Prepare the Next Generation of Scientists and Citizens

*Develop a flexible undergraduate curriculum*

*Expand successful student learning communities*

*Create the Texas Center for Science Discovery*

WHAT WE’VE DONE

**Bachelor of Science & Arts (BSA)**
A new cross-disciplinary degree will be available for students beginning Fall 2014. The BSA couples a core science experience with the flexibility to pursue coursework in the fine arts, liberal arts, business or communications.

**Define Your Specialization**
CNS has developed three new certificate programs for undergraduates (*Applied Statistical Modeling, Food and Society, and Evidence and Inquiry*) to hone critical thinking skills.

**Modernizing the Bachelor of Science**
Streamlining and strengthening the BS degree is a major initiative of the College’s Course & Curriculum Committee this Fall, with an eye toward implementation in 2016-18.

**Expanding FRI**
Dean Hicke and Dr. Sarah Simmons traveled to Midland, San Francisco, and Washington DC to meet with alumni and potential supporters of the Freshman Research Initiative. The College’s HHMI proposal will focus on developing new FRI streams to improve the persistence of hundreds of STEM students each year.
**TIP Expansion**

With support from the provost’s office, the Texas Interdisciplinary Plan Scholars Program expanded to 300 CNS freshman this fall. TIP is also home to the University Leadership Network, a provost’s office initiative designed to help incoming students develop leadership skills and achieve academic success.

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**Meeting the Challenge**

CNS succeeded in meeting the University’s challenge to place all Fall 2013 freshmen into small learning communities. Expansion of the FIGs, Women in Natural Science, and a new community in Computer Science made it possible to place 1,800 freshmen in small communities to enhance learning and engagement.

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**New Honors Program**

Polymathic Scholars is an innovative new honors program designed for CNS students who wish to explore areas of study that occur at the intersections of academic disciplines, an exciting opportunity within this major research university.

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**Texas Center for Science Discovery**

A faculty task force has developed an implementation plan for the TCSD that will roll out over the next few years. Dean Hicke has committed recurring funds to support a career advisor for graduate students and an innovative teaching fund to support a competition-based program for faculty development of innovative, experiential curricula. Space is currently being identified and branded as the initial home of the administrative arm of the TCSD.