Leadership cannot be defined by one characteristic or quality. It is a mix of values, competencies, character, skills, behavior and perspectives earned through a lifetime of self-investment and uncommon commitment. Leadership is a journey upon which few people embark.
John Goolsby traces his achievements in the corporate world to the solid foundation he received as a UT Arlington student in the early 1960's. “Whatever successes that I accomplished during my business career started with the education that I received at UTA,” said the former president, CEO and director of the Howard Hughes Corporation. “The professors provided a great base for me to build my career around.” When Goolsby (’64 BBA) had the chance to give back to his alma mater, he did not hesitate.

In 2003, an anonymous donor funded a $2 million gift in honor of Goolsby and his wife, Judy, to establish the Goolsby Leadership Academy and Goolsby Distinguished Professorships in the College of Business.

“I was fortunate to have the opportunity to direct a major gift to the University. I am extremely thankful to the donor,” Goolsby said. “This gift will create a unique opportunity to make a real difference in the educational experience offered to the students selected to participate.”

This legacy of the importance of higher education and life long learning continues to be a foundational pillar for not only the Academy, but also the College of Business and UTA.
“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.” – Martin Luther King, Jr.

Words of Wisdom – Scholar Style…

“Goolsby is great. Network. Work Hard. It’s a short period of time that forms your foundation.” – Michael Catterton, Director

“I very much enjoyed my Goolsby experience, and the impact it has made on my life and career is quite strong. I look back on and reference things I learned and was exposed to often, and I truly feel it has made me a better and more competent leader.” – Taylor Herrero, Digital Marketing / Marketing Communications

“The degree gets you in the door, your work ethic and connections get you promoted.” – Tahauya Jackson, Accountant

“The skill set I acquired in the cohort regarding teamwork and collaboration has been applicable in every role I have filled since college. The team projects and Myers-Briggs assessments helped me find my leadership style and excel in my career.” – Stephanie Bishop, Commercial Credit Process Manager

“Carpe Diem! Treat every experience as a learning tool and remember that we learn more from our failures than our successes.” – Everett Walker, Human Resource Evaluator

“A college education teaches you how to learn, and you never stop learning after that.” – Judy Goolsby
Commencement / 2019

Congratulations, Class of 2019!

Commencement season is producing unparalleled excitement on campus as the Spring Class of 2019 gets ready to walk across the College Park Center stage. The years of hard work and dedication will culminate in ceremonies rife with rich academic tradition. The University, the College, and the Academy extend their profound and heartfelt congratulations to all of our graduating students!


* BNSF Early Leader Program Students
Jacquelyn A. Fouse Study Abroad Scholarship Students (Italics)