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# [August 06, 2021: University of Texas At Austin: Longhorns Launch Startup to Address the Next Frontier of Renting](#)

News Bites - Private Companies

August 13, 2021 Friday

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## **Body**

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For students interested in entrepreneurship, Jaideep Patil has some advice. "There are so many resources available within the university's entrepreneurship ecosystem. Take advantage of as many UT startup programs as possible where you can meet like-minded students," Patil says.

Patil (chemical engineering, 2021) and his Longhorn co-founders Avner Khan (M.S., computer science, 2021) and Collin Betori (business administration, 2015) have been working for almost two years on their startup Explorastay. Their only regret, not starting sooner.

Explorastay is a search engine for midterm rentals (one to 11 months) that compares inventory from 25-plus housing sites globally and aggregates them into one seamless interface. The team launched Explorastay after participating in Longhorn Startup, a course that gives UT students credit for working on their company over a semester. It encourages students who are exploring entrepreneurship to get plugged in at UT Austin sooner rather than later. "Start early if you can! [If you're looking for a co-founder], look for opportunities across campus to network with students outside of your major," Khan says.

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## SECTION 1 UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN PROFILE

### 1.1 ACTIVITIES

They say everything's bigger in Texas, and The University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin) takes them at their word. With about 51,000 students, it is the flagship institution of the UT System's eight universities and six health institutions. UT Austin consistently ranks on the list of the country's largest student bodies and offers more than 155 undergraduate and more than 170 graduate degree programs. In addition to its 430-acre downtown Austin academic campus, UT Austin maintains extensive research locations including the J.J. Pickle Research campus (also in Austin), the McDonald Observatory in West Texas, and the Marine Science Institute on the Texas coast. The university was founded in 1883.

### 1.2 SUMMARY

PermID: 5000414547

Website: <https://www.utexas.edu/>

Industry: University

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2012 East 7th Street AUSTIN TEXAS 78702 United States

## SECTION 2 PRESS RELEASES: 2021

August 12: University of Texas At Austin: Archive of Tony Award-Winning Theater Designer Kevin Adams Comes to the Harry Ransom Center

The archive of award-winning lighting designer Kevin Adams has been established at the Harry Ransom Center at The University of Texas at Austin, a key research destination for the study of theater and performance history. Adams, an alumnus of UT's College of Fine Arts, has received four Tony Awards for his lighting designs of "Spring Awakening" (2007), "The 39 Steps" (2008), "American Idiot" (2010), and "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" (2014), as well as nominations for "Hair" (2009), "Next to Normal" (2009), "SpongeBob SquarePants: The Musical" (2018), and "The Cher Show" (2019). Kevin Adams Portrait by David Oramas

"Kevin Adams has been at the forefront of lighting design for decades," said Eric Colleary, the Ransom Center's curator of performing arts. "Rather than resisting changes in new lighting technologies like LEDs or fluorescents, he saw their potential to radically change the way a stage could look. He continues to push the field in exciting directions." Source: Company Website

July 22: Top Geology Award Goes to Ian Dalziel of The University of Texas at Austin

Ian W.D. Dalziel, a professor in the Jackson School of Geosciences at The University of Texas at Austin, has been awarded the Geological Society of America's Penrose Medal for pioneering discoveries about Earth's ancient geography and its past supercontinents. Established in 1927, the Penrose Medal is widely considered to be geology's most prestigious career award.

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In a letter, GSA Past-President Doug Walker said that Dalziel's scientific contributions marked a major advance in the science of geology and shed new light on key periods in our planet's distant past, such as the "Snowball Earth" and the "Cambrian Explosion" of multicellular life. A globe map showing the supercontinent Gondwanaland filling the western hemisphere with the smaller supercontinent Laurentia filling about a third of the western hemisphere. A blue line indicating a sea channel separates them. Among the discoveries to have earned UT's Ian Dalziel the Penrose Medal, was a supercontinental rift half a billion years ago that saw what is now Texas and ancestral North America break away from Gondwanaland, occurring immediately before a huge burst in diversity of life on Earth, known as the Cambrian explosion. Credit: UT Jackson School of Geosciences/Dalziel.

