FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New Leadership Board Will Work to Meet Rising Demand for Texas Paralegals

AUSTIN, Texas—The University of Texas at Austin TEXAS Extended Campus (TEC) has announced the formation of an advisory board to guide growth and development of its Paralegal Certificate Program. The Paralegal Leadership Board will be chaired by Tiffany Haas, an Austin attorney who developed the career-focused program and serves as program manager.

“As population growth continues throughout Texas, particularly in Austin, we’re seeing a surge in demand for paralegal skills,” says Liliya Spinazzola, director of the Center for Professional Education at TEC. “Under the guidance and leadership of members of the Austin legal community, as well as the UT School of Law, our program stands out as one of the best for meeting that demand. Our students will not only emerge knowledgeable and prepared for a paralegal career, they will have the tools necessary to seek employment and land a job.”

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has projected a 27.1% increase in employment for paralegals and legal assistants in Texas from 2014 to 2024, considerably higher than the national growth projection of 15% through 2026. Texas continues to rank fourth in the nation (as of May 2017) for paralegal employment, as it has consistently for several years.

The Leadership Board will be comprised of 6-10 members, excluding ex-officio members, who serve two-year terms. In addition to Ms. Haas, the inaugural leadership board will include the following members:

- **Victoria Cantu**, senior counsel in the medical device division at Abbott Laboratories.
- **Andrew Frisque**, paralegal (Russell Rodriguez Hyde Bullock, LLP) and alumnus of the Paralegal Certificate Program.
- **Ali Gallagher**, practicing attorney (McGinnis Lochridge, LLP) and former nurse practitioner, with specialization in health law and medical devices.
- **Robert Luther**, family law attorney with an Austin-based private practice.
- **Brittany Posadas**, litigation paralegal at Chamberlain McHaney, LLP, with specialization in personal injury trial law.
- **Dr. Samuel Riley**, senior director for admissions at The University of Texas School of Law.
- **Johanna Schroeder**, director of executive search at F-O-R-T-U-N-E Personnel in Houston, specializing in recruitment for the legal field.

Key goals for the board include:

- Provide guidance in evaluating the paralegal curriculum, providing council on the skill sets most needed in today’s paralegal market;
- Help identify employment opportunities in the paralegal market in Austin, Texas, helping to create employer access for the paralegal program graduates’
- Facilitate increased employer, alumni, and faculty relations;
- Provide advice about the creation and implementation of a scholarship fund for prospective students in the paralegal program

More information about the program is available through this link: [https://professionaled.utexas.edu/paralegal](https://professionaled.utexas.edu/paralegal).
About TEXAS Extended Campus

As part of The University of Texas at Austin, TEXAS Extended Campus (TEC) draws upon the multiple strengths of the University to develop and offer programs that serve working professionals and lifelong learners in Austin and across Texas. Faculty members, industry professionals and curriculum experts produce courses and programs to benefit students at the high school, college and professional levels. Courses are available on campus, online and on site.

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