

WHOLE COMMUNITIES WHOLE HEALTH

A UT Grand Challenge

Changing the way science helps society thrive is our grand challenge.



In last month's [State of the University Address](#), President Gregory Fenves announced to faculty, staff, and students that [Whole Communities–Whole Health](#) has been selected as UT's second Bridging Barriers grand challenge.

"Faculty from across the university will work together to explore ways to foster the healthy development of children and families struggling with adversity by fundamentally rethinking how cohort studies are conducted on social, behavioral and health issues. The aim is to develop new ways of establishing a strong scientific understanding of the contexts and the complex inter-relationships of the many factors affecting families, children and individuals in a community."

— President Fenves, September 2018

Ours is an 8-year mission to completely rethink how researchers work with different communities. Many times, scientists study a group of people, take notes and samples, and publish findings that may not get back to the rest of that community quickly enough or in a way they can easily understand. We want to change that.

Please [follow along](#) as we find new, better, and more effective ways of bringing science into the lives and homes of those who need its benefits the most. These next years will bring with them anticipation, hope, disappointment, occasional failure, many re-starts, and always renewed excitement and determination. Please join us on this journey to change the way science helps society thrive.



Psychology professor David Schnyer, faculty chair for Whole Communities–Whole Health, tells us why this grand challenge is unique and what its team of researchers hopes to accomplish within the next decade.

"All scientists want to better the human condition, and they struggle with how to share research findings in ways that help people make changes quickly. It's hard to take complicated ideas and make them easier to understand, but that's exactly what we have to do." [Read more.](#)



When scientists work with people in different neighborhoods and communities, how should they share information? What makes different types of data useful or understandable outside of a laboratory? And how do you get information to people quickly enough so that they can begin using it to make changes that will have lasting benefits, for themselves and their families?

Health communications professor Mike Mackert shares why these questions are on his mind and why he's excited to be part of a grand challenge team that will help answer them. [Read more.](#)

Please join us.

Over the coming weeks, months, and years, we hope our work will help individuals, families, and communities in Texas become empowered partners and citizen scientists who are fully engaged in the process of making their own lives stronger, healthier, and more resilient.

Follow us on our [blog](#), on [social media](#), and our [website](#), and please encourage your friends, students, and colleagues to [join us, too](#).

Stay Connected



Copyright © 2018 Bridging Barriers - Vice President for Research - UT Austin, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
[update your preferences](#)