



# UTSA Dr. Manuel P. Berriozábal PREP Program Fall 2024 Newsletter



**Returning  
Students Can Apply  
Now!**

<https://utsaprep.ryzerevents.com>

Here's a quick recap of our incredible 2024 Summer PREP program! This past summer, our students engaged in a packed agenda that included working on projects like eco-friendly slippers, building prototypes, visiting the Witte Museum, and collaborating with UTSA professors in their labs. We're now gearing up for the exciting 2025 Summer PREP program!

SINCE

**1979**

50,000 STUDENTS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN PREP

MORE THAN

**400**

STUDENTS ATTENDED PREP THIS SUMMER!

HOSTED IN

**4**

DIFFERENT CAMPUSES



Scan for more information



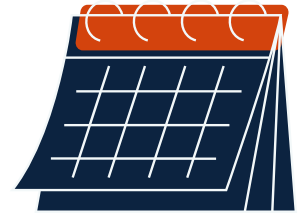
<https://klesse.utsa.edu/prep/>



[prep@utsa.edu](mailto:prep@utsa.edu)

# Important dates

- **Applications:**
  - For Returning Students are NOW open
  - New Students Open November 14, 2024
- **Deadline for everyone applying is: February 14, 2025**
- **Registration Deadline for early admissions: January 14, 2025**
  - Final registration deadline for all: March 14, 2025
- **Summer Program Begins:**
  - June 10, 2025
  - Ends: July 10, 2025
- **Vacation Dates:**
  - Juneteenth (Observed): June 16, 2025
  - Independence Day: July 3-4, 2025
- **STEM Day:**
  - July 10, 2025



**Closing Ceremony: The Closing Ceremony is held for students in Levels 3-5. July 10, 2025, Location and Time TBD**



## Mark your calendars for upcoming events!

### Registration Fair

Come and apply to the PREP program and get the application process out of the way! We will have computers and laptops available for you to use, and the PREP team will be on hand to assist with any questions or concerns you may have. Please remember to bring the necessary documents to finalize your application!

When: November 8, 2024

Time: 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Location: UTSA Downtown Campus, Riverwalk Room DB 1.124

### PREP Festival

Join us for a family-friendly event filled with exciting STEM activities, inspiring guest speakers, and the chance to apply for the PREP program! Don't miss out on a day of fun and learning for all ages!

When: January 25, 2025

Time: 10am-12pm

Location: UTSA Downtown Campus, La Villita Room DB 1.116



# PREP Alumni

## Calling All PREP Alumni

We want to hear from you! Please update your information and stay connected with us—after all, we're family! Let's strengthen our PREP Alumni network and work together to support the next generation.

We're always looking for volunteers and guest speakers. Use the link below or scan the QR code to take a quick 5-minute survey to update your details in our database.

We can't wait to hear from you!

<https://bit.ly/3BGLKHT>



## STEM Day Summer 2024

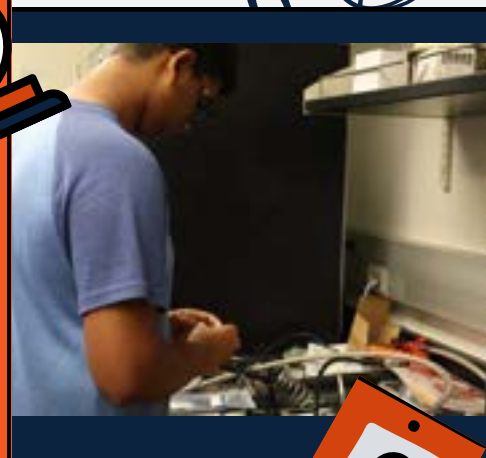
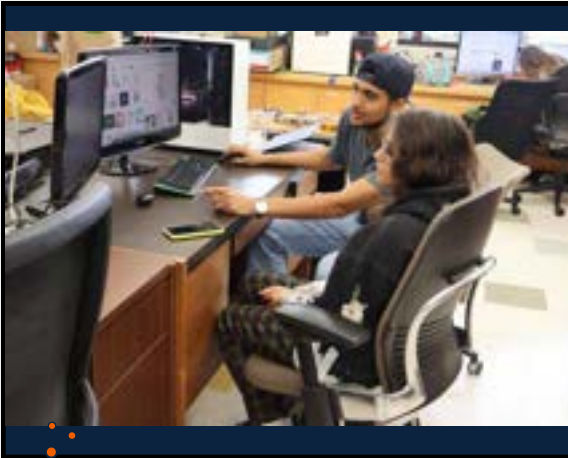


On their final day, our PREP students put their problem-solving skills to the test with a variety of STEM challenges! They tackled activities such as Sphero mazes, paper towers, straw benches, and balloon carts. It was a fantastic way to showcase their creativity and teamwork!



# ENGINEERING LAB INTERNS

Congratulations to the students who successfully completed Level 5 and had the opportunity to work as interns in a UTSA professor's lab! We also want to extend our heartfelt thanks to our UTSA professors for their time and support, providing students with valuable hands-on experience in the lab.



A special thank you to the following  
Professors for hosting our PREP students:



**Johnathan Votion, Ph.D.**  
Electrical Engineering



**Jiannan Cai, Ph.D.**  
Civil Engineering



**Marissa Wechsler, Ph.D.**  
Biomedical Engineering



**Esteban Ureña-Benavides, Ph.D.**  
Chemical Engineering



**Lyle Hood, Ph.D.**  
Mechanical Engineering/Medical  
Design Innovations



**Shri Sankarasubramanian, Ph.D.**  
Chemical Engineering



**Daniel Pineda, Ph.D.**  
Mechanical Engineering/ Aerospace





# Speaker Series

We would like to thank all the speakers who joined us this summer to engage with our PREP students. Your presentations have a profound impact on their perspectives and lives, providing valuable insights into your careers, your journeys, and what they can do to achieve success.



