



Dear Friends,

As 2021 comes to a close, I want to reflect on our progress and extend my deepest gratitude to you, our friends and partners, for your support and advice over the past twelve months. This year, despite disruptions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have formalized our organization; begun several new and exciting projects and partnerships; and become a trusted partner of the State of Texas in providing analytical support to key agencies charged with reducing the impacts of disasters. Our knowledge-to-action research model is becoming a reality thanks only to your continued encouragement and collaboration. I wish you all a restorative and peaceful holiday season, and I look forward to working with you all in the coming year.

Samuel Brody, PhD

Director, Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas
Texas A&M University, Galveston Campus

T.D.I.S.

Texas Disaster Information System

The keystone of the IDRT research portfolio is the [Texas Disaster Information System \(TDIS\)](#). TDIS will be the first statewide, enterprise-level information system specifically geared to facilitating disaster resilient decisions. We have partnered with The Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC) at the University of Texas at Austin to help build the cyber infrastructure foundation for TDIS. We have also partnered with multiple state and federal agencies to ensure TDIS is built with end-users in mind. TDIS is now moving into implementation, with anticipated support through 2032 from the Texas General Land Office out of Community Development Block Grant federal funds.



Dr. Suzanne Pierce of TACC, pictured here with Dr. Sam Brody, led the TDIS planning efforts and will continue leading implementation as the IDRT-appointed TDIS Director.



Jenny Nelson Gray

We recently welcomed Jenny Nelson Gray to the Institute as our new Program Director. She comes to the team with extensive experience in research development and program management, most recently as a Research Development Officer at the University of Texas.



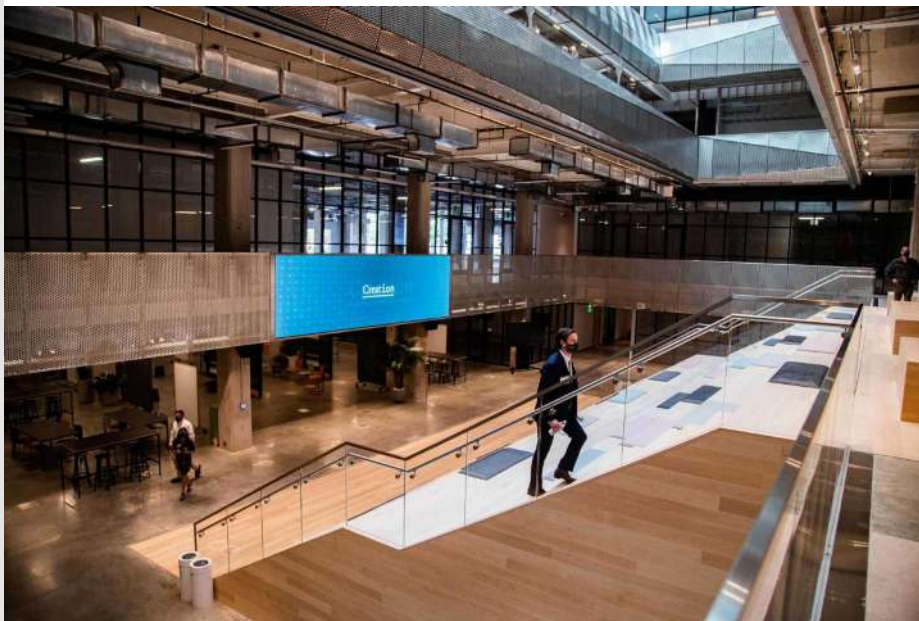
Dr. Russell Blessing

Dr. Russell Blessing, our longest tenured researcher, has recently taken on the role as the Institute's Research Manager.



Dr. Will Mobely

Dr. Will Mobely is in a new role as the Institute's leading Data Scientist. He has strengthened our connection with TACC, and is leading the Institute's development of TDIS use cases covering multiple hazards.



Projects & Collaboration Opportunities

A priority for us in the coming year is to expand our collaborations and our network. As part of that initiative, we aim to routinely share updates on our current projects and upcoming projects. If you would like to explore a partnership with IDRT, please reach out to us at IDRT@tamu.edu.



With the support of TDEM, we are expanding our risk communication tool, [Buyers BeWhere](#), to the entire 41-county Hurricane Harvey area.



We have launched a new National Science Foundation Civic Innovation Challenge collaboration with Dr. Robin Murphy's [Center for Robot-Assisted Search and Rescue](#) (CRASAR) aimed at improving pre-disaster risk mitigation through the use of unmanned aerial systems.



The Institute recently entered into an agreement with the [Texas Division of Emergency Management \(TDEM\)](#) to provide the data and analytics for the development of Texas' Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan, being led by Dr. Kayode Atoya. This project is our first major move into non-flood related hazards.



This December, IDRT received an appropriation of \$1 million from [Senate Bill 8](#) that allocates federal American Rescue Plan Act funding. This funding will support the development of a digital decision support tool geared specifically for small, underserved Texas communities that experience chronic and acute flood events.



New Office

We recently launched our new research office in downtown Houston at The Ion building. The Ion is an innovation accelerator hub focusing on the advancement of technology and research that create pathways to more resilient economic growth in the Houston-Galveston region, making it an ideal home for the Institute. Please come and visit us!



IDRT

**Institute for a Disaster
Resilient Texas**

409.741.4331

idr@tamug.edu

[Research](#)

[Publications](#)

[Contact us](#)