

Research Computing Workshop at Texas A&M - San Antonio

Building AI/ML-Driven Research Capacity at Texas A&M University–San Antonio *An NSF ECR & CISE REP–Aligned Planning Workshop*

Date: April 07, 2026.

Location: STEM 256.

For any queries, please contact ialsmadi@tamusa.edu

Agenda

Time (CT)	Morning Sessions
8:15 – 9:00 am	Registration- Coffee and refreshments Sci-Tech 258
9:00 – 9:15 am	Welcome and Introduction , COAS Dean, Dr Debra Feakes Focus on the role of ECR, CISE REP, and AI/ML in advancing TAMUSA's research mission.
9:15-9:30am	ECR project overview: PI Dr. Izzat Alsmadi
9:30 – 10:00 am	NSF Perspectives on Access to AI/ML Research Capacity Speaker: Dr. Amy Apon: Program Director, National Science Foundation (NSF) Dr. Amy Apon will share funding Opportunities and Resources for AI/ML from the National Science Foundation-Zoom
10:00 – 10:30 am	Break - Socializing / Networking
10:30 – 11:15 am	Keynote: Advancing AI/ML and research computing across The Texas A&M University System. Speaker: Dr. Erin “Brendan” Roark, Associate Vice President for Research (Centers & Institutes) at Texas A&M University, College Station, TX Dr. Brendan Roark will discuss how The Texas A&M University System is advancing AI/ML and research computing through the TAMUS DGX SuperPOD, VISION, a high-performance GPU platform that accelerates large-scale models and data-driven discovery across all campuses. This talk highlights how VISION expands research capabilities system-wide and how Texas A&M University-San Antonio researchers can easily access these resources to advance their research. This system-wide approach strengthens collaboration, broadens participation, and drives innovation across the Texas A&M University System.
11:15 – 12:00 pm	Generative AI and LLMs: Research Impact and Readiness Speaker: Mr. Don Brocker, University Chief Technology Officer Impact of GenAI on research, infrastructure, and governance.
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch- Sci Tech Room 258

Afternoon Sessions: Defining Research Needs and Collaborative Roadmap	
1:00 – 1:45 pm	<p>Incorporating the HPC into Graduate Training at TAMUSA to Advance Research and Education</p> <p>A Panel Discussion: Moderator: Dr. Donna Lehman</p>
1:45 – 2:30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TAMUSA Research Computing REU <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Gongbo "Tony" Liang (College of Arts & Sciences) ○ Dr. Davida Smyth (College of Arts & Sciences) ○ Dr. Robert Vinaja (College of Business) ○ Dr. Elizabeth Leyva (College of Arts & Sciences) - moderator ● Building Research Capacity at TAMUSA: Faculty and Undergraduate Pathways <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Focus on faculty development, undergraduate preparation, and sustainable capacity building.
2:30 – 2:45 pm	Break – Networking-Coffee and Refreshments Sci-Tech 258
2:45 – 3:30 pm	<p>AI/ML Research Showcase @ TAMUSA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Talks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Faculty: 1) Dr. Gongbo Liang, 2) Dr. Yulun Han ○ Students: 1) Mr. Ahmad Elallaf, 2) Ms. Nourin Shahin ○ Alumni: 1) Mr. Nico Gibson ● Posters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 8-10 research posters + 1 student showcase poster ○ Involving: 4-6 faculty, 8-10 students
3:30 – 4:00 pm	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Summary of key insights and commitments, and informal networking</p>