

UTeach Dallas Alumni are Committed to Improving STEM Education

UTeach Dallas Alumni: Amiee Himler

Amiee is a Secondary STEM Specialist for Richardson ISD and received the 2019 USEA Outstanding Alumnus Award.

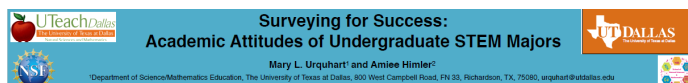
Amiee shared her thoughts about being an educator as well as the UTeach Dallas and MAT programs:

In my wildest dreams, I never imagined that I would be entering my 8th year in education as a Secondary STEM Specialist for Richardson ISD! There are many factors, which have influenced my ability to achieve those dreams, and without a doubt, the UTeach Dallas program and SME Master's program at UT Dallas gave me infinite possibilities to grow as an educational leader.

It's because of the UTeach Dallas program that I developed my deep love of inquiry-based learning, which drove the student-centered instruction in my classroom. When I graduated and began teaching, the UTeach Dallas Induction program supported me as a new teacher to make sure that I had the resources I needed to help my students be successful. After teaching a few years, UTeach Dallas reached out to me to serve as a Mentor Teacher, which improved my ability to communicate, collaborate, think critically and be more creative. Due to the skills sets I learned, I was asked by my administrators to serve as a Team Lead, Committee Chair and Department Chair for many different organizations on my campuses. I was eager to take on these new roles because of my passion to help other educators grow in their fields.

In 2017, I began working on my Master of Arts in Teaching degree at UT Dallas. The program helped launch my career into district leadership positions. The discussions we had in our Science and Mathematics Education classes challenged me as an educator. They caused me to think deeply about my beliefs-and in many cases led to me adjust my viewpoints. The Master's program led to me become a District Specialist in Mathematics, as well as a researcher. Under the supervision of SMED Director, Dr. Mary Urquhart, I had the opportunity to explore the mindsets of undergraduates entering the School of Natural Science and Mathematics at UT Dallas and analyze whether or not they believed they had the ability to learn anything they wanted, if they were willing to put in the effort. In summary, one important point I have learned is that a truly motivated, educational leader never stops learning and growing. I have learned, and have demonstrated in my own professional and educational experiences, there is always an avenue to explore, which will help you grow into the person and professional that you want to be.

UTeach Dallas
Alumni
Newsletter
Spring/Summer
2019



UTeach Dallas Alumni: Helen Arceneaux

Helen teaches 7th gr Pre-AP and 7th/8th gr GT Science at Liberty Junior High STEM Academy in Richardson ISD.

Helen shared her thoughts about teaching and UTeach Dallas:

The students at my school are often told no because they come from a poor household or from a complicated background. I have found that being a guide to student learning imparts students with the life skills and content skills they need to succeed even in the toughest of situations. I do not want my students to be able to regurgitate for a test. I want them to be able to apply knowledge! While it may be my career to educate my students, I feel that they educate me even more and I am honored to be part of their lives.

In the last two years, I have rewritten curriculum for our science department and became head of the 7th grade science team. In the 2017-2018 school year, I was honored by the district as the "Red Apple Award Winner for Secondary". Then, in the 2018-2019 school year, receiving the "TI STEM Innovators Award for RISD" as well as the "RISD Super Teacher" and "Teacher of the Year" at my school. While I have felt truly blessed to be honored with these accolades, I feel that it's my students who deserve the awards. In my own classroom, I have implemented a blended learning format of independent and small group instruction- often led by students! They have helped me improve my craft and find new ways to guide them. They help me focus on pedagogy that works. This year will be my third year of teaching; and I plan to gamify instruction for all preps.

My UTeach Dallas professors found tuition assistance for me when I struggled, provide an experienced sounding board when I need advice and have always encouraged me even when I was unsure. I am proud to be affiliated with the program!

Texas
Instruments
STEM
Innovators
Award for
RISD



Red
Apple
Award



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UTeach Dallas Alumni: Preston Dozier

Preston will be a STEM educator teaching Biology at J.J. Pearce High School in Richardson ISD.

Preston shared her thoughts about her experience at the UTeach Alumni Conference:

This summer, Preston attended and presented at the UTeach Alumni Conference 2019 and shared her thoughts about the conference.

Attending the STEM Educators Conference was such an amazing opportunity to grow as an educator. Alumni from UTeach branches all over the country provided like-minded peers with vastly different experiences from which to learn. The keynote speaker was inspiring, and the round table discussions were a great chance to hear how others are utilizing what they learned from the program in their classrooms. I learned so much from such a short conference!

I also had the opportunity to present a booth for the "Women in Physics Camp" at the UTeach Playground session. My goal was to generate interest in the camp, and introduce the possibility for others to replicate the camp near their schools. It was exciting to have the alumni express interest in trying to start camps of their own. It was such a fulfilling experience to share our work, in which we have been so committed, and be received with so much excitement by my fellow peers!"

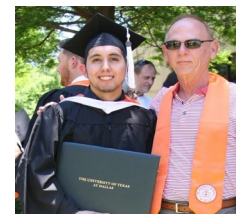
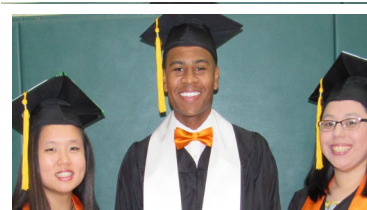


Preston presenting the "Women in Physics Camp" Poster Alumni Conference



Good-Bye
TAs!
Hello
New STEM
educators!

Spring 2019 UTeach Dallas Graduates



Blast-Off Fall 19- New Teacher Kits



Induction Summer 19 PD

Special Thanks to 2019 USEA Committee Members & UTeach Dallas Graduates

Finny Philip UTeach Dallas, 2013; Lisha Houghton UTeach Dallas, 2013

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