CONNECT PROGRAM

IMPACT REPORT: 2022 - 2023

CONNECTING GRADUATE STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO INCREASE IMPACT THROUGH BETTER DATA PRACTICES

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Fellows from the Spring 2023 cohort gathered for their cohort welcome and a consulting 101 training.
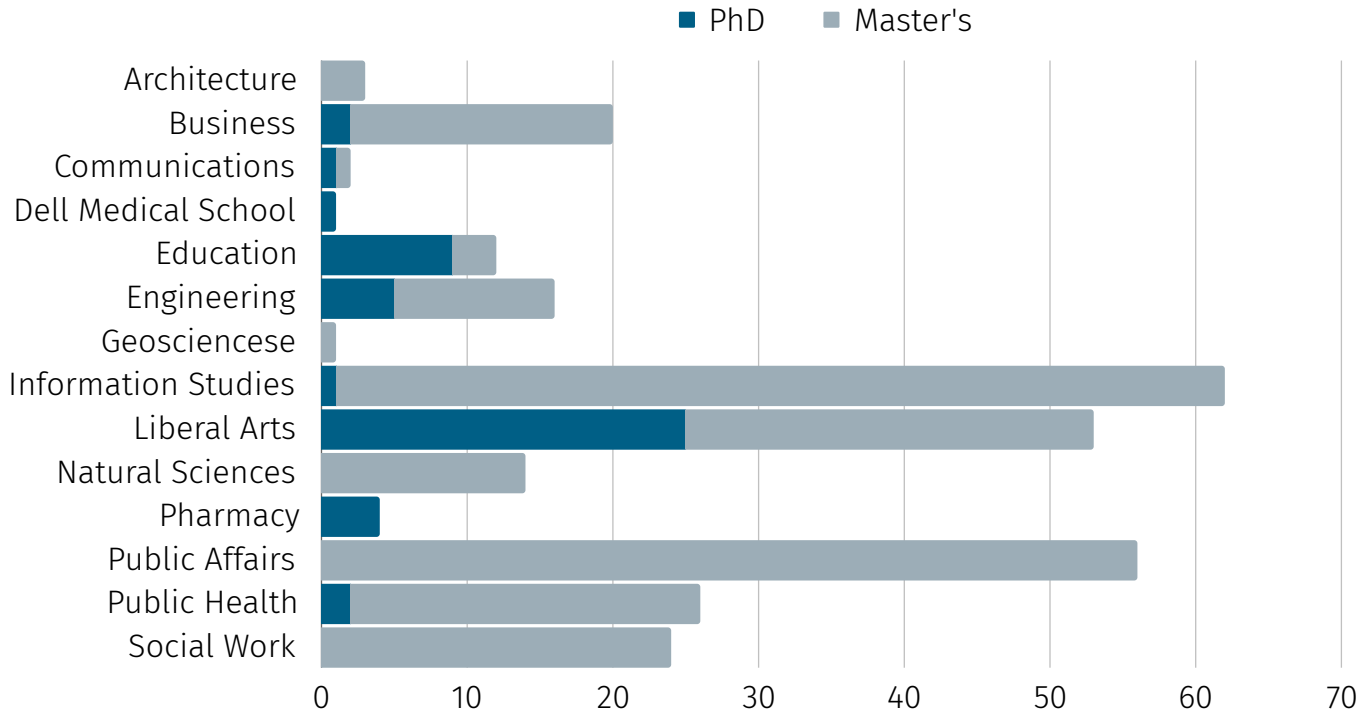
59
PROJECTS
COMPLETED

$500K
IN PROJECT
DELIVERABLES

Deliverables from four different projects were used to advocate for policy changes at local, state and federal levels.