Dalziel's work has been important in reconstructing the position of our planet's past continents. His discoveries include evidence that half a billion years ago, during the Cambrian Explosion, Texas lay alongside Antarctica. He also uncovered geology showing that 50 million years later it was part of a large plateau joining ancestral North America to the Andes of Argentina. These and other discoveries spurred a new interest in the geography of our planet from before Pangea, the last time Earth's landmasses assembled as one, and inspired the idea that other supercontinents had previously existed.

"Ian has certainly earned his place among geology's scientific giants" said Demian Saffer, director of the University of Texas Institute for Geophysics (UTIG) where Dalziel has worked since 1985.

April 14: University of Texas At Austin: Governor Abbott Appoints Regents, Chairman Eltife to New Terms

AUSTIN, Texas - Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has reappointed Kevin P. Eltife to The University of Texas System Board of Regents. Eltife was first appointed as a regent in 2017 and elected board chairman in December 2018. His first term was slated to run through February 2023, but with two years left on his current term, Abbott reappointed Eltife to a new six-year term.

"I'm incredibly grateful that Gov. Abbott has decided to reappoint Chairman Eltife," said Jay Hartzell, president of The University of Texas at Austin. "The chairman has lived a life of public service and is one of the great advocates for affordable education in Texas. He understands the transformative role that The University of Texas plays in the life of our state, and like the governor, he is a great friend of his alma mater, UT Austin."

The governor also reappointed R. Steven "Steve" Hicks and Nolan Perez to serve an additional term on the board, and he appointed another great Longhorn, Stuart Stedman, for an initial term.

"Steve Hicks is a renowned friend and supporter of UT Austin, as are his fellow Longhorns, Nolan Perez and Stuart Stedman. Together, they have powerfully demonstrated their commitment to higher education in Texas over many years," added Hartzell. "They will bring to the board passion for our research and teaching missions, and I look forward to their guidance and energy."

One of Eltife's early priorities as a regent was to streamline the UT System's administrative operations to redirect funds to UT institutions in support of students and patients. As board chairman, Eltife also led efforts to ensure UT institutions remain affordable, with six of the eight UT academic institutions now offering expanded financial assistance programs. At UT Austin, for example, the regents approved a \$160 million endowment to provide no-cost tuition for Texas students whose families earn less than \$65,000 per year, and they reduced tuition for students from families making less than \$125,000 per year.

SECTION 3 OTHER NEWS: 2021

August 09: University of Texas At Austin: Earthquake Forecasts Move a Step Closer to Reality

AUSTIN, Texas - Earthquakes - like lightning - strike unpredictably. The Earth's tectonic plates, however, hide subtle warnings that a major fault may soon break. Like forecasting a thunderstorm, knowing how to read the warnings could help communities protect lives, infrastructure and local economies.

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For decades, scientists have struggled to reliably give forecasts for major earthquake hotspots, but now, an international team of scientists led by The University of Texas at Austin has embarked on a new initiative to do just that.

Source: Company Website

August 09: University of Texas At Austin: Black Families Are Combating the Effects of Discrimination on Their Children Through Talks

AUSTIN, Texas - Black parents in the U.S. who see others experience racial discrimination, such as news coverage involving violence against Black people, are more likely to talk with their children about race and discrimination, researchers at The University of Texas at Austin have found. Such conversations between parents and their children have been shown to improve young people's behavior and school outcomes.

Vicarious racial discrimination that leads to these conversations can be experienced in many different ways. Examples include watching news coverage of high-profile killings by police, such as those of George Floyd or Breonna Taylor; watching a video posted on social media of a Black person being mistreated; or seeing a friend, family member or stranger being called slurs in public.

"Approximately 70% of Black people in the U.S. report experiencing vicarious discrimination online," said Fatima Varner, an assistant professor of human development and family sciences at UT Austin and an author of the paper. "It impacts the way mothers and fathers parent differently. We learned that the way mothers and fathers perceive their own racial identity - and the way they think the public regards them - also has an impact on how they parent their children."

