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4th Annual Economic Development Summit - Continued

Jenny Mizutowicz, outgoing manager of Economic Development Initiatives, and Rose Hasham, managing member of Rosegold Hotels, share a moment during the post-summit happy hour.

Some of the F&ED staff that helped put on the summit. From left: Dee Lambert, director of Administration & Operations; Rodolfo Arredondo, manager for Web & Communications; Brett Roby, accountant; Benjamin Hong, assistant director of Business Services; Cody Gibbs, interim manager for Economic Development and analyst; Illiana Rodriguez Huerta, student assistant.

UT Dallas Hosts RCE North Texas Annual Summit

The North Texas Regional Center for Expertise (RCE), a collaborative effort between UT Dallas and UT Arlington committed to the principles of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), held its first in-person summit this November at the Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center. During this two-day event, over 100 researchers, educators, government officials, business leaders and students shared information and explored possible solutions to local sustainability issues. The summit concentrated on the five SDGs that most relate to the lives of people of North Texas:

SDG 2: Zero Hunger
SDG 4: Quality Education
SDG 9: Industry Innovation and Infrastructure
SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
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Pictured: Eco Rep Eve Gersh leads an interactive experience featuring the Comet Honeybees. From within a mesh tent on the lawn of the Alumni Center, she demonstrated the structure of their hives and explained the importance of pollinating insects. Outside the tent, attendees sampled Comet Honey.
4th Annual Economic Development Summit

UT Dallas hosted regional business, academic and economic development leaders this November for a summit on the post-pandemic economic future of North Texas.

Pictured counter-clockwise from upper right:

From left: Dr. Richard C. Benson, president of the University; featured guest Bob Jordan, CEO of Southwest Airlines; Dr. Calvin D. Jamison, vice president for Facilities and Economic Development.

Bob Jordan (left), and Dr. Benson hold a “fireside chat” about the challenges faced by Southwest Airlines during the pandemic, the choices his company made in that difficult climate and the lessons they learned in the process.

The panel on evaluating North Texas’ strength as a site selection destination. From left: Tom Luce, founder and chairman of Texas 2036; Mike Rosa, senior vice president of Economic Development for the Dallas Regional Chamber; Mike Berry, president of Hillwood; Kim Moore, executive managing director of Newmark.

Hasan Pirkul, dean of the Naveen Jindal School of Management, and Ronnie Spellman, president of the Southern U.S. Region for PlanetMaggie, moderated a breakout session on bridging the gap between UT Dallas, local industry and regional economic development professionals.

Dr. Joseph J. Pancrazio, vice president for Research and Innovation, makes a presentation at a breakout session on how North Texas can become a leader in “onshoring” key industries. The session was moderated by Dr. Pancrazio and Vish Madhugiri, president and CEO of SAAZ Technologies.

Dr. Joseph J. Pancrazio, vice president for Research & Innovation, addresses the summit attendees.

Dr. Janell Hills, director of Workforce Programs for the Interstate Renewable Energy Council, described her work on recruitment, education, training and job placement in the clean energy sector during the “SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure” panel.

Members of the “SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities” panel, from left: Benjamin Magill, associate vice chancellor of Economic Opportunity for Dallas College; Jennifer Harris, broadband program specialist for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth; Alex Pharmakis, sustainability manager for the City of Farmers Branch; Steven Duong, principal & AVP for Urbanism and Planning Practice, AECOM; Jennifer Sanders, executive director of the North Texas Innovation Alliance.
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UT Dallas Hosts RCE North Texas Annual Summit - Continued

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The Youth Network panel held a discussion on what intergenerational collaboration might look like and which skills are most important to a young sustainability leader. From left: Oriana Silva, former UNT Sustainability Intern; Tony Pham, Walkable Arlington Community Coordinator; Paulina Hruskoci, UTD student and former Eco Rep.

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DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Doug Tomlinson Retires

After a long career at UT Dallas, Doug Tomlinson, associate vice president for Facilities Management, retired to pursue the life of a full-time farmer. Well-wishers honored him with a retirement party this December. During the celebration, Tomlinson was presented with a photo collage highlighting several high-profile projects from his time leading Facilities Management —and his fondness for Dr. Pepper sodas.

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ON THE COVERS

Front: Margaret McDermott Trellis Plaza
Back: The TI-BMES Construction Site