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MEGHNA TARE WAS RECENTLY NAMED UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON FIRST CHIEF SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER

<http://www.theshorthorn.com/news/uta-creates-new-sustainability-role/article_21700c1a-f194-11e8-8521-b7208dad6d4a.html?utm_source=The+Shorthorn+Newsletter+%5B11-29-18%5D&utm_campaign=The+Shorthorn+analytics&utm_medium=email>

<https://www.greensourcedfw.org/articles/dfw-sustainability-regional-center>

<https://www.uta.edu/news/releases/2018/11/Tare-named-UTA-CSO.php>

Meghna Tare, 42, was named first Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) at UT/Arlington on Nov. 1. She joined UT’s staff in 2010, after serving as environmental manager with the city of Dallas’ Office of Environmental Quality. There, she worked on environmental projects like climate change, air quality, green buildings, energy efficiency and outreach, community gardens and environmental management systems. Prior to that, she taught environmental studies classes at California State University at Hayward, all of which prepared her well for UT’s Chief Sustainability Officer. Her MBA from Presidio Graduate School, a master’s in environmental studies from San Jose State University and a masters in chemistry from the University of San Francisco are also key.

As UT’s Chief Sustainability Officer, Tare will develop programs like recycling and waste reduction, water conservation, education and outreach, transportation, green purchasing, curriculum development, community garden, composting and green teams. Also, she will be responsible for establishing a regional center to increase collaboration among groups in North Texas, a first for the region. Another first is bringing higher education, governmental units and municipalities, and private corporations together to collaborate on sustainable initiatives.

When asked, Tare responded that the main objective between her former role as UT’s executive director of the Institute for Sustainability and Global Impact and new Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) is that her new position was established to create partnerships with the community. “We want to increase UT/A’s collaboration with other organizations and drive UT/A’s mission to go green.”

In her former UT/A role, she established several environmentally responsible initiatives, winning the prestigious Excellence in Sustainability Award from the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO), which recognizes various areas of institutional success. Institutions, including financial, facilities, operational, environmental, community and climate that demonstrate excellence and innovation in sustainability leadership, earn the award. In 2018, UT/A earned the coveted award out of three universities. Additionally, she spearheaded several sustainability projects related to policy implementation, buildings and development, green procurement, transportation, employee engagement, waste management, GRI reporting and carbon management. As a TEDx UT/A speaker, she was featured on *TriplePundit*’s Women in Corporate Social Responsibility list.

Tare was also responsible for organizing a meeting of sustainability stakeholders on March 1, 2018 to create a Regional Center of Expertise <https://www.greensourcedfw.org/articles/dfw-sustainability-regional-center>. “We have submitted the application and are waiting to hear for the approval which will happen by the end of the year,” she relates as to the progress of the Regional Center of Expertise.

At this point, plans for 2019 are undetermined, but she comments that her No. 1 goal is to establish an advisory council. Adding, “We will always raise the bar and constantly strive to make steady improvements to our sustainability contributions. The responsibility of a CSO rides on implementing the vision, values and strategy in a way that communicates that we care. Blending those values with our unique goals and ambitions can be very motivating and effective. For me, leadership at UT/A lives at the intersection of that spark and our values.”