Dear TIP Scholar Parents,

I write to welcome you to the Texas Interdisciplinary Plan (TIP) Scholars Class of 2020 family. Your son or daughter has cleared many hurdles to be able to continue their education at the University of Texas and they are to be congratulated – and so are you! Your son or daughter’s academic records indicate that he/she has what it takes to be a viable member of the UT and TIP Scholars academic community.

The TIP Scholars’ mission is to transform the learning experience to ensure that each student meets their individual potentials. TIP is committed to providing resources to help each student meet that potential but also has expectations of its participants.

As a TIP Scholar, students can expect:

- **Reserved Seats in Select First-Year Courses** — TIP reserves seats for its Scholars in essential first-year courses.
- **Ease of Registration** — Scholars register for classes where mentors and staff can help them find the classes they need.
- **Academic Peer Mentoring** — Upperclassmen assist Scholars with their academic pursuits and their transition to UT.
- **Linked Classes** — Scholars enroll in at least one class together so they form study groups and network with other Scholars.
- **Free Academic Support** — Scholars have unlimited access to Collaborative Study Sessions in core science and math courses. This is a facilitated group study environment that coaches students on meaningful learning so that students are empowered to tackle future courses.
- **Academic Advisors** — TIP advisors help Scholars develop their degree plans and address individual academic needs.
- **A Signature Course on Critical Thinking** — the TIP signature course counts towards their degree and helps Scholars begin to think critically about the world around them.
- **Connection to Faculty** — Most Scholars will develop close relationships with several faculty members at UT.
- **Exclusive Programming** — TIP Scholars have access to programming and opportunities designed to promote academic and professional development.
- **Accessible TIP Staff** — TIP Staff have an open door policy, although making an appointment will ensure undivided attention.

TIP Scholars are expected to:

- Be internally motivated and committed to their own learning.
- Believe in themselves.
- Hone their skills as a critical thinker by enrolling in the TIP critical thinking seminar.
- Seek help and assistance personally or academically, starting with their mentor, advisor, and TIP staff.
- Take advantage of the resources TIP and UT have to offer – personally, professionally, and academically.
- Be an active and responsible member of their TIP mentor group and the larger TIP community of scholars.
- Make progress toward their degree by partnering with their academic advisor to make sure they’re on track.

On behalf of the TIP staff, we look forward to getting to know you and your son or daughter.

Most Sincerely,

Susan C. Harkins, Ed.D.
Assistant Dean, Texas Interdisciplinary Plan