



Lisha is a UTeach Dallas graduate, Biology teacher and Team lead, current UTeach Dallas mentor teacher and presented at the UTeach Conference in 2020. Lisha was asked if she would share some thoughts and ideas for starting school during this very unique time for all educators:

"What does the first day of school look like when you can't see your kids? I am pretty sure that was one of the top questions that floated through most teachers' minds this summer as we anxiously awaited the plans from our respective districts in response to this pandemic we are facing.

How do I know that I am going to forge a bond with "My Kids" even if I never see them in person? I know because as a UTeach Dallas graduate building rapport is my number one goal. The idea of relationships before content is so important.

After the experience with the spring emergency at-home learning, I can suggest a few things that my students absolutely loved when I asked for feedback.

- **"Weekly check-ins"** - It was something completely NOT content related. It had random multiple-choice questions or voting for things like "Is a hotdog considered a sandwich?" This gave us a chance to check in on their mental status as well.
- **Putting photos of you/your team into assignments.** We started taking photos of ourselves as part of the scenarios we were giving to students to problem solve. It might not work for every activity, but it was a fun way to stay engaged, and the students' responses were really amusing sometimes.
- **Personalized feedback.** For each of the weekly check-ins I would give feedback or comment on their submissions. This lets them know that you have not only read it, but that you have processed what they are saying, and it gives you a chance to relate to them.
- **Give students your point of view as well.** I let them know how much I wanted to be back with them and that I missed them.

Overall, we know that a student must believe and trust that there is a person behind the screen that they will be engaging with. I firmly believe that students are engaged online in your class as much as you are engaged in them. Reach out, don't hide how this experience affects you, and be real. Your students will do the same."



Lisha Haughton  
Pre-AP Biology Team Lead  
Lowery Freshman Center  
Allen ISD

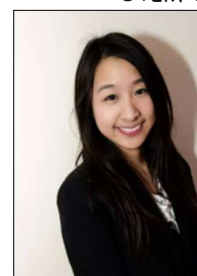


**Mike A. Myers Foundation**  
Celebrating Fall 2019 Graduates  
The Crow Museum of Asian Art



**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
**Christine Liou**

Science • Richardson North Junior High • Richardson ISD  
2020 Texas Instrument Innovations  
STEM Teaching Award



UTEACH DALLAS **ALUMNI** ARE COMMITTED TO IMPROVING STEM EDUCATION

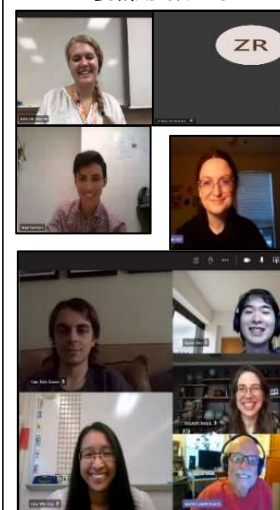
## OUR SCHOOLS and CLASSROOMS 2019-2020



NEW TEACHER  
KIT PICK UP



## ALUMNI CHATS



**CONGRATULATIONS!**

## Emma Devine

Science 7 • Scoggins Middle School • Frisco ISD

## Awesome First Year Teacher

Rewarded by the Frisco Area Retired School Personnel  
(FARSP)



My experience as a new teacher: Navigating my first year of teaching is just as hard as most people said it would be. However, it's not so frightening when I have a very supportive group of teachers, whether at school or UTeach Dallas alumni, who are willing to collaborate and share ideas in the best interest of our students. Some of my favorite moments are when students let themselves be vulnerable during SEL activities and open up to me about how stressed, happy, or confused they are--I get to connect with them and understand their needs better.

Priscilla Okanlawon  
Chemistry

Samuell Early College High School  
Dallas ISD

Spring 2020 Graduate



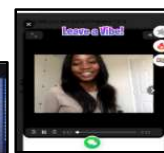
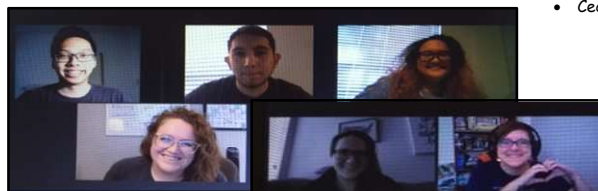
## Spring 2020 Graduates



## SUMMER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Special thanks to

- Amiee Himler
- Preston Dozier
- Cecilia Bentley



**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Helen Arceneaux**

Science Teacher • Liberty Junior High • Richardson ISD

Region X 2020 Secondary

Teacher of the Year

Semi-finalist for 2020