LYNDON B. JOHNSON SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS





MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

DEAR LBJ COMMUNITY, SUPPORTERS & FRIENDS,

As we turn the page on a historic 2025, the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs is entering an era of unprecedented opportunity and impact.

For more than 50 years, the LBJ School has been the top-ranked public policy school in Texas and a proud part of The University of Texas at Austin – one of the nation's top 10 public universities. Our legacy is built on preparing principled leaders who are committed to public service and driven to create real-world change. Today, that legacy is growing in new and exciting ways.

In Fall 2025, we welcomed the first freshman cohort for our new Bachelor of Public Affairs program — a landmark moment that will double our enrollment over the next four years. We also celebrated the launch of our new Master of National Security program, with its first students arriving in 2026, and completed a modernizing renovation to the LBJ School building to provide our com-

munity with more state-of-the-art spaces, resources and technology.

Our impact continues to grow through our top-ranked degree programs, award-winning faculty and our incredible alumni — nearly 5,000 strong — who are shaping policy and driving progress across the nation and around the world. Together, we are a community where students, researchers and public servants work side by side to meet the moment with courage and creativity.

I hope this report gives you a sense of what we've accomplished together — and where we're headed next. Thank you for being part of our journey.

HOOK 'EM!

JR DeShazo

Dean

LBJ School of Public Affairs





and the broader community.



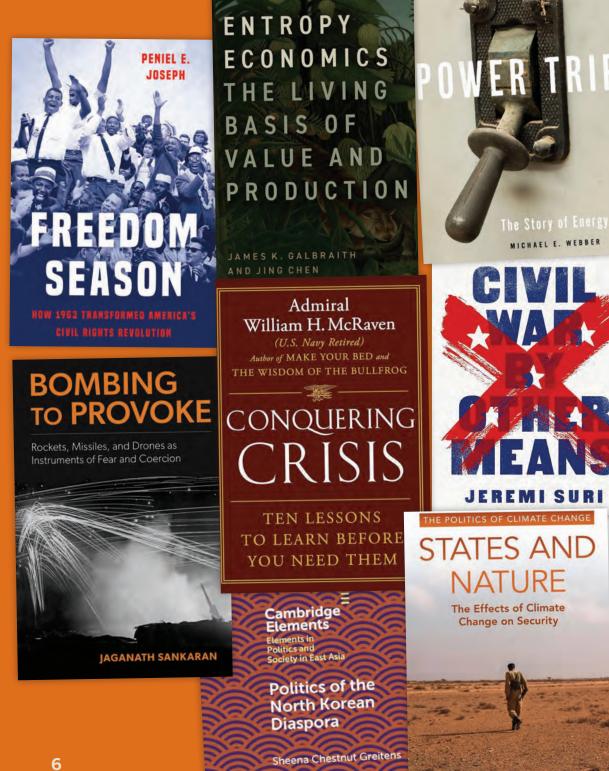
BY THE NUMBERS

The LBJ School hosted 239 guest speakers in 2025, offering insights on public service and policy from across the political spectrum.

PERSPECTIVES FROM ALL VIEWPOINTS

At the LBJ School, bipartisan engagement isn't an aspiration—it's part of our DNA. In a year marked by growing polarization across our communities and nation, the LBJ School continued to emphasize its commitment to fostering civil discourse and understanding across differences in 2025. Throughout the last year, accomplished leaders and experts from across the political spectrum – and from every level of government – visited campus weekly to share insights, explore ideas and engage directly with students.

The LBJ School's commitment to bipartisan engagement ensures students gain a balanced, nuanced understanding of the policy landscape in order to challenge assumptions, deepen understanding of varying political mindsets and foster the kind of intellectual curiosity essential to effective leadership.



SCHOLARSHIP AND THOUGHT **LEADERSHIP**

LBJ School faculty are nationally recognized experts whose work shapes policy and decision-making. Through books, public speaking, media appearances, and participation in public forums, our scholars influence both the public and policymakers. Their research connects directly to real-world challenges, helping to inform decisions and improve outcomes.

