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Research BREAKS Sessions

All UNT researchers are invited to participate in a new research education series every first and third Thursday of the month. Each session will be led by a topic expert in the field in order to elevate best practices, while answering some of the most frequently asked questions by UNT researchers related to the topic. These hour-long discussions are a comfortable conversation where no question is too basic, too simple, or too complicated. Our team of research experts will bring the conversation topics to the researchers.

There will be no sessions during the Summer months. Stay tuned for updates as to when these will resume in the Fall.

Proposals and Opportunities

Selected List of Proposals Submitted in April

Proposal Title/Topic: Smart and Connected Communities
Funding Agency: NSF

Proposal Title/Topic: Advanced Air Mobility
Funding Agency: Emil Buehler Perpetual Trust Foundation

Proposals in Development

Proposal Title/Topic: University Transportation Center
Funding Agency: US Department of Transportation
Proposal Due Date: Thursday, August 25

Funding Opportunities

If interested in applying, please email [Kathy Dreyer](mailto:kathy.dreyer@unt.edu)

Proposal Title/Topic: [Human Networks and Data Science](#)
Funding Agency: NSF
Proposal Due Date: July 14, 2022

Proposal Title/Topic: [Aviation Research Grants](#)
Funding Agency: FAA
Proposal Due Date: Open

Proposal Title/Topic: [Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace](#)
Funding Agency: NSF
Proposal Due Date: Open

Partnership Update

UNT and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate on advanced air mobility projects. The collaborative research will enable both parties to prepare for future economic opportunities in Southeast Oklahoma and Northeastern Texas.

Research Showcase

On May 18, research conducted through the Center for Agile and Adaptive Additive Manufacturing (CAAAM) and the Center for Integrated Intelligent Mobility Systems (CIIMS) was presented to legislative staffers and industry partners at UNT's Discovery Park. Attendees also reviewed plans for the UNT Advanced Air Mobility Test Center.

Pivot Webinar

On June 16, Pivot-RP, the online research opportunity/funding suite, is conducting a webinar. This annual event offers Pivot users an opportunity to learn about new features, tools, and product updates. To register for the Pivot-RP User Group Event, click [here](#).

Research Profile

Jodie Brinkerhoff

Background:

Jodie Brinkerhoff is Vice President of Innovation at DFW Airport and leads the Innovation team's efforts to investigate, ideate, incubate and implement new products and solutions for the airport. Her team works across the enterprise, partnering with core business units and bringing in new, emerging technologies as enablers to critical problem solving. She is also responsible for working to develop innovation skill building and culture initiatives for employees.



Jodie is passionate about understanding new trends and emerging technologies, inspiring transformational corporate culture, and building what's right for the customer using insights, design thinking and other innovation techniques. She has a love of work with both start-up ventures and corporate enterprises — her favorite depends on the day.

Jodie is a new member of the Board of Advisors for the Jim McNatt Institute for Logistics Research, but research has long been an important part of Jodie's business interests. Prior to joining DFW, Jodie was the North American regional lead for Mastercard's Innovation Labs in New York City where she worked with internal product teams and top brands in the retail, banking, and travel verticals to deliver new business and consumer solutions grounded in market research. From 2010 – 2016, Jodie was a Senior Vice President at Fuel Cycle, a then start up software-as-a-service company. Fuel Cycle's community platform continues to be used by Fortune 500 brands across the country to conduct customer research and engagement activities that lead to product development, advertising and brand strategies and stakeholder loyalty programs. In her early career, Jodie sold consumer analytics and business insights consulting for several global market research providers, including Mintel Group Ltd and Harris Interactive (owners of The Harris Poll.)

Today at DFW, Jodie's team is driving initiatives that fuel the future of "Travel. Transformed" (DFW's brand vision.) Her team's focus areas include Safety & Security, the Customer Journey, Data-Driven Decision-making, Automation & Efficient Mobility, People & Processes, and New Ventures. They focus on innovation opportunities that include assessment of emerging technologies, but also reimagine new ways of working and new business models. The team specifically holds leadership responsibility for the future of efficient mobility (AVs and eVTOL) and the future of biometrics across the airport's campus.

Recent Innovation team programs at DFW include:

- **Cargo Cloud System (2019)** – Researched solutions and implemented DFW's first online system for cargo booking management
- **Autonomous Passenger Shuttle (2020)** – Deployed DFW's first AV passenger shuttle
- **Airport 2030 Report (2021)** – A commissioned research study that assessed timeless customer needs, driving forces and emerging technologies and provided a practical guide for DFW teams to consider in long-term planning
- **The Roadmap to Autonomy (2022)** – A comprehensive research assessment and prioritization of future development opportunities for DFW operations, done in partnership with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)
- **Airside AV for Cargo (2022)** – This summer, DFW and its partners will initiate operations of a driverless, electric tow tractor in the airside cargo facility area.

In the coming months, the DFW team will be working across business units to further enhance planning for an electric and autonomous future. They will be trialing low-speed autonomous platforms for parking, exploring opportunities to boost charging mechanisms and models, and continuing research across the areas of drones, robotics, and other enabling technologies that can lead to greater operational efficiency and enhanced security. The DFW team welcomes regional collaboration opportunities, research partnerships and any fashion of brainstorming and spirited debate on all things related to the great unknown on the horizon.

Jodie relocated to North Texas from New York City in 2019. She currently serves as a founding Advisory Board member of the leadership organization, Women Leading Travel & Hospitality, and as a member of the Women's Empowerment Initiative within the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC). When she's not out representing the airport and talking about the future of travel, you might find Jodie playing volleyball or volunteering for the Grapevine Wine Pouring Society (an extension of the Grapevine Convention and Visitors Bureau.) Jodie holds a BA in Communications from Loyola University in Maryland and a MBA in marketing and e-commerce from the University of San Francisco.