



**CECREH**

A HUD Center of Excellence in

Capacity-building for Resilient Housing

## Inaugural Summit

### Transforming Housing Recovery through Research-Driven Capacity Building

*Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - International Cultural Center, Hall of Nations*

- 9:00 AM – 9:30 AM     **Welcome Remarks**  
*Ali Nejat, CECREH Director*  
*Dr. Heppert, Vice President for Research, TTU*  
*Dr. Williams, Vice Provost for Outreach and Engagement, TTU*  
*Dr. Faller, WCOE Dean, TTU*
- 9:30 AM – 10:00 AM     **Keynote: Current Housing Resiliency Dilemma**  
*Kishor Mehta, NAE, Emeritus P. W. Horn Professor*  
*Texas Tech University*
- 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM     **CECREH Research Portfolio Updates: Working to Expand Resilient Housing Capacity**  
*Ali Nejat, CECREH Director,*  
*Ashley Ross, CECREH Associate Director*
- 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM     **Coffee and Networking**
- 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM     **Roundtable 1: Advancing Housing Recovery After Disasters – Addressing Capacity Challenges Across Sectors**  
*Kayode Atoba, Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas (IDRT)*  
*Andrew Rumbach, Urban Institute*  
*Patrick Roberts, RAND Corporation*  
*Katie Simmons, Butte County (California)*  
*Grace Salinas, Cameron County (Texas)*  
*Moderated by Ashley Ross, CECREH Associate Director*
- 12:00 PM – 12:45 PM     **Roundtable 2: Evaluating Housing Recovery Outcomes – CECREH Student Internship with Texas Housers**  
*Amin Sobhani, CECREH Graduate Student Research Assistant*  
*Ivis Garcia, HUD Center of Excellence for Hispanic Housing Studies*  
*Harris County Community representative(s)*  
*Moderated by Julia Orduña, Texas Housers*



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12:45 PM

**Group Photo – ICC Globe Sculpture**

12:45 PM – 2:00 PM

**Lunch and Networking**

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

**Roundtable 3: International Perspectives on Environmental Hazards, Disasters, and Housing**

*Introductory remarks from Michael Johnson, International Affairs*

*Luciana Alves de Olivera, Institute for Technological Research*

*Riccardo Merizi, One Team, RETIME Building Renovation Passport*

*Gemma Cremen, University College London*

*Erin O’Connell, University of Waterloo*

*Moderated by Rodrigo Costa, CECREH Principal Investigator*

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM

**Coffee and Networking**

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

**Roundtable 4: Beyond Disaster Recovery – Pathways to Accessible and Affordable Housing**

*Noah Patton, National Low Income Housing Coalition*

*John Cooper, Texas A&M University*

*Adam Pirtle, Legal Aid of Northwest Texas*

*Maddie Sloan, Texas Appleseed*

*Arica Young, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy*

*Moderated by Ali Nejat, CECREH Director*

4:30 PM – 5:00 PM

**Keynote: Building Resilience to Environmental Hazards**

*Danny Reible, NAE, P. W. Horn Professor, CURES Director*

*Texas Tech University*

5:00 PM

**Closing Remarks**

*Ali Nejat, CECREH Director*

*Ashley Ross, CECREH Associate Director*

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

**Reception & Research Posters**

*Posters displayed by CECREH Investigators and Research Fellows*