Dear TIP Scholar Parents,

I write to welcome you to the Texas Interdisciplinary Plan (TIP) Scholars Class of 2022 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 critical 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** — Former TIP Scholars assist current Scholars with their academic pursuits and their transition to UT.
• **Linked Classes** — Scholars enroll in at least two class together so they form study groups and network with other Scholars.
• **Free Academic Support** — Scholars have unlimited access to Collaborative Study Sessions in STEM 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 and personal needs.
• **A personally relevant fall seminar that fulfills a degree requirement** — the TIP fall seminar on applied problem-solving or research focuses on real world challenges students will encounter while providing an Ethics and Leadership flag which is a requirement for their degree.
• **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 and their ability to rise to challenges and grow.
• Hone their skills as a critical thinker, problem-solver and researcher by participating in the TIP fall 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 continuous progress toward their degree by partnering with their academic advisor to make sure they are on track.

On behalf of the unbelievably helpful TIP staff, we look forward to getting to meeting you and knowing your son or daughter.

Most Sincerely,

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