



**27** International  
**Service-Learning Conference**  
29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> August 2024 Buenos Aires, Argentina



# **Institutionalization of the EPICS Program at the University of Texas at Dallas**

**Andrea Turcatti – M. Ed.  
Program Director  
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# EPICS

is a design-based, engineering and computer science course that connects students seeking real-world design experience with community partners in need.



1995  
Purdue  
University



SPRING 2016  
UT DALLAS  
25 STUDENTS  
4 PROJECTS



FALL 2024  
155 STUDENTS  
28 PROJECTS



## Sustainability



## Operational Software



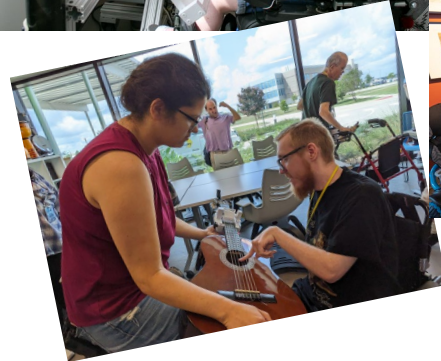
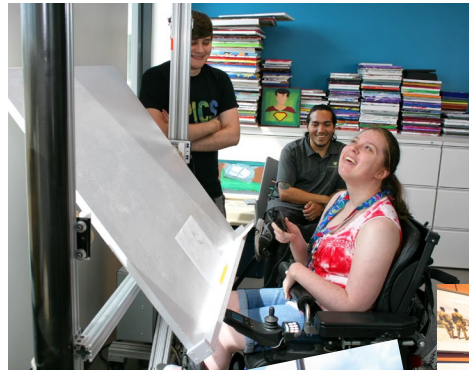
## Accessibility



## Community Enhancement









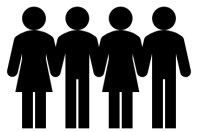


# How it works:



## Organized as a course

Mix of Freshman through Seniors working on projects



## Multidisciplinary teams of students from any major



## Community projects

Projects draw from non-profit agencies spanning for multiple semesters







# Becoming an EPICS Partner



## Identify Project

Non-profits face challenges that require technology enhancements but often lack the necessary resources to support such efforts.



## Submit Project Proposal



## Decide if EPICS is for You

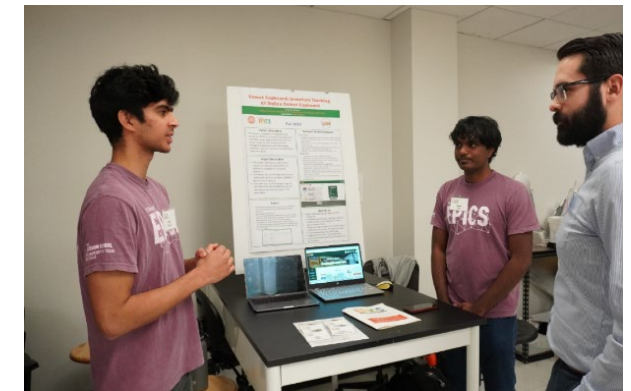
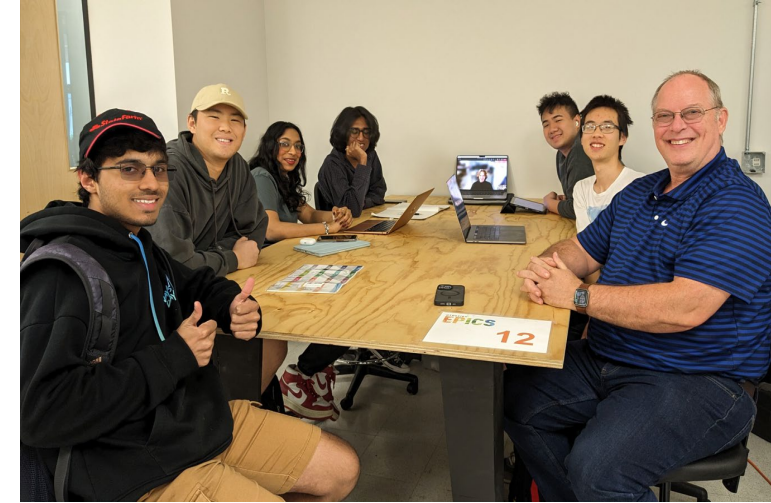
Have a meaningful conversation to understand how EPICS works and how we could help





# Corporate Sponsors

- Support projects
- Mentoring
- Workshops
- EPICS Exhibit



## How to get started

- Is there a need in your institution/community?
- Is the leadership team on board?
- Do you have the minimum resources?
  
- Work on a model that fits your organization
- Learn from other institutions
- Start small
- Demonstrate impact
- Build relationships





## Old Challenges

- Recruiting of students
- Class organization
- Credit Hours
- Retention of students
- Diversity of projects

## Ongoing Challenges

- Resources
- Technical elective
- Duration of project
- Reflection

## Results

- Courses fully subscribed/working at full capacity
- Very good return of students
- Huge success with new Junior Mentor program
- UTD EPICS Community
- First EPICS Abroad: Spring 2025

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# Thank you

[epics.utdallas.edu](https://epics.utdallas.edu)



Erik Jonsson School of  
Engineering and Computer Science