In 2025, LBJ faculty earned 14 funding grants for innovative research projects.

BY THE NUMBERS

JOSHUA W. BUSBY





LBJ FACULTY LEAD IN TEACHING, RESEARCH AND PUBLIC SERVICE

The LBJ School's research focuses on Texas' most pressing issues, from energy and water to Al policy and population growth. We work closely with state leaders to understand legislative priorities and develop practical, data-driven solutions.

In 2025, research spanned critical issues such as electricity grid resilience, innovative power generation, water systems, housing affordability, criminal justice reform and border and immigration policy.

The Pallas Morning News

As we mark 9/IL technology has created front lines everywhere,

and leaders must. be prepared

In this anniversary of the Sopl In attacks nearly a quarter century ago, we are called to extract is America prepared for he actional security threats we fine today and those to come? Just as important, how should we be train-ing the under immentation of cuttomal important, how should we be train-ing the next generation of national security leaders? Looking back helps explain how we arrived at today's grant renewed

ac arrived as understoon centered on the United States, China and Russia, The fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 ended the lengthy Cold War and gave may to a short period focused on regional conflicts and weapons of ion After the 9/Hat-

mass destruction. After the 9/Ha-tucks in 2001, U.S. security strategy shifted to the global war on terror, turgeting transmational jihadis ner-merks and massgreedes. Since 2014, national security has been defined by great-power competition with China and Russia – con-petition transformed by the explosive power hor of the internet, artificial intelligence and massive open-source intelligence and massive open-source data. These shifts have reshaped the security covironment in three critical ays that must inform how we train

future leaders.

First, technology has created new domains of warfare and intelligence while reshaping fraditional ones.

Networks, logistics and public opinion are now contested terrain. Influence of deep large and public opinion are now contested terrain. tions and deepfakes are no

Training a new generation to secure our nation

must dynamic unercipe and natural tion coreystems. The city is home to the Army Putures Command, the Army Applications Lab, the Defense Innovation Unit, NAVALX and AFWERX — all working side by side

IN THE **NEWS**

The LBJ School strengthened its media relations in 2025, elevating its national and regional profile as a leader in public policy thought expertise.

Austin American-Statesman MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2025

communications, idelicental property and electrical security and the internet. Today, private companies—google, Microsoft, Palianti and countless startups—set he pace in cybersocurity, electrical companies—google, Microsoft, electrical security and electrical security a al security leaders must learn to track, acquire and integrate these capabilities at speed, often in compe-

innerating just as fast.

Third, the race for mastery of Al stself is central. Success in the years

machine numeric, Algorithms are already customing shoused by detector finelines by tuning data, thegaing tunges and allocating data, thegaing tunges and allocating searce and clystoches, surveillance systems and clystoches, surveillance systems and clystoches are increasingly Almerty systems can sift through massive particular and the control of the control of the control of the control of the class of the control of the control of the cluster in the control of the control of the cluster in the control of the c able and deployed in 2001.

combine sound judgment and strate-gie vision with a growth mindset rooted in technological literacy. That is why the Lyndon B. Johnson School

ations, g

Annabella Ruiz's hometown of McAl-

len, her world changed. Her communi-

ty didn't have enough soap to keep up with panicked residents' demand for products to guard themselves from the novel, infectious disease. Called to act, she went to her computer and researched how to make a cleanser. She got to work, and her organic soap business, "A Little Ray of Sunshine," was born out of care for her

She was 13 years old. From then on,

fairs - the first undergraduate offering the school. At a welcome event March 29, she was hopeful and over-

joyed to visit her future campus. Public servants, as Ruiz hopes to me, are the "muscle and bone" that carry out the political promises by ns to improve commu id JR DeShazo, dean of the LBJ School, in an exclusive interview with school, in an excussive interview with the American-Statesman. As President Donald Trump's ad-

stration quickly slashes hundreds

The school is adjusting its program The school is adjusting its program-ming to help students and graduates best become part of the solution in a rapidly changing landscape and to assert the value of a public affairs degree.

