

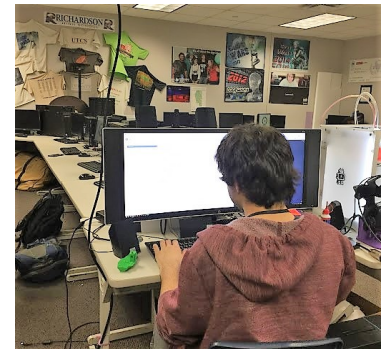
UTeach Dallas Graduate: Aaron Schmidlkofer

Aaron is a first year high school teacher with a degree in Computer Science. Currently, Aaron teaches Pre-AP Geometry, Principles of Information Technology, Game Programming and Design, and Computer Science 2, 3 & 4.

He keeps a very busy schedule during the day and is actively involved with an after-school computer club. In addition, Aaron accompanies his computer science students to many weekend competitions. His passion for teaching and supporting students is evidenced by the time Aaron commits to his students as well as his positive and motivating attitude about teaching. Aaron said, "I enjoy teaching computer science for many reasons such as, the classes are open-ended, dynamic, and the students enjoy learning new content." Some challenges in teaching CTE courses Aaron mentioned included; "if a school district does not have curriculum, it must buy someone else's, which can result in the curriculum not fitting the needs of the students. It could be too easy for the students or not very engaging, similar to learning from a 1980's textbook." In addition, he addressed the level of learning required for Computer Science; "Some students struggle because programming courses begin at the synthesis level of Bloom's Taxonomy and stay there. Scaffolding can be very difficult for a student with developing reasoning skills. Also, programming in Java requires an educator to be ready for students to find something he or she may not know because the students have access to the whole program."

Aaron is a true life-long learner and is currently teaching himself Morse Code. His advice for educators is "Pick something you don't know how to do and learn it. Challenge yourself because that is what students are asked to do every day". Aaron appreciates the UTeach Dallas program for supporting him in learning how to teach computer science classes, which are different from math and science as well as allowing him to experience teaching through real life experiences.

UTeach Dallas
Alumni
Newsletter
August –
December
2018



Computer Science class at
Richardson High School



Aaron teaches Pre-AP Geometry, Principles of
Information Technology, Game Programming
and Design, and Computer Science 2, 3 and 4



Computer Science competition

UTeach Dallas Graduate: Katherine Newport

Katherine is a first year middle school STEM teacher in Richardson ISD. She was asked to share some thoughts on teaching Engineering and Technology classes. Katherine keeps a very active schedule with teaching 7th and 8th grade science classes as well as 8th grade Engineering, Manufacturing and Robotics. Even with so much to do, it is evident in her comment, “I like being able to explore areas that students can easily connect to their everyday lives, and also getting students excited with cool STEM projects” that Katherine is an educator who promotes active engagement in her students at all levels .

Katherine does note there are some challenges to teaching in a less structured classroom environment, “Preservice teachers who want to teach technology should form a classroom management plan for a less structured classroom environment. My students are often not sitting at desks and are usually working in groups. The strategies that I use in my science classrooms often do not work the same way in my Robotics classroom”.

When asked how UTeach Dallas prepared her for being a STEM educator, Katherine said, “UTeach Dallas prepared me very well for data analysis and backwards design, which is a lot of what we end up focusing on during PLC and PD days. I feel even though I am a new teacher I can actually contribute to discussions with my colleagues.” It is exciting to watch Katherine’s motivation to be a strong educator as she teaches with passion every day to a diverse student population in a variety of different STEM classes.



Students actively sharing and learning during Katherine's Technology class



Katherine teaching her ESL science class



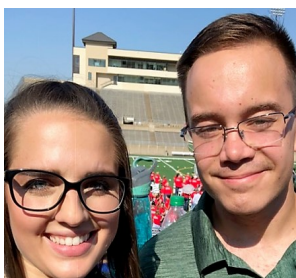
Blast-Off Spring 2019



Amiee Himler, RISD's Teaching and Learning Secondary Math Specialist, received the inaugural University of Texas at Dallas Science/Mathematics Education Alumni of the Year award. Dr. Mary Urquhart presented Amiee Himler with the award.



Nesrine Hajji & Emily Wagoner (Dept Chair) Science teachers Richardson ISD



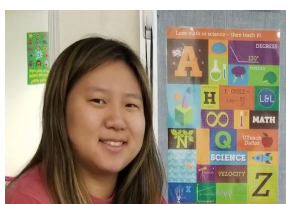
Brittany Day & Henry Curtis new STEM teachers in Plano ISD



Kristen Newton science teacher Frisco ISD



Connor Clements- Science teacher in Richardson ISD



Tiffany Oh Middle School math teacher Plano ISD

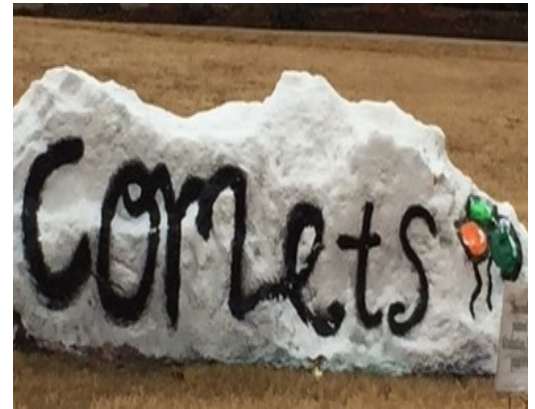


Nesly Equihua science teacher Garland ISD

UTeach Dallas Graduates are Always Preparing Students for the Future



Fall
2018
UTeach
Dallas
Graduates



UTeach Dallas Alumni: If you have any great news to share or would like a campus visit, please just email Terri Mowles or Pam Kirkland

Join the UTeach Dallas Alumni Group on Facebook

Consider joining your fellow UTeach Dallas graduates by earning your MAT degree through UT Dallas SME, contact Emily Hennessy if interested.