**Albert Espinoza**  
Director Track Design  
/BNSF Railway



**Dr. Mirella Vargas**  
Senior Research engineer  
Southwest Research Institute



**Dr. Alex Mejia**  
Associate Professor,  
Department of Biomedical  
/Chemical Engineering



**Russell Yeager**  
VP of Civil Engineering  
at WGI



**Brookell Schott**  
Mechanical Engineer  
Cleary Zimmermann



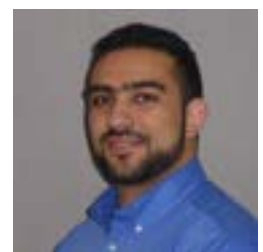
**Razi Hosseini**  
Director/City Engineer of  
Public Works City of SA



**Isaiah De Leon**  
Engineer in Training  
Poznecki-Camarillo, LLC.



**Vivian Reyna**  
Mechanical Engineer  
Biodynamics Research Corp



**Sulieman Naser**  
Associate Engineer  
RPS, a Tetra Tech  
Company



**Mark O'Connor**  
Senior Geotechnical Engineer  
at Arias & Associates, Inc.



**Theresa Campbell**  
SA River Authority



**Alex Marquez**  
Technical Writer  
Poznecki-Camarillo





# CLOSING CEREMONY

**Congratulations to all the students for completing PREP Summer 2024! Levels 3-5 celebrated with a closing ceremony where students received certificates for their hard work. We are incredibly proud of all the PREP students!**



**Albert Espinoza**  
Director Track Design  
/BNSF Railway, PREP Alumni

**We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our closing ceremony guest speaker, Mr. Albert Espinoza, the Director of Track Design at BNSF Railway. As a licensed civil engineer, Mr. Espinoza has worked on numerous projects involving roadways, tracks, and drainage. Not only does he plan these projects, but he also calculates their costs. He leads his team by staying current with the latest technologies to enhance their work. We are proud to note that he is also a former PREP student!**

## “Students’ Perspectives”

**Violet Tonzetich:**  
Level 3 student

**“I enjoyed the aspect of having independence in creating and designing different projects and inventions.”**

**Benny Bhogte:**  
Level 4 student

**“The PREP program is a great path that can help you decide your career.”**

**Paul Solis:**  
Level 5 student

**“I enjoyed being able to design, build, test, improve and rebuild over again, with like minded students because we sharpened each others thought processes when it came to designing and building our projects.”**



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PREP SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!

Applicants must be full-time UTSA undergraduate students (enrolled in at least 12 semester credit hours) accepted into the Klesse College of Engineering and Integrated Design or the College of Sciences. They need to submit a PREP transcript showing at least two years of successful completion of the PREP program; additional years may lead to a higher scholarship award. Candidates must also respond to a writing prompt. Once awarded, recipients become UTSA PREP Scholars and are expected to volunteer for PREP activities throughout the year. We are excited to announce our PREP scholarship recipients for the 2024 academic year! This scholarship is awarded to former PREP students who show academic excellence, leadership, and a commitment to their communities. We're proud to recognize these talented individuals and support them on their educational journeys.



**Leah Alvarado**

Leah, a senior majoring in Biomedical Engineering, has been awarded a \$7,500 PREP scholarship!



**Alexander Santiago**

Alexander, a freshman majoring in Mechanical Engineering, has been awarded a \$7,500 PREP scholarship!



**Marco Ramos**

Marco, a senior majoring in Mechanical Engineering, has been awarded a \$5,000 PREP scholarship!



**Enrique Alvarez**

Enrique, a senior majoring in Electrical Engineering, has been awarded a \$5,000 PREP scholarship!



**Elias Perez**

Elias, a sophomore majoring in Computer Science, has been awarded a \$2,000 PREP scholarship!



**Josue Canales**

Josue, a transfer student majoring in Computer Science, has been awarded a \$2,000 PREP scholarship!





# NEW PREP SITES LAUNCHING IN 2025

Summer 2025

**We're thrilled to announce that PREP will launch two new sites in the summer of 2025! We're excited to reestablish our partnership with two Alamo College campuses.**

**Palo Alto College, situated on the south side of San Antonio, will enable us to reach students from nearby districts, including South San ISD, Somerset ISD, Southwest ISD, and Harlandale ISD, as well as any students living in the vicinity. This presents a fantastic opportunity for our community!**

**San Antonio College, located just north of downtown San Antonio, will help us connect with students from surrounding areas such as San Antonio ISD and Alamo Heights ISD. We look forward to serving these vibrant communities!**



**Palo Alto College**



**San Antonio College**





# PREP Resources



**Hello PREP Students and Parents,  
We're excited to share some resources to keep you updated  
on everything happening with PREP for Summer 2025! Stay  
tuned and follow us on social media for the latest news and  
information!**

**Join the Zoom session using the link or QR code:**

**<https://utsa.zoom.us/j/95331027890>**



**Application Link: <https://utsaprep.ryzerevents.com>  
OR Scan QR code:**



**PREP website: <https://klesse.utsa.edu>**

**Follow us on Social Media:**



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[prep\\_initiatives](#)**



**[Facebook: PREP](#)  
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