LBJ School is 'adapting to how new problems are emerging'

Since DeShazo became the school's lean four years ago, LBJ has initiat three new programs, doubling its offerings. Its new undergraduate pro-

The federal government employs more than 2 million workers, but about 120,000 have lost their jobs since Trump took office. Although some ter-minations have been temporarily reversed by the courts, about 75,000 workers took a voluntary buyout pushed by Musk.

Benjamin Taulli, a fellow in LBJ's Washington D.C. program who will graduate in May, said students were hit hard by the workforce changes.

"It's been traumatic for the student body here," Taulli said. "People are pretty shaken up."





BY THE NUMBERS

Each year, 5 LBJ alumni reunions bring graduates back to where it all began, celebrating the 10th, 20th, 30th, 40th, and 50th anniversaries of their time on the Forty Acres.

INCREASED SUPPORT FOR LBJ ALUMNI

Across government, nonprofits, business, academia and the military, LBJ graduates – nearly 5,000 strong across the globe – embody leadership grounded in service and a belief that positive change is always possible.

In a year marked by polarization and federal job cuts affecting many in public service, the LBJ School strengthened its support for alumni through expanded networking opportunities, career coaching and specialized workshops for those transitioning out of federal roles. Alumni were also offered free upskilling opportunities through executive education, as the LBJ School continued to strengthen its support for our distinctive network of alumni – creating new ways to connect, collaborate and serve together for the greater good.



IN THE LAST YEAR

80% OF ADMITTED STUDENTS RECEIVED FELLOWSHIP FUNDING

As an integral part of The University of Texas at Austin – ranked the No. 1 public university in Texas and among the top 10 nationally – the LBJ School reflects the energy and opportunity that define life on the Forty Acres. We offer our own vibrant ecosystem of student-led organizations, professional networks, service initiatives and community-building activities within the larger UT experience.

In 2025, the LBJ student community expanded with the arrival of our first undergraduate cohort in history via the new Bachelor of Public Affairs program, marking a significant milestone in the School's history. And in 2026, the momentum will continue as we welcome the inaugural class of the Master of National Security program.

BY THE NUMBERS

The LBJ School welcomed its first 92 undergraduate students in 2025



LBJ GRADUATES PURSUE CAREERS ACROSS THE GLOBE AND ACROSS SECTORS

MPAFF CAREERS

37%

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

22%

PRIVATI

20%

NONPROFI

7%

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

\$76,000

MGPS CAREERS

27%

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

22%

PRIVATE SECTOR

22%

NONPROFI'

\$72,000
AVERAGE STARTING SALARY



BY THE NUMBERS

More than 130 students graduated from the LBJ School in May 2025.

GRADUATES CHANGING THE WORLD

On May 10, 2025, the LBJ School celebrated its 54th graduating class. Commencement speaker Alejandra Castillo (MPAff '98), former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, reminded students that they are "the walking embodiment of a president's dream... not just to teach theory, but to forge architects of change."

WHAT STARTS HERE CHANGES THE WORLD

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

The University of Texas at Austin is the #1 public university in Texas and the #7 public university in the nation. Like the state it calls home, UT is a bold, ambitious leader supporting some 55,000 students, 4,771 faculty, 15,000 staff and top national programs across 18 colleges and schools. As Texas' leading research university, UT attracts more than \$1.14 billion annually for discovery.

ABOUT THE LYNDON B. JOHNSON SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For over 50 years, the LBJ School has prepared leaders who advance democracy and serve the public good as the top-ranked public affairs school in the state of Texas and one of the finest in the nation. Uniquely positioned within a top-tier research university, the Texas State Capitol, a presidential library and one of America's most innovative cities, the LBJ School offers a range of nationally ranked degree programs that prepare students to tackle society's most pressing challenges.

