UTEACH DALLAS ALUMNI ARE COMMITTED TO IMPROVING STEM EDUCATION

2020-2021 Focusing on the Whole Student

NEWSLETTER FALL 2021

UTeach Dallas Newest Alumni





Teach Dallas Spring 2021 Cohort































UTeach Dallas Induction Talks with Mr. Sawani

Visit the alumni website:

www.uteachdallasalumni.org

Click on **Videos/Podcasts** to hear about the impact of UTeach Dallas in Ali Sawani's teaching career and his journey through medical school.



"Hi I'm Selena Herrera, Spring 2020 UTeach Dallas Graduate. I currently teach 7th/8th grade science and started teaching last August. As educators, it is imperative that when we go into any school year, one of the very first things we should do is build rapport with our students. This is something that my UTeach Dallas professors stressed to us. As important as content is for our students to learn, their social and emotional needs also need to be met. We have to look at the student as a whole and understand their social and emotional needs in order for them to be successful young scholars. Teaching at the middle school level has shown me so much and how important SEL is. This past year has been difficult for all and one way I was able to connect with my students and give them a platform to share what they're going through is doing Google form check-ins with them. They could be as often as I felt they should be and were usually when I sensed my students were going through things, or I just felt it was time for a check in. Incorporating the check-ins really gave me some insight on how my students were doing socially, emotionally and educationally. Middle schoolers go through so many things and often aren't given a platform to be heard. Really emphasizing and putting their SEL needs first has helped me be a better educator. It has also helped my students have comfort in knowing that I am here for them, not only as their teacher to teach them things, but also as an adult that sees and cares for them. This year, I plan to keep my check-ins in place,

and also adding a "Calming Strategies" wall that they can reference. I'm excited and looking forward to building new relationships with my new students and putting their SEL needs first."

















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Blast off 2021 and New Teacher Kits







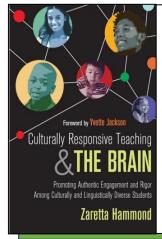












Summer Book Study: Culturally Responsive Teaching

"I am grateful for the chance to participate in this book study! I really loved the book study because it was just so great to have the opportunity to talk to peers about how we plan to incorporate culturally relevant teaching! It was an awesome chance to reset after a hard year, remind ourselves to always make student centered decisions, and get some great ideas for the upcoming school year. I always leave UTeach sessions feeling refreshed and reminded of why I love to teach!"

> Preston Dozier Biology / Freshman Cheer Coach Pearce High School Richardson ISD

Alumni Chats

Support from peers to encourage each other throughout the year!



Summer Mini Professional Development

"Creating an Interactive ESL Biology Classroom!" presented by Preston Dozier









MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE NEWSLETTER!

SEND YOUR GREAT NEWS OR DESIRE FOR A CAMPUS VISIT TO PAM KIRKLAND: PAM.KIRKLAND@UTDALLAS.EDU