

**MIDDLE SCHOOL BRAIN YEARS (NEW SPECIAL ITEM)**

**REQUESTED:            FY 2010 - \$4,000,000            FY 2011 - \$4,000,000            TOTAL - \$8,000,000**

The UT Dallas Center for BrainHealth has assembled a renowned team of brain scientists that has developed groundbreaking programs to assess and train complex reasoning and decision making skills. The Middle School Brain Years program targets students at-risk for school failure primarily because of insufficient development of problem solving, reasoning, or social skills. Recent research reveals that rapid development of the frontal lobes during the middle school years holds tremendous opportunity for growth in reasoning, learning, and positive behavior modification. The Center has found that that brain-reasoning deficits arising during middle school brain years can be successfully treated. The Center has developed assessments and treatments that have the potential to help middle school age teens and potentially save Texas millions of dollars in unnecessary incarceration, rehabilitation, and unemployment costs. Exceptional item funding for the Middle School Brain Years program could help scale up the treatments developed by the Center for possible statewide implementation.

**CENTER FOR VALUES IN MEDICINE AND TECHNOLOGY (NEW SPECIAL ITEM)**

**REQUESTED:            FY 2010 - \$2,500,000            FY 2011 - \$2,500,000            TOTAL - \$5,000,000**

The UT Dallas Center for Values in Medicine and Technology addresses the rapid pace of technological innovation that has affected all phases of human life and the particularly profound impact this has had on the practice of medicine. Exceptional item support will enable the Center to offer targeted graduate courses, sponsor forums, and inform the public about the expanding role of digital technology in diagnosis and treatment. The Center received \$150,000 in FY 2006 and FY 2008 from Institutional Enhancement appropriations.

**INNOVATIONS IN ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY (NEW SPECIAL ITEM)**

**REQUESTED:            FY 2010 - \$2,000,000            FY 2011 - \$2,000,000            TOTAL - \$4,000,000**

The UT Dallas Arts and Technology program is an innovative research program in interactive game design for education and training with applications for the military, business, medical, and cultural fields. Exceptional item funding will enable UT Dallas to become a center for interactive training tools for industry and education by creating innovative models, synthetic environments, and simulations for training in diverse markets across industries. The program will also create a premier talent pool of digital content designers and developers. These individuals will help to promote the development of new companies, training facilities, and products in the area of serious gaming, an area of explosive growth and worldwide interest.

**ACADEMIC BRIDGE PROGRAM (EXISTING SPECIAL ITEM)**

**REQUESTED:            FY 2010 - \$500,000            FY 2011 - \$500,000            TOTAL - \$1,000,000**

The Academic Bridge Program attracts, supports, and retains graduates from Texas high schools who have high class rankings but have not completed the full university-track curriculum. The program includes an intensive summer “speed-up” session of math, science, writing, and study skills prior to the freshman autumn, followed by continued support through organized group study and peer tutorial sessions for two years. Participating students return to former high schools to tutor and inspire current high school students to plan and prepare for college. Additional funding will be directed toward recruitment expenses, the summer enhancement program, work/tutoring/outreach opportunities, and toward expanding the Program over the four-year college experience.

**NANOTECHNOLOGY INNOVATIONS (EXISTING SPECIAL ITEM)**

**REQUESTED:            FY 2010 - \$500,000            FY 2011 - \$500,000            TOTAL - \$1,000,000**

The UT Dallas Nanotechnology Institute functions as an engine of economic growth by eliminating boundaries that interfere with the transition from science to technology, and from technology to product. Exceptional item funding will enable the Institute to become more competitive for large major-project grants and contracts that are available for this type of research. The Institute currently receives special item appropriations of \$218,750/year.