

UTSA forms partnership with Idaho National Laboratory

Agreement will advance academics and research related to national security



To help safeguard the nation's energy sector, The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) and Idaho National Laboratory (INL) have signed a three-year agreement to facilitate collaborative academic and research programs in cyber and critical infrastructure protection.

UTSA is widely recognized as the nation's academic leader in cybersecurity for its range and depth of cyber research and cyber degree programs. Drawing on San Antonio as the second largest cyber hub in the country outside of Washington, D.C., UTSA and INL will leverage their extended network of government

and industry partners.

INL is renowned for its innovations in control system cybersecurity and multidisciplinary approach to Consequence-driven Cyber-informed Engineering. INL is committed to working with UTSA to conduct research and development activities to advance a broad range of innovative solutions that will have a transformational and sustainable impact on the reliability and resilience of the grid and energy infrastructure.

"These solutions will be realized through partnerships to deploy innovative technologies, implement enhanced engineering and operational processes, and develop a highly skilled and well-informed workforce," said **Zach Tudor**, INL associate laboratory director for National and Homeland Security.

The agreement will include increased internship and post-doctoral opportunities, and joint appointments of cyber-focused researchers, allowing UTSA faculty and INL staff to conduct collaborative research programs, with projects and personnel co-located on both the UTSA and INL campuses.

"The vast and deep expertise we have here at UTSA in cybersecurity combined with the reputation of Idaho National Lab will allow us to tackle some of our nation's most intractable critical infrastructure cybersecurity challenges," said UTSA President **Taylor Eighmy**. "We look forward to growing this strategic partnership."

This partnership supports the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)'s multi-year plan to expand and enhance the energy sector's cyber security efforts across the country. The research conducted by UTSA and INL will be aligned to programs within the DOE Cybersecurity, Energy Security and Emergency Response Office to ensure efficiencies. **D 9**