



### **Additional National Science Foundation Funding Secured for Hispanic-Serving Institution**

Lubbock, Texas (December 17, 2020) – LEARN announced that additional funding in the amount of \$157,000 has been secured through a supplemental grant from the National Science Foundation for Award Number 1925553. These additional funds will provide St. Mary’s University in San Antonio, Texas with a suitable combination of advanced network technology at both local and regional levels designed to meet their current and projected research and education needs, with training and expertise to manage the technology, and with assistance through LEARN’s national collaborations and partnerships to increase utilization of the technology. These are the same services as the initial set of five colleges participating in this grant. St. Mary’s University is a nationally recognized private liberal arts institution that was founded to bring education to the underserved in South Texas. It has a mission to provide a quality, integral education of liberal arts, STEM and the Marianist faith tradition, educating for academic excellence, service, justice and peace, with an emphasis on adaptation and change.

The five colleges that are already benefiting from the initial award are: McLennan Community College, Midland College, South Plains College, South Texas College, and Trinity University. Akbar Kara, the LEARN President and CEO, is Principal Investigator (PI) with Ryan Fitzgerald (South Plains College) and Amy Schultz (LEARN) providing support as Co-Principal Investigators.

“The LEARN community joins me in applauding the NSF CC\* program for supporting science and providing resources to enable campus on-ramp to the statewide R&E network,” Kara said. “We are looking forward to collaborating with another Hispanic-Serving Institution and welcoming them to the LEARN community.”

Original press release serving the five campuses can be found here: [http://www.tx-learn.net/documents/CC\\_NSF1925553\\_PressRelease.pdf](http://www.tx-learn.net/documents/CC_NSF1925553_PressRelease.pdf)

#### **About:**

LEARN (The Lonestar Education And Research Network) is a consortium of 43 organizations throughout Texas that includes public and private institutions of higher education, community colleges, libraries, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Texas State Library and Archive Commission (TSLAC), and the K-12 public schools. The consortium, organized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, connects its members and over 300 affiliated organizations through high performance optical and IP network services to support their research, education, healthcare and public service missions. LEARN is also a leading member of the national community of advanced research networks, providing Texas connectivity to national and international research and education networks, enabling cutting-edge research that is increasingly dependent upon sharing large volumes of electronic data.