Intentional Future-Making

ATEC is home to artists, scientists, designers, scholars, and researchers who collaborate to create one of the most exciting and unique academic programs in the United States. ATEC explores leading-edge topics through the study of emerging media, artistic experimentation with new technologies, and critical engagement with pressing social issues.

ATEC programs draw inspiration from the creative disciplines of art, science, design and engineering. We do this by developing educational programs that blend history and theory with creative practice and critical analysis. We encourage students to develop their technological imagination, to connect the dots between the past and the present so as to anticipate what will emerge next. Our goal is to inspire students to experiment with new forms of artistic expression, to develop new technologies in the service of social good, and to design with intention.

ATEC students are encouraged to critically examine technology and culture, as well as the many ways in which the two are inextricably entangled. Students are expected to gain foundational knowledge in multiple disciplinary areas of expertise; to know something deeply is to know it from different perspectives. They also learn how to engage with different modes of knowledge production, different methods of analysis, different work practices, different definitions of creativity, different metrics of success, and different viewpoints on what needs doing in the world.

ATEC faculty model how to collaborate across differences as they demonstrate deep expertise, intellectual flexibility, and collegial open-mindedness. ATEC embraces differences in the service of creating new knowledge and identifying new horizons of research and creative practice. Collaboration across differences changes the conversation for everyone.


Dr. Anne Balsamo
Dean
School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication
The University of Texas at Dallas
The ATEC Vision & Mission

The ATEC Vision
WHAT UNITES US
To inspire intentional future-making through education, research, and creative practice.

The ATEC Mission
WHAT WE DO
- Engage students with the best possible faculty, inspiring courses, and co-curricular activities.
- Offer a pioneering curriculum that manifests the potential of convergence among disciplines.
- Create new knowledge through research and creative practice.
The Contexts of ATEC
WHERE AND WHEN IS ATEC
Inspirations, challenges, and opportunities emerge from different contexts.

University of Texas at Dallas
Serving the region, the state, and country as a STEM university

21st Century Education
Students learn in many places, enabled by reenvisioned and inclusive technologies. Diversity and inclusion are the foundations of a socially responsible educational experience.

The Imagination Age
Creativity and imagination drive social, cultural and economic change

Exponential Culture
Increases in the pace of change, coupled with accelerated resource depletion encourage long-term planning and thoughtful decision-making

Social Justice Activism
Climate change, economic injustice, and institutionalized discrimination require immediate intervention
The Four Pillars of ATEC

1. Ethics, Technology, & Community Engagement
   Demonstrate: the value of critical scholarship to the public
   Transform: discussions about the social impact of science and technology
   Deliver: new methods for analyzing emergent technological phenomena

2. Media, Art, Practice
   Demonstrate: new forms of storytelling
   Transform: the creative industries
   Deliver: engaging animations, games, performances, and public installations

3. Design, Systems, Culture
   Demonstrate: design as a fundamental communication literacy
   Transform: design practice and design education
   Deliver: accessible and socially responsible design

4. Science, Creativity, Platforms
   Demonstrate: the importance of creativity in STEM
   Transform: research on creativity, science, and technology
   Deliver: new platforms for creative expression
Strategic Objectives

1. Attract students with the potential to change the world
   - Build student pipelines across all degree programs
   - Increase scholarship to promote diversity of student bodies
   - Implement marketing and enrollment focus on market’s students
   - Expand training to attract diverse students
   - Expand training to attract diverse students
   - Expand training to attract diverse students
   - Expand scholarship to support graduate creative work
   - Cultivate partnerships with local communities, businesses, and cultural organizations for internships, co-op, career opportunities

2. Develop and deliver innovative 21st century educational experiences
   - Recruit students with diverse backgrounds, interests, and learning goals
   - Nanoscale, hardware, and software development
   - Expand degree programs to be responsive to emergent topics and opportunities
   - Design innovative pedagogies in creativity and technology
   - Expand cross-curricular learning opportunities across domains
   - Implement creative education model of STEM project education
   - Inaugurate a master’s learning improvement process

3. Recruit and the world-class faculty who work at the intersections of art, technology, and emerging communication
   - Recruit faculty with diverse backgrounds
   - Expanded research in the four pillars at AT&CT
   - Develop funding resources to support research
   - Develop funding resources to support creative practice
   - Adapt AT&CT’s curriculum to a broad-based research
   - Scale the impact of research and creative practice
   - Develop projects that demonstrate the impact of collaborate research
   - Communicate research loudly, naturally, intermediately

4. Showcase the uniqueness of AT&CT
   - Expand public programming of events, installations, and performances
   - Host public events featuring world-renowned artists, scholars, technologists, and scholars
   - Establish AT&CT as a leader in regional and technology leadership
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5. Increase public investment in our success
   - Cultivate internships and apprenticeship programs
   - Establish the Innovation Districts, Capital Innovation Center, and C-Store
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Photo: AT&CT 2020 Exceptional Achievements Award Winner: University of Vermont

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