The study, led by Kate Holloway, a graduate student at UT Austin, appears this week in the journal Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology.

July 26: University of Texas At Austin: Joint Statement from The University of Texas at Austin and The University of Oklahoma

The University of Texas at Austin and The University of Oklahoma notified the Big 12 Athletic Conference today that they will not be renewing their grants of media rights following expiration in 2025. Providing notice to the Big 12 at this point is important in advance of the expiration of the conference's current media rights agreement. The universities intend to honor their existing grant of rights agreements. However, both universities will continue to monitor the rapidly evolving collegiate athletics landscape as they consider how best to position their athletics programs for the future.

Source: Company Website

July 22: University of Texas At Austin: New Training Videos Help Police, Prosecutors and Advocates Respond to Sexual Assault

Law enforcement officers, prosecutors and victims services professionals have a new set of tools to better understand and respond to sexual assault on college campuses and in local communities - just as many students are preparing to return to campus.

The Institute on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (IDVSA) in the Steve Hicks School of Social Work at The University of Texas at Austin created five videos that feature law enforcement officers, prosecutors and advocates who work daily with sexual assault survivors and leading scholars in the field. The videos discuss issues as diverse as consent, the neurobiology of trauma, and alcohol and drug use. The training videos were produced with support from the Criminal Justice Division of the office of Gov. Greg Abbott and are being made widely available across Texas and the country.

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"These training resources get the right tools into the hands of law enforcement, prosecutors, victim services, and advocates," said Aimee Snoddy, executive director of public safety for the Office of the Governor. "They help these survivor-serving professionals understand the complexities of sexual assault and the unique importance of each other's roles."

Also created and distributed to trained professionals are case decisions that present a factual campus sexual assault case from four different perspectives - Title IX investigator, student conduct officer, university police officer and a campus counselor - along with instructor teaching notes for each case.

The release of these training tools coincides with the reopening of many college campuses where state and national studies show that sexual misconduct is a reality, with students experiencing gender harassment (14%), stalking (13%), cyber abuse (12%), unwanted sexual touching (12%) and sexual assault (6%) at untenable rates.

Source: Company Website

July 19: University of Texas At Austin: The Strength of Concrete, Steel and Listening

Sharon Wood does not start her day with coffee; she gave up caffeine during her undergraduate days. Instead, she starts by running or cycling. This will not surprise anyone who knows the hardworking, early rising engineer who, on July 19, becomes UT's No. 2, the executive vice president and provost. "I drink cold water," she says.

Wood grew up in central New Jersey, with a father in construction. "When I was a little kid, he was working for a contractor who built industrial steel structures - and that's how I got interested in structural engineering. When I was about 8, I got to walk around on the construction site and up in the beams, and I thought that engineering would be fun. During the recession in 1972, he started an asphalt paving company, and that's where he spent most of his career. I did work for him the summer after my first year of college. The asphalt is 300 degrees below you, it's hot above you, and it's a demanding physical job. The experience convinced me to spend a lot of time studying!"

She is proud to be a fourth-generation civil engineer; her father, grandfather and great-grandfather were all in the trade. The fact that she is the first woman in that professional genealogy bestows a certain pioneer status on her, and having become a leader in a historically male-dominated field has not gone unnoticed.

By the way, her parents, both in their 80s, are still working.

July 15: University of Texas At Austin: Interim Leadership Named at Dell Medical School

The following is a letter from Jay Hartzell, president of The University of Texas at Austin, sent to campus on July 15, 2021.

Dear UT Community,

Last week, we announced that Clay Johnston was stepping down from his roles as Dean of the Dell Medical School and Vice President for Medical Affairs at UT. We are incredibly grateful to Clay for his stellar leadership and glad that his pursuit of exciting new opportunities will still permit him to play a key role on our transition team and to continue helping our transformation effort as we push the boundaries of how we think about health - not just health care - at Dell Med.