30
NEW
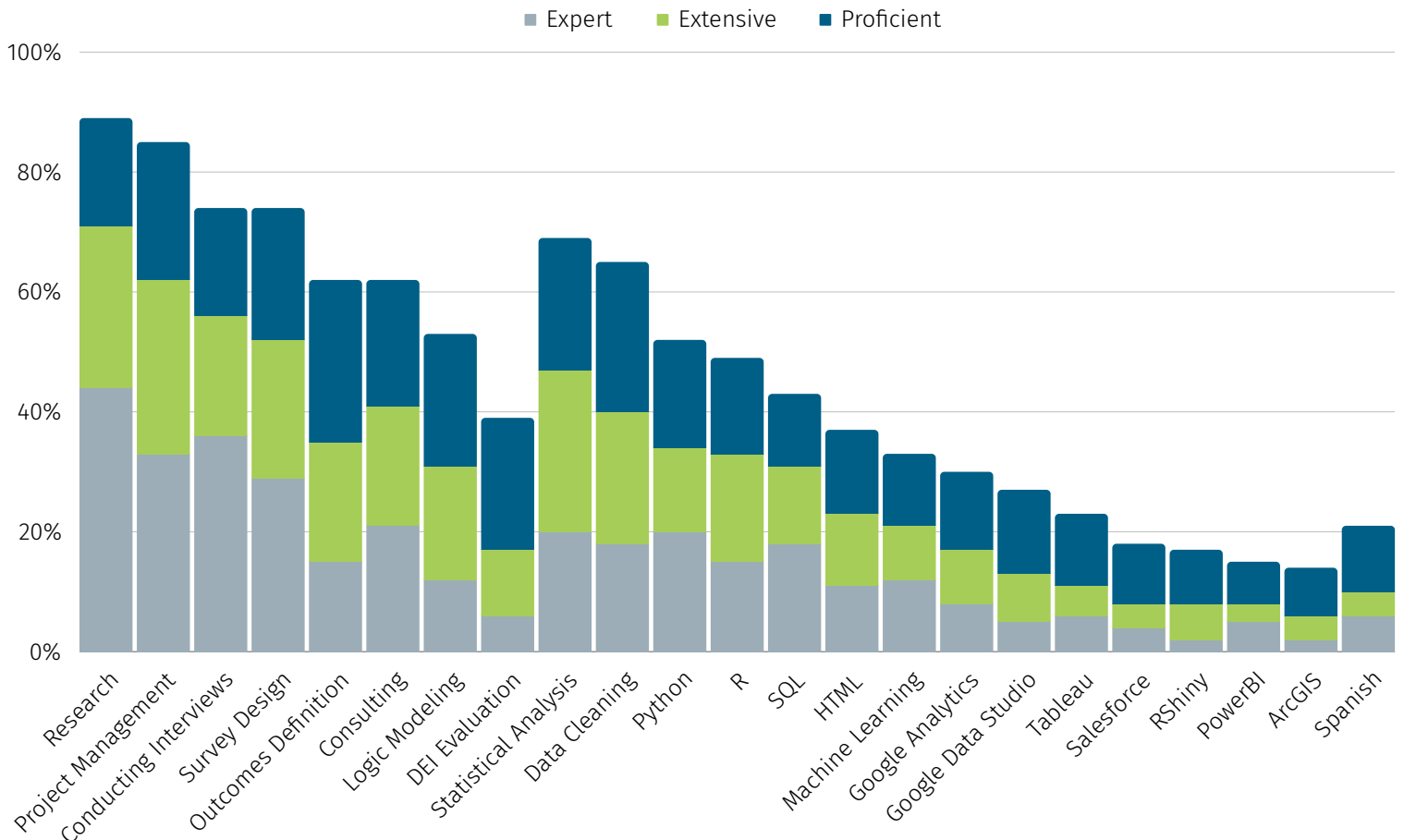ORGANIZATION
CLIENTS

95%
MATCH SUCCESS
RATE

CONNECT is a research, data analytics and evaluation consulting