

8th
ANNUAL

SRSU
STUDENT

SYMPOSIUM

RESEARCH
INNOVATE

CREATE

COLLABORATE

2025 KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

April 10th @ Noon - Earnest Jones
SRSU 2023 Distinguished Alumnus



JOIN US TO SUPPORT OUR SRSU
STUDENTS FROM ALL CAMPUSES
AS THEY SHOW THEIR PROJECTS
IN PRESENTATIONS & POSTERS
BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY!

APRIL 10th - VIRTUAL SESSIONS

ONLINE - SRSUSYMPIUM WEBSITE
NOON - 6:00 PM

srinfo.sulross.edu/srsusymposium
SRSUSYMPIUM@SULROSS.EDU

COMMUNICATE

SR | **SUL ROSS**
THE FRONTIER UNIVERSITY of Texas

SRSU VIRTUAL STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

THURSDAY, APRIL 10TH, 2025

12:00 - 12:40 PM

WELCOME AND KEYNOTE

12:00 - 12:05 PM

WELCOME AND KEYNOTE INTRODUCTION

Dr. Sumantra Sengupta

Dean of SRSU International College of Business

12:05 - 12:40 PM

8TH ANNUAL VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Earnest Jones

SRSU Alumnus



EARNEST JONES

Earnest Jones is a testament to resilience, leadership, and the power of perseverance. Born in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1990 as the eldest of three children, his life took a dramatic turn in 2005 when Hurricane Katrina separated him from his family. After being rescued by helicopter and taken to the Superdome, he endured a week of uncertainty before being evacuated to an Air Force base in Oklahoma. Through sheer determination, he navigated his way to Baton Rouge, where a youth pastor helped reunite him with his family in San Antonio.

Despite facing the challenges of being in foster care, Earnest excelled academically and athletically. He attended Boerne High School and became a varsity football player, later making history at Samuel V. Champion High School as the first player to score a touchdown for the school. His drive led him to Sul Ross State University, where he became the first in his family to earn a college degree, graduating with a bachelor's in Communication Studies in 2013.

During his undergraduate years, Earnest stood out as a leader, serving as president of the Black Student Association, an Upward Bound mentor, and a resident assistant. He was named Student of the Year in Communication Studies, Man of the Year, and was a two-time recipient of the prestigious Ronald E. McNair Scholarship. His academic excellence earned him back to back top poster presentation awards at the National Communication Conference. In 2017, he furthered his education at SRSU, earning a Master's in Business Administration.

Professionally, Earnest built a successful career in healthcare sales, specializing in pharmaceutical and medical devices. Currently, as a Clinical Liaison BioPlus Infusion Pharmacy, he plays a critical role in ensuring immunocompromised patients in South Texas receive life-saving treatments. His commitment to service extends beyond his career—he was appointed to the Board of Directors for Roy Mass Youth Alternatives in 2021, giving back to the very organization that once supported him as an at-risk youth. Earnest received the SRSU Distinguished Young Alumni Award in 2023.

1:00-1:50 PM

SYMPOSIUM STUDENT VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS

VIRTUAL ROOM 1

Restorative Practices in Education

Rosario Cordova

Moderator: Dr. Jeanne Qvarnstrom

1:00-1:20 pm

Denning Chronology of Black Bears in West Texas

Nicole Dickan (P)(B)

Moderator: Dr. Jeanne Qvarnstrom

1:30-1:50 pm

VIRTUAL ROOM 2

Impact of Collectives in the Big 12

Gannon Moore

Moderator: Dr. Jessica Velasco

1:00-1:20 pm

Analyzing Sul Ross Alumni Satisfaction and Engagement Rates

Paul Stadelman (P)

Moderator: Dr. Jessica Velasco

1:30-1:50 pm

2:00-2:50 PM

SYMPOSIUM STUDENT VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS

VIRTUAL ROOM 1

Online Learning: A Pilot Study on the Effectiveness of Remote Dual Enrollment in Rural Locations

Maria Tellez

Moderator: Dr. Melissa Wesney

2:00-2:20 pm

The Impact of Artificial Intelligence Training for Small Business Developments

Jessika Ledezma

Moderator: Dr. Jennifer Miller

2:30-2:50 pm

VIRTUAL ROOM 2

No Presentations Scheduled

2:00-2:20 pm

No Presentations Scheduled

2:30-2:50 pm

Affiliated Programs Legend

(B) Borderland Research Institute

(M) McNair Scholar

(P) PPOHA Fellow

(N) Noyce Scholar

3:00-3:50 PM

SYMPOSIUM STUDENT VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS

VIRTUAL ROOM 1

Recognizing Alpha Zeta Members'
Achievements: Attending the Sigma Tau
Delta Convention