This transition also presents an opportunity for UT to consider how we build our leadership structure to support the next chapter of expansion, growth and excellence in our medical journey. After consulting with Clay, our leadership team, and other stakeholders at the medical school, we have decided to take the opportunity of this transition to separate the two roles of Dell Med Dean and UT Vice President for Medical Affairs.

The monumental growth at Dell Med during the past seven years makes this structural change both necessary and exciting. The school will continue to be one of the most innovative and transformative medical schools in America, attracting incredible students and faculty members who are drawn to its unique position.

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July 15: University of Texas At Austin: Report Outlines How Public Transit Agencies Can Advance Equity

Access to high-quality public transportation can make communities more equitable by increasing access to critical opportunities such as employment, health care and healthy food, particularly for low-income individuals and people of color. A new paper published today in the Transportation Research Record identifies six broad categories of equity-advancing practices that reach beyond existing guidelines and could be widely employed by public transit agencies nationwide.

"Many of the established practices for understanding and advancing public transit equity focus on precise quantitative measurements that are disconnected from riders' day-to-day experiences," said Alex Karner, an assistant professor of community and regional planning at The University of Texas at Austin and the study's lead author. "In transit, equity goes far beyond simply assessing how service is distributed. We wanted to lift up practices that agencies were using to create fairer and more just public transit systems."

The report studied eight public transit providers in various cities across the country and identified six practices that can help ensure that public transit works well for those who need it the most. These are:

July 13: University of Texas At Austin: New Data on February Texas Blackouts Reveals Unprecedented Impact on Energy and Financial Systems

A report from energy experts at The University of Texas at Austin reveals several new insights into the February 2021 winter storm power outages and their financial ramifications.

Using both public and confidential data previously unreviewed, 12 faculty and researchers from across UT Austin gained a clearer picture of the system failures across the ERCOT grid, the unprecedented stress placed on the state's natural gas infrastructure, and the effectiveness of financial mitigation steps taken by state regulators.

"The goal of the report is really to provide a common basis of fact and educate the ongoing public debate on how we can avoid similar crises in the future," said Jay Zarnikau, one of the report's lead authors and researcher in the Department of Economics. "The university hosts deep and wide-ranging expertise in energy, so when we were presented with the opportunity to analyze these unreviewed data, we knew it was an area in which we could and should contribute."

The February blackouts, which were the result of failures across all types of power generation technologies, were in part caused by inadequate weatherization of power generators. Using data provided by state officials, the researchers found that the majority of power plants that experienced outages and deratings did so at temperatures above their reported minimum temperature ratings.

The report also projects the effect of pricing actions taken by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) during the crisis.

July 12: University of Texas At Austin: Childhood Lead Exposure May Adversely Affect Adult Personalities

AUSTIN, Texas - Lead exposure in childhood may lead to less mature and less healthy personalities in adulthood, according to a new study led by psychology researchers at The University of Texas at Austin.

The study, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, sampled more than 1.5 million people in 269 U.S. counties and 37 European nations. Researchers found that those who grew up in areas with higher levels of atmospheric lead had less adaptive personalities in adulthood - lower levels of conscientiousness and agreeableness and higher levels of neuroticism.

"Links between lead exposure and personality traits are quite impactful, because we take our personalities with us everywhere," said Ted Schwaba, a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Psychology at UT Austin. "Even a small negative effect of lead on personality traits, when you aggregate it across millions of people and all the daily

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decisions and behaviors that our personality influences, can have really massive effects on well-being, productivity and longevity."

In the study, researchers linked historical atmospheric lead data from the Environmental Protection Agency to online personality questionnaire responses from people who grew up in the sampled locations.

### July 12: Research on Language Learning Yields Mitchell Prize for UT Austin Statisticians

AUSTIN, Texas - A cross-disciplinary team including University of Texas at Austin statisticians Giorgio Paulon and Abhra Sarkar have received the Mitchell Prize, a top prize in the field, for their study modeling what happens in the brains of nonnative English speakers learning another language's tonal differences.

