster parents we are usually the last to know anything even though we’re the ones that need information the most.”

As their journey took them into considering adoption the couple said they fell in love with TruLight127 Ministries and with how “personal” fostering and adoption was to them.

“Our recommendation is to find an agency you feel comfortable with and whom you think you could build a relationship,” said

John. “Aside from placing children with you, the agency you choose is going to be your biggest advocate, your biggest source of information, and have the most resources for you along the way.”

“Be prepared to not always get answers you want or for that matter any real solid concrete answers at all. There are lots of moving pieces along the way.”

John said he tells people adoption and foster care is not for everyone — and that’s okay.

“If you still want to make an impact or be part of a foster family’s story, find a local organization like CASA or Austin Angels to volunteer with,” he said. “It takes a village to be a foster family and without the

support from the community and its generosity, volunteers and nonprofits, the road would be much more difficult.”

Eloise Hudson, Communications Manager of CASA of Central Texas, said they’re always eager to help.

“Organizations, like CASA of Central Texas, are always in need of volunteers to support children while they navigate the foster care system,” Hudson said.

To hear John and Allison’s experience with their child’s CASA volunteer visit, <https://www.casacentex.org/casa-chat/>

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READING FROM PG. 4A

books are as old as books. It would be sweet if people fought as hard over why students don’t spend enough time in libraries in the first place. But content fights are better political issues, raising voter passion without risking a debate on the overall quality of education kids are getting in Texas.

Education is hard — for teachers, students, makers of policy and law, and politicians. It’s easier, unless voters are unusually focused, to sway an election with a debate over books most people will never open than to sway it with a debate about STAAR reading assessments that have dropped in every single grade in Texas elementary

and middle schools over the last two years.

What’s written in books is only a problem for people who can read. But in Texas politics, the quality of education isn’t what draws a crowd to the polls. If it was, politicians would be recommending books to read instead of pulling titles off the shelves.

This article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at <https://www.texastribune.org/2021/12/15/texas-education-reading-books/>.

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SMPD Blotter

Dec. 16

- 8:52 a.m. - Credit/debit abuse, 4015 S. I-35, report
- 9:12 a.m. - Minor accident, E. San Antonio St./Edward Gary St., blue form
- 9:15 a.m. - Trespassing/unwanted, 2050 S.

- I-35, warning
- 9:20 a.m. - Suicidal person, 1400 block of E. McCarty Ln., report
- 10:58 a.m. - Aggravated assault, 518 Linda Dr., report

Compiled by
Nick Castillo

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