Autumn Mcfadden

Kelsey Pavelick

Robin Alvarez

Moderator: Dr. Theron Francis

3:00-3:20 pm

No Presentations Scheduled

3:30-3:50 pm

VIRTUAL ROOM 2

No Presentations Scheduled

3:00-3:20 pm

No Presentations Scheduled

3:30-3:50 pm

4:00 - 4:50 PM

SYMPOSIUM STUDENT VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS

VIRTUAL ROOM 1

Texas-Mexico Border Digital Literacy
Among Middle School Teachers

Ricardo Mendez

Moderator: Dr. Jennifer Miller

4:00-4:20 pm

Artificial Intelligence in HR Onboarding
In The Banking Industry

Alma Rodriguez 

Moderator: Dr. Jennifer Miller

4:30-4:50 pm

VIRTUAL ROOM 2

Margaret Fuller and Henry David Thoreau,
Transcendental Travel, Education, and
Feminism

Paris Cantu

Cheryl Kantola

Moderator: Dr. Theron Francis

4:00-4:50 pm

Affiliated Programs Legend

 Borderland Research Institute

 McNair Scholar

 PPOHA Fellow

 Noyce Scholar

5:00 - 5:50 PM

SYMPOSIUM STUDENT VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS

VIRTUAL ROOM 1

Bridging Law and Business: My Journey
from Criminal Justice to an MBA

Jesse Gaytan (P)

Moderator: Dr. Jennifer Miller

5:00-5:20 pm

No Presentations Scheduled

5:30-5:50 pm

VIRTUAL ROOM 2

No Presentations Scheduled

5:00-5:20 pm

No Presentations Scheduled

5:30-5:50 pm

Affiliated Programs Legend

(B) Borderland Research Institute

(M) McNair Scholar

(P) PPOHA Fellow

(N) Noyce Scholar

2025

SCHOLARSHIP & GRANT PROGRAMS

McNair Scholars Program



www.sulross.edu/mcnair-scholars-program/

The McNair Scholars Program is a federal TRIO program funded at 206 institutions across the United States and Puerto Rico by the U.S. Department of Education. It is designed to prepare undergraduate students for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities. McNair participants are either, and have, demonstrated strong academic potential. The goal of the McNair Scholars Program is to increase graduate degree awards for students from first-generation low-income families.

Noyce Scholars en la Frontera



sites.google.com/view/srsunoyce/home

The Noyce Scholars en la Frontera aims to increase the pipeline of highly-qualified STEM teachers by 10% to serve in high need school districts located on the Texas-Mexico border. The SRSU Noyce Scholars Program Provides: Noyce Scholarships: 16 preservice teachers will be provided with a scholarship of up to \$24,002 a year for two years, mentoring, professional development workshops, high school and middle school STEM club support. Noyce Scholars must commit to teach in a high need public school for 2 years within a 6 year period following graduation.

SRSU Title V PPOHA AGP & AAO Graduate Fellowships



www.sulross.edu/graduate-student-support-center/

Fellowships are provided by Title V PPOHA: Advancing Graduate Programs en la Frontera, which is funded in full by a United States Department of Education Title V Promoting Post-Baccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans (PPOHA) grant. Fellowship awards will be administered by Sul Ross State University, a member of the Texas State University System, located in Alpine, Texas. Fellowships offer monetary awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per Fellow and are intended to forward opportunities for graduate students.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT

Office of the President

DR. CARLOS HERNANDEZ

Executive Vice President & Provost

DR. BERNIE CANTEÑS

College of Graduate Studies

DR. LAURA PAYNE, DEAN

Research & Sponsored Programs

DR. ERIC FUNASAKI, DEAN

PPOHA Grants

IDA HOELSCHER, ADVANCING GRADUATE PROGRAMS EN LA FRONTERA
ESTELLA VEGA, ACCELERATING ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY IN WEST TEXAS

McNair Scholars Program

KATHLEEN RIVERS, MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM

SRSU Symposium Planning Committee

TIM PARSONS, TITLE V PPOHA ACTIVITY DIRECTOR

Borderlands Research Institute

Enrollment Management

Student Presenters

Aramark Catering Services

Attendees

ALPINE.DEL RIO.EAGLE PASS.UVALDE

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