In Mandarin Chinese, for example, there are four ways to pronounce "ma," and each one has a totally different meaning. Say it with a certain tone and it means "mother." But beware - say it slightly differently and it means "horse."

These tonal differences are rife in Mandarin but nonexistent in languages such as English. For some nonnative speakers, tonal differences make Mandarin especially difficult to master. They also make it an ideal case study for understanding how the human brain rewires itself to learn new languages - which is what Sarkar, Paulon and their colleagues set out to discover.

"This is an ambitious goal, but this could help eventually develop precision learning strategies for different people depending on how their individual brains work," Sarkar said.

This is the second Mitchell Prize since 2018 for Sarkar, an assistant professor in UT Austin's Department of Statistics and Data Sciences.

The statistical method the team developed could also have applications in other areas of neuroscience research or in clinical practice.

### July 09: University of Texas At Austin: Beyond the Weather Report

In an audio recording, the sound of falling rain plays softly in the background while a woman shares a painful story about flooding in her southeast Austin neighborhood. She recalls in detail a storm on Halloween in 2013 when she watched the water rise to her porch. The streets turned into a river, overturning a car on her front lawn. It is a moving account of loss and uncertainty. But more than that, it's a story about climate change.

Aurora Berry, a third-year journalism student at The University of Texas at Austin, recorded the woman, Kathy Pilmore, for a new environmental podcast that she's producing with recent Moody College of Communication graduate Will Brooks. They want to explore the climate crisis from the perspective of those experiencing its most severe effects firsthand, right here in Texas.

The pair met Pilmore, who is the president of the Onion Creek Homeowners Association, in her office in May. As she talked, she traced maps of the area's floodplain with her finger and flipped through pictures on her phone showing the neighborhood's continual flooding, which residents feel has gotten worse over the years because of climate change.

"Audio can be a powerful form of storytelling," Berry says of the interview, which was their first in person since the pandemic.

### July 07: University of Texas At Austin: New 6G Research Center Unites Industry Leaders and UT Wireless Experts

Teaming up with industry titans including Samsung, NVIDIA, and more, researchers at The University of Texas at Austin are launching 6G@UT, a new research center to lay the groundwork for 6G, the next generation of wireless technology.



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5G is just emerging as the dominant cellular technology after years of research and innovation that includes important contributions by UT Austin wireless researchers and alumni. With new technologies on the horizon such as self-driving cars and air taxis, holographic video conferencing, ubiquitous robotics and immersive augmented reality, UT Austin is cementing its leadership in wireless innovation with this major research effort on 6G.

"The advances in both wireless communications and machine learning over the past decade have been incredible, but separate," said 6G@UT Director Jeffrey Andrews, a professor in UT Austin 's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. "Coupled with vast new sensing and localization abilities, 6G will be defined by an unprecedented native intelligence, which will transform the ability of the network to provide incredible services."

Founding 6G@UT affiliates Samsung, AT &T, NVIDIA, Qualcomm and InterDigital will each fund at least two projects for three years at the center.

July 05: University of Texas At Austin: Gulf Coast Ready to Develop Carbon Storage Hub

The stage is set for a new carbon storage economy to emerge along the Gulf Coast, according to a study led by The University of Texas at Austin, with the region offering ample opportunities to capture and store carbon, and recent state and federal incentives giving an added push to get started.

Carbon capture and storage, or CCS, is a technology that keeps CO2 out of the atmosphere by capturing emissions and storing them deep underground. It can help fight climate change by lowering industrial emissions now while renewable energy sources are being developed, said Tip Meckel, a senior research scientist at the Gulf Coast Carbon Center, a research group at the UT **Bureau of Economic Geology** that has been studying CCS for the past 20 years.

"This is a viable way to reduce emissions in the near term," Meckel said. "It's feasible and has a reasonable economic structure that can support, retain and create jobs."