program at the University of Texas at Austin that matches graduate student consultants to organizations with short-term projects. For more information, visit: https://rgkconnect.lbj.utexas.edu/
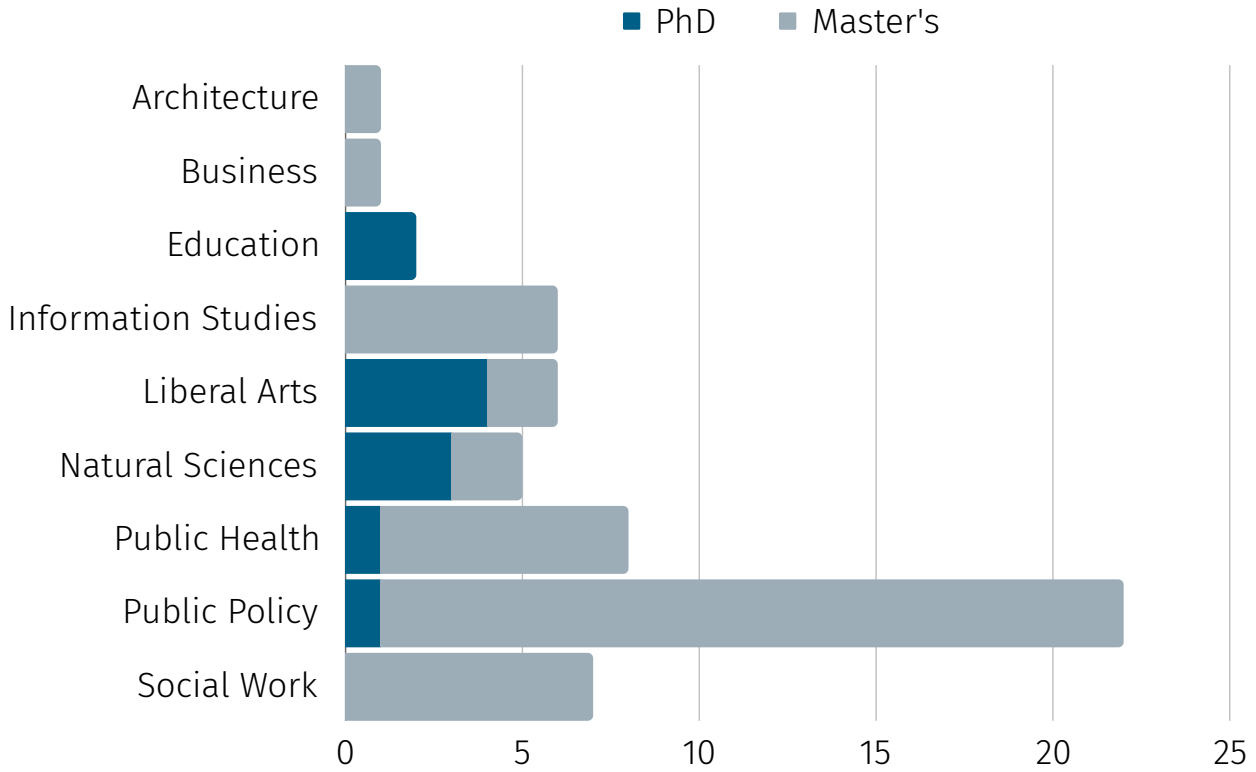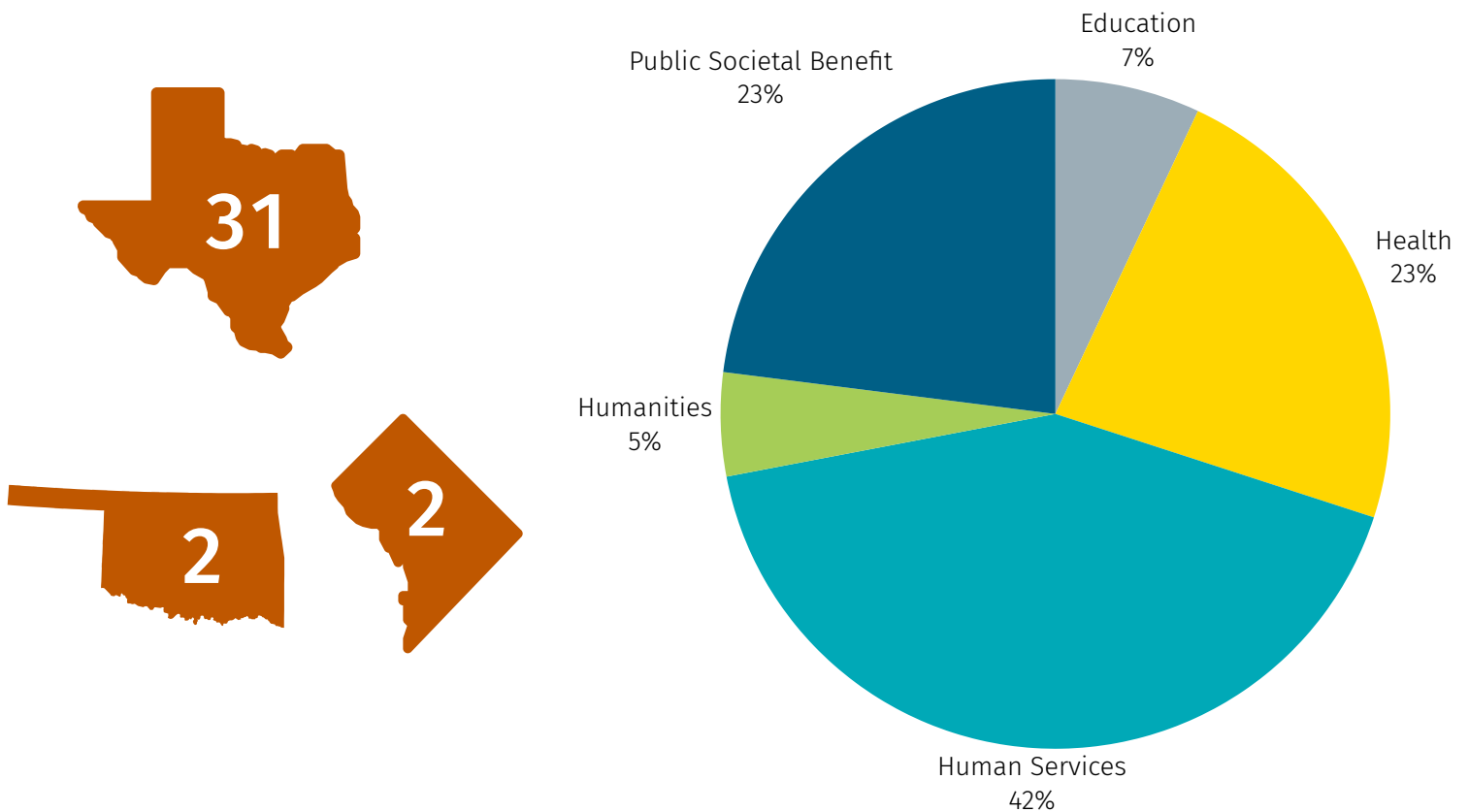
OUR STUDENT APPLICANT POOL

