

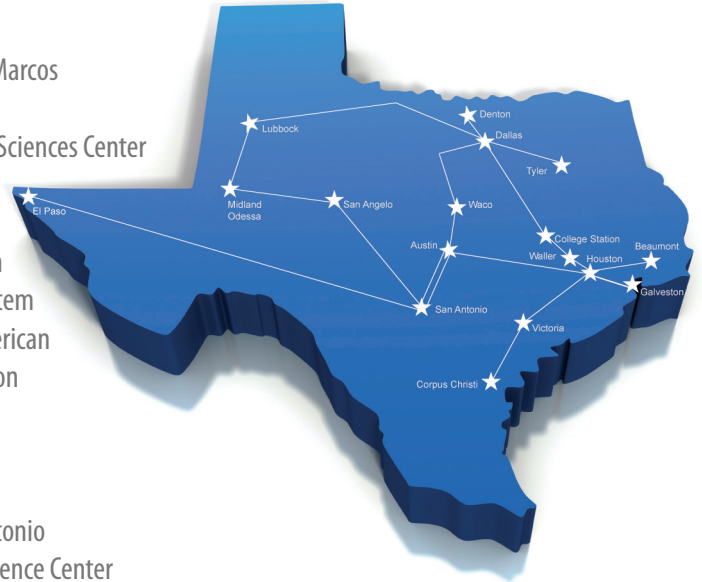
Who Is LEARN?

The Lonestar Education and Research Network (LEARN) is a collaborative non-profit organization that uses its 3,000 mile high-speed optical network to support its members' research, education, healthcare and public service missions. LEARN's 38 members include 30 public institutions of higher education, 5 private institutions of higher education and the Texas Association of Community Colleges who represents 50 community and junior colleges in Texas. The K-12 community is represented by the Texas Education Telecommunications Network (TETN) who enables network services to over 400 independent school districts. Additionally, in support of our public service mission, the National Weather Service is a member of LEARN.

Who Are LEARN's Members?

Angelo State University
 Baylor College of Medicine
 Baylor University
 Lamar University
 National Weather Service
 Northeast Texas Consortium (NETnet)
 Prairie View A&M University
 Rice University
 Sam Houston State University
 Southern Methodist University
 Stephen F. Austin State University
 Texas A&M Health Science Center
 Texas A&M University
 Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi
 Texas A&M University System
 Texas Association of Community Colleges
 Texas Christian University
 Texas Education Telecommunications Network (TETN)

Texas State University - San Marcos
 Texas Tech University
 Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
 Texas Tech University System
 Texas Woman's University
 University of Houston System
 University of North Texas System
 University of Texas - Pan American
 University of Texas at Arlington
 University of Texas at Austin
 University of Texas at Dallas
 University of Texas at El Paso
 University of Texas at San Antonio
 University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
 University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
 University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler



University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
 University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
 University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas
 University of Texas System

What Does LEARN Do?

LEARN enhances the research and economic competitiveness of Texas by providing a state-of-the-art, cost-effective network that is connected to national and international research and education networks, communities and services throughout the world. By owning and operating its own network, LEARN has the ability to quickly respond to emerging needs and opportunities. Additionally, LEARN enables our members to save money by leveraging shared resources and developing a community that fosters collaboration between their colleagues in Texas and beyond.

How Does LEARN Benefit Texas?

- Provides students, faculty and researchers with high-speed access to global research and education networks.
- Provides a statewide resource to support Texas students' lifelong learning needs.
- Provides cost-effective access to network capacity and services by aggregating demand and leveraging scarce resources through economies of scale.
- Provides an interconnected community that fosters collaboration and innovation to enable Texans to seize a world of opportunities that exist today and to meet the challenges of tomorrow.
- Provides a critical interconnected infrastructure to support our healthcare, disaster preparedness and recovery and homeland defense needs.

LEARN's Network Mitigates the Impact of Disasters

In the connected world that we live in today, information technology is no longer used simply to support business processes, it enables them. Most organizations simply could not operate using the old pencil-and-paper processes of just a few years ago. Lamar University is no exception; the IT systems that run their mission-



critical business processes must be continually available. But, being located in Beaumont near the Texas coast presents some special challenges when it

comes to keeping those systems running. Every year, hurricanes enter the Gulf of Mexico, and threaten to deluge the university's campus. The wind and rain can flood buildings, as well as, knock out power and communications lines. A robust disaster recovery plan is required in order to assure continued services despite the recurring annual risk of natural disasters.

Historically, the only disaster recovery plan available when a hurricane entered the Gulf of Mexico was to back up all core systems to tape over a period of a couple of days and load the tapes on a truck and send them to Texas State University in San Marcos for safekeeping.

With the acquisition of RecoverPoint from EMC, Lamar University has entered in to a new era of data reliability and security in the event of any disaster affecting their local data facilities.

Without the LEARN network, it would be impossible to ensure Lamar's systems would be available to provide critical services for their customers.

LEARN's IdMF Unlocks the Power of Collaboration

Collaboration requires the sharing of data and services across organizational boundaries throughout Texas and the world. It is not practical or wise to have valuable electronic resources available without proper safeguards. Thanks to the support of the University of Texas System (UT System), LEARN has deployed an Identity Management Federation (IdMF) for Texas. The IdMF is structured on standards based open source technology that brokers the authentication and identity management process between organizations that participate in the Federation. This environment enables users within the Federation to log in to IdMF services using their own university credentials. Since LEARN manages the credentialing relationships between IdMF participating organizations, it permits the organizations to focus on developing and maintaining a core set of services for a broader community without having to manage individual relationships. This environment creates the "trust" environment that is critical to sharing electronic resources and collaboration.

Because it is an essential component of collaboration and sharing resources,



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the IdMF is a strategic priority of LEARN's Board of Directors. To be able to actively participate and compete in the interconnected global environment in which we live, the LEARN IdMF interacts with other Federations throughout the world. The LEARN IdMF participates in the InCommon Federation community to provide the broad trust fabric for our students, faculty, researchers and staff to efficiently and securely collaborate with their colleagues.

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