The study, which was published in *Greenhouse Gases: Science and Technology*, provides a high-level overview of policy incentives for CCS and how Texas and Louisiana's high concentration of industry and unique offshore geology make the region a particularly good spot to build up a carbon storage economy.

The topics explored in the paper are especially relevant considering recent moves that Texas has made to bring carbon storage under a similar regulatory framework as oil and gas.

July 05: University of Texas At Austin: MasSpec Pen Shows Promise in Pancreatic Cancer Surgery

A diagnostic tool called the MasSpec Pen has been tested for the first time in pancreatic cancer patients during surgery. The device is shown to accurately identify tissues and surgical margins directly in patients and differentiate healthy and cancerous tissue from banked pancreas samples. At about 15 seconds per analysis, the method is more than 100 times as fast as the current gold standard diagnostic, Frozen Section Analysis. The ability to accurately identify margins between healthy and cancerous tissue in pancreatic cancer surgeries can give patients the greatest chance of survival.

The results, by a team from The University of Texas at Austin and Baylor College of Medicine, are published this week in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

"These results show the technology works in the clinic for surgical guidance," said Livia Schiavinato Eberlin, an assistant professor of chemistry at UT Austin who leads the team that invented the pen, in collaboration with James Suliburk, head of endocrine surgery at Baylor. "Surgeons can easily integrate the MasSpec Pen into their workflow, and the initial data really supports the diagnostic accuracy we were expecting to achieve."

The most common type of pancreatic cancer, pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma, spreads rapidly and is highly lethal, with a five-year survival rate of 9% for all stages.

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June 30: University of Texas At Austin: Solar Power Innovator Named Director of Energy Institute

AUSTIN, Texas - Brian Korgel, a professor in the McKetta Department of Chemical Engineering, will be the next director of the Energy Institute at The University of Texas at Austin, effective Sept. 1.

Korgel succeeds Varun Rai, associate dean of research at the LBJ School of Public Affairs, who has served as the institute's director since 2019.

A nanomaterials scientist and member of the National Academy of Engineering, Korgel examines problems in energy storage, chemical transformations, energy harvesting and conversion, and medicine.

"Professor Korgel has a strong background in chemical engineering and has worked for many years to build collaborations between UT researchers, industry and government leaders, making him the ideal choice to head UT's Energy Institute," said interim Vice President for Research Alison Preston. "I look forward to working with him to strengthen the institute's role as a catalyst for energy research on campus."

Korgel is also the founding director of UT's Industry/University Cooperative Research Center for Next-Generation Photovoltaics, which - among its numerous societal contributions - pairs researchers with industry leaders to develop the solar-integrated technologies needed to achieve a future with net-zero carbon emissions.

June 29: UT Austin Teams Up With City and Community to Fight Extreme Heat in Austin

AUSTIN, Texas - Austin has hot summers. But that heat isn't felt the same way across the city, as anyone who has sweltered in a parking lot or cooled off beneath a tree knows.

The University of Texas at Austin is partnering with the City of Austin, community groups and East Austin residents to find out where hot temperatures are affecting people the most - and proposing solutions to cool down these places.

UT is one of four institutions selected by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to lead research projects focused on combating extreme heat in urban environments.

Source: Company Website

June 28: University University Optical Tweezer Technology Tweaked to Overcome Dangers of Heat

McLellan, who holds the Robert A. Welch Chair in Chemistry, was part of the scientific team behind a consequential invention that helps to create a strong antibody response to the coronavirus.

Source: Company Website

June 23: University New Type of Machine Learning Aids Earthquake Risk Prediction

AUSTIN, Texas - Our homes and offices are only as solid as the ground beneath them. When that solid ground turns to liquid - as sometimes happens during earthquakes - it can topple buildings and bridges. This phenomenon is known as liquefaction, and it was a major feature of the 2011 earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand, a magnitude 6.3 quake that killed 185 people and destroyed thousands of homes.

Source: Company Website

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**Classification**

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**Company:** University of Texas At Austin

**Organization:** UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS (96%)

**Ticker:** UNIVERSITYOFTEA

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