



LEARN Awarded \$890K by National Science Foundation to Accelerate Research and Education at Small Colleges in Texas

Lubbock, Texas (September 20, 2021) - Texas-based LEARN (Lonestar Education and Research Network) announced that it has been awarded its second National Science Foundation grant as a lead organization. This two-year, \$890,000 grant titled *CC* Regional: LEARN Extending & Accelerating Participation in Science (Texas LEAPS)* (Award Number: 2126248) will build on LEARN's existing grant, which developed a program for regional network connectivity for smaller colleges and universities in Texas.

LEARN has identified a set of three diverse colleges and universities to join the initial set of six, all with various needs related to advanced cyberinfrastructure, to take part in this project. The three participating schools are: Texarkana College, Texas Lutheran University, and Trinity Valley Community College.

Akbar Kara, Principal Investigator for this grant and President & CEO at LEARN said, "As the statewide research and education network, we strive to uplift the capacity and capabilities of colleges and universities in Texas. The LEARN team will use the new grant resources to build on our first NSF grant and promote further discovery and learning."

LEARN will partner with various organizations to deliver advanced network services and connectivity, expertise to manage the technology, and training to effectively adopt and use the technologies provided.

Dr. Michael Hites, LEARN Board Chair and Chief Information Officer at Southern Methodist University said, "LEARN continues to gain national attention by providing advanced technology and training to the Texas higher education community."

About:

LEARN: Lonestar Education and Research Network is a consortium of 43 organizations throughout Texas that includes public and private institutions of higher education, community colleges, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Texas Education Telecommunications Network (TETN), and K-12 public schools. The consortium, organized as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, connects its members and over 300 affiliated organizations to statewide resources 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 a 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.