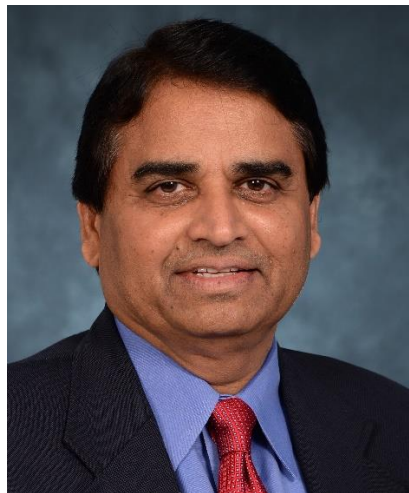




Outstanding Educator Award

is presented to

Mohan Rao, PhD



The recipient of the 2022 SWDSI Outstanding Educator Award is Dr. Mohan Rao from Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi (TAMUCC). He is the current Vice President of Decision Sciences Institute (DSI) for Member Services. He holds a Ph.D. in Business Administration from the University of Alabama and a master’s degree in Management Sciences from the University of Waterloo, Canada. He also holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Chemical Engineering from Osmania University and National Institute of Technology, Warangal, India respectively. He is a Certified Fellow in Production and Inventory Management. Before joining TAMUCC, he was on the faculty at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette and the University of Texas-RGV, among other institutions. He teaches Operations Management and Data Analytics. He is a faculty senator at TAMUCC. He has been an active member of Southwest DSI since 1995. He served SWDSI in various capacities over the years, including Track Chair, Proceedings Editor for 10 years, Vice President–Finance, Program Chair, President, and Past President. His research interests are in Performance Measurement and Management, Data Analytics, Decision Support Systems, and Expert Systems. He has over 30 years of experience in academia and has over 70 refereed journal publications and proceedings. Some of his articles have appeared in *Management Science*, *International Journal of Production Economics*, *International Journal of Operations & Production Management*, *Industrial Management and Data Systems*.

Dr. Rao strongly believes in student-centered learning. Student success is most important to him. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the classroom. He has international experience in both industry and academia. Students enjoy his real-world examples and appreciate him for making the courses interesting and relevant. Dr. Rao designs and offers courses with the latest topics and technologies so that the new knowledge and skills give his students an edge in the job market and help them succeed in their careers. In 2012, he initiated Data Analytics and SAP-integrated Business curriculum at TAMUCC. The Data Analytics concentration is now the second most popular in a highly successful Online MBA program at TAMUCC. Dr. Rao constantly brings innovative methods to teaching. As early as 1997, he presented a paper titled, "Classroom Education with No Books," which won the Best paper award in the Educational Innovation track of the Southeast Informs conference. Although it took a while, digital textbooks are now a reality. He is passionate about affordable learning material. He has introduced several innovative methods in online teaching. Students are the beneficiaries and they nominated him for the student choice, Digital Innovator of the Year Award at TAMUCC in both 2020 and 2021. Despite many years of experience, Dr. Rao is always open to learning. In 2021 he completed a yearlong program and earned the ACUE certification in Effective College Instruction offered by the Association of College and University Educators and the American Council on Education.

In 2019-2020, Dr. Rao chaired the Technology Task Force in the College of Business to learn which technology skills were in demand in the marketplace and if college courses were integrated with those technologies. Since 2018, he has been serving as a member of the MIS Field of Study Advisory Committee, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). He has also served as a Faculty Mentor in the McNair Scholars Program since 2017. He mentors students to pursue research; several of his former students are pursuing graduate studies. He is very active in advising professional student organizations and international student groups. In 2000 and 2001, three teams that he mentored won the national-level Gracie Programming Competitions.