

Transportation Challenges in our Borderplex Community

Ken Meissner
Dean of Engineering

TexITE Fall District
Conference



Who is this
Meissner guy?



COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

AT A GLANCE

5,401

Students (Fall 2025)

7 Depts

Degree Programs

Bachelor's

11

Master's

16

Doctoral

6+3

4,671

499

237

\$42.4M

Research Expenditure

(FY24)

**UTEP Ranked
#1 in M.S. &
Ph.D. degrees
awarded to
Hispanic/Latino
students in
Engineering**





CARNEGIE CLASSIFICATIONS

- **R1: Top 5% for Research**
- **Opportunity University**
- **Community Engaged**
- **One of 11 universities in the country to hold all three classifications**





MEETING FINANCIAL NEED

- **50%** first-generation college students
- **35%** coming from families with household incomes of \$20K or less
- **65%** received a Pell Grant
- **73%** received grants or scholarships



UTEP: Transportation Challenges in our Borderplex Community



COLLEGE OF
ENGINEERING

- Workforce Development
 - University Education
 - PE Shortage
 - Vertically integrated education
 - The Collaborative
 - EPCC-UTEP Engineering Academy
- Translating research and technical expertise to impact
 - Center for Transportation Infrastructure Systems (CTIS)
 - Advancing Self-sufficiency through Powered Infrastructure for Roadway Electrification (ASPIRE)



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:

University Education

- UTEP education offers students the opportunity to get their hands dirty.
- Full range of Engineering degrees to support transportation infrastructure needs.



COLLEGE OF
ENGINEERING

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: PE Shortage



COLLEGE OF
ENGINEERING

**WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT:**

**Vertically
Integrated
Education**



The Collaborative: Over 30 years of partnership to drive education in El Paso forward.

EPCC/UTEP Engineering Academy: Dual enrollment started in Fall 2024.



**COLLEGE OF
ENGINEERING**

**TRANSLATING
RESEARCH TO
IMPACT:**

**Center for
Transportation
Infrastructure
Systems
(CTIS)**



**COLLEGE OF
ENGINEERING**

Major UTEP Research Center

- \$2.5M+ in annual expenditure
- Well equipped
- Applied and local

Strategic Goals

- Collaboration with the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT)
- Leverage Advancing Self-sufficiency through Powered Infrastructure for Roadway Electrification (ASPIRE - NSF ERC)
- Strengthen Regional Impact through Southern Plains Transportation Center (SPTC - UTC by USDOT)
- Deepen Engagement with El Paso MPO

TRANSLATING RESEARCH TO IMPACT:

Center for Transportation Infrastructure Systems (CTIS)



COLLEGE OF
ENGINEERING

“Dr. Montoya and I had the valuable opportunity to participate in a professor training course at NCAT. It was encouraging to see that, despite NCAT’s larger space and greater quantity of equipment, the CTIS laboratory is equipped with the same advanced tools necessary to perform nearly all standard asphalt industry testing—highlighting the strength and competitiveness of our capabilities. I was proud to see how our capabilities align with theirs.” Imad Abdallah

National Center for Asphalt Technology

- Established in 1986 as a partnership between Auburn University and the National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) Research and Education Foundation to provide practical research and development to meet the needs of maintaining America's highway infrastructure.

TRANSLATING RESEARCH TO IMPACT:

Advancing Self-
sufficiency
through Powered
Infrastructure for
Roadway
Electrification
(ASPIRE)



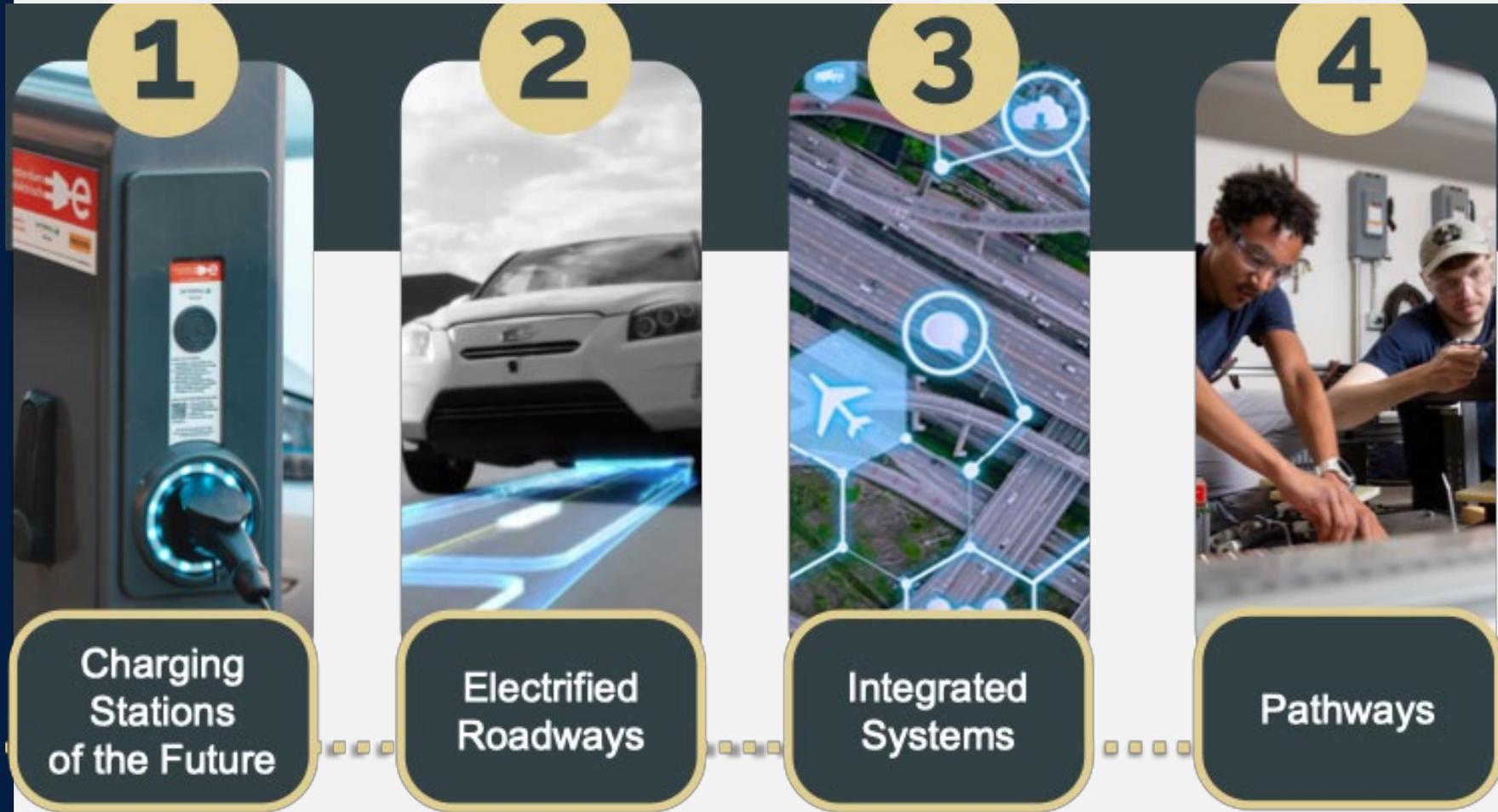
COLLEGE OF
ENGINEERING



ASPIRE

TRANSLATING RESEARCH TO IMPACT:

Advancing Self-sufficiency through Powered Infrastructure for Roadway Electrification (ASPIRE)



**COLLEGE OF
ENGINEERING**

Core Partner Institutions



UtahState
University

Lead Institution



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
AT EL PASO



PURDUE
UNIVERSITY



University of Colorado
Boulder



THANK YOU
QUESTIONS