Legend: PhD, Master's

Department	
Architecture	
Business	
Communications	
Dell Medical School	
Education	
Engineering	
Geosciencese	
Information Studies	
Liberal Arts	
Natural Sciences	
Pharmacy	
Public Affairs	
Public Health	
Social Work	

Areas of Expertise

Legend: Expert, Extensive, Proficient

OUR FELLOWS

Legend: ■ PhD ■ Master's

Field	PhD	Master's	Total (approx)
Architecture	0	1	1
Business	0	1	1
Education	2	0	2
Information Studies	0	6	6
Liberal Arts	4	2	6
Natural Sciences	3	2	5
Public Health	1	7	8
Public Policy	1	21	22
Social Work	0	7	7

OUR CLIENT ORGANIZATIONS

31

2

2

Public Societal Benefit 23%

Education 7%

Health 23%

Humanities 5%

Human Services 42%
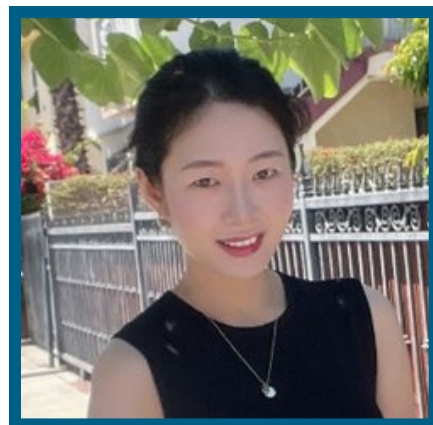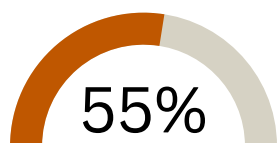
OUR IMPACT

"I learned how to communicate with collaborators professionally and clearly. Also, I became more confident in my project management and time management skills. During an interview, I was asked whether I could handle both my Ph.D. research and an internship during the semester, and I convinced them with my experience as a CONNECT fellow."
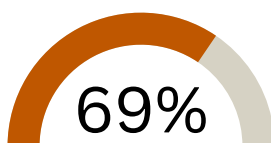
KYOUNGGEUN (CAY) LEE
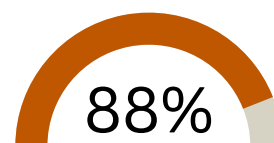Doctoral Candidate, Psychology
Summer 2023 CONNECT Fellow

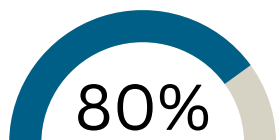## AFTER ENGAGING IN THE CONNECT PROGRAM...

55%
of students reported their experience helped them obtain a job or internship
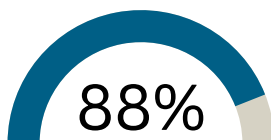
69%
of students reported learning a new skill or software through their experience
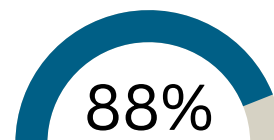
88%
of students reported their experience helped them expand their professional network

80%
of orgs reported their experience helped them learn how to implement a measurement strategy for program evaluation

88%
of orgs reported their project contributed to their ability to improve skills, knowledge, resources, and/or processes

88%
of orgs reported their experience helped them learn how to use data for analysis, visualization and/or reporting

tcmhcc

"Our CONNECT Fellow was excellent to work with. She coordinated between clinicians, data systems engineers, data managers, and research administrators to identify ways that she could maximize the utility and usability of our product. The product deliverable will be used and built upon for many years to come for this important project.

-Texas Childhood Trauma Research Network

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

INITIATIVE: Recently launched by the Ascension Texas Council on Racial and Health Equity (ATCORHE), with substantial support from The Seton Fund, Food is the Best Medicine (FBM) is a food prescription program that supports perinatal patients experiencing food insecurity.

CHALLENGE: To develop methods for evaluating the initial impact of the Food is the Best Medicine Program (FBM) pilot and identify ways it can be improved and/or expanded to support families more effectively.

DELIVERABLES & KEY ACTIVITIES:

- Collaborated with program lead, social workers and patient staff to identify additional data points for tracking and measuring short-term outcomes associated with the FBM program
- Refined existing and developed new tools and methodologies for evaluating the program
- Spearheaded efforts to expand FBM into a unique and effective food access program involving 3 - 4 community partners

CHRISTOPHER REYES was the CONNECT Fellow for this project during Fall 2022. He is currently pursuing a dual Master's degree with the LBJ School of Public Affairs and UTHealth School of Public Health.

To learn more about Christopher and his work with the Food is the Best Medicine Program, click <u>here</u>.