

DAVID RICHARD SILVA, PH.D.

Distinguished Professor of Physics & Astronomy
Affiliate Faculty, School of Data Science
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Accomplished professional astronomer
Seasoned senior manager in academic and R&D enterprises
International experience in the Americas, Western Europe, and East Asia

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

The University of Texas at San Antonio (San Antonio, TX, USA)

A rising urban serving, Carnegie R1, Hispanic Serving Institution

2024 - present Distinguished Professor, Physics & Astronomy

2019 - 2024 Dean, College of Sciences / Distinguished Professor, Physics & Astronomy

National Optical Astronomy Observatory (NOAO) (Tucson, AZ, USA)

The US national observatory for night-time, ground-based optical-infrared astronomy

2008 - 2019 NOAO Director / AURA Senior Scientist

Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) (Pasadena, CA, USA)

A multi-billion international project to build one of the world's next great telescopes

2008 - 2019 Observatory Scientist / AURA Senior Scientist

European Southern Observatory (ESO) (Garching bei München, Germany)

The European "national" observatory for night-time, ground-based optical-infrared astronomy

2000 - 2005 Deputy Division Head, Data Management & Operations Division

2003 - 2005 European Leader, Joint ALMA Office Operations Working Group

2001 - 2005 Head, Data Flow Operations

1997 - 2001 Head, User Support Group

National Optical Astronomy Observatories (NOAO) (Tucson, AZ, USA)

The US national observatory for night-time, ground-based optical-infrared astronomy

1996 - 1997 Staff Astronomer, US Gemini Project Office

1994 - 1996 Project Manager, WIYN 3.5-m Telescope Project

1990 - 1993 Post-doctoral Research Associate, Kitt Peak National Observatory

PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS, HIGHLIGHTS

1991 Ph.D., Astronomy, University of Michigan

1984 B.Sc., Astronomy/Physics, University of Arizona

Languages: English (mother tongue), German (functional), Spanish (beginning)

Experienced mentor with post-doctoral fellows, doctoral students, and undergraduate students
Member, Phi Kappa Phi (ΦΚΦ) honor society (2019 - present)

More than 150 professional publications (49 referred | 29 as 1st, 2nd, or 3rd author), h-index = 26

Professional societies, membership: American Astronomical Society (AAS), International Astronomical Union (IAU), American Association for the Advancement of Sciences (AAAS)

Professional service, elected: AURA Nominating Committee Member (2023 - 2024), IAU Division B President (Facilities, Technology, Data) (2013 - 2015), AAS Nominating Committee (2010 - 2012)

Review boards or similar (senior)

- Co-chair, external review panel, National Astronomy Observatory of Japan, 2023
- Chair, external review panel, Subaru Observatory, 2022
- Panelist, external review panel, Anglo-Australian Telescope, 2021
- Panelist, Panel on Optical and Infrared Observations from the Ground, NASEM Decadal Survey of Astronomy and Astrophysics, 2020
- Co-chair, operations & management proposal review board, NSF Mathematics & Physical Sciences (MPS) facility, 2017
- Chair, international search committee, director, ALMA, 2017
- Member, external review board, National Astronomy Observatory of Japan (NAOJ), 2015
- Member, Management review board, NSF/MPS facility, 2014
- Member, review board, Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) operations plan, 2011
- Chair, NSF operations & management proposal review board, MPS facility, 2010
- Member, review board, NASA/SOFIA Science Management & Operations Review, 2007- 2008

Boards of Directors or similar

- Southwest Research Institute, Advisory Trustees (2019 - present)
- Gemini Observatory, Board of Directors (2013 - 2018)
- Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) Corp., Board of Directors (2008 - 2018)
- Thirty Meter Telescope International Observatory (TIO), Board of Directors (2013 - 2018)
- WIYN Observatory, Inc., Board of Directors (2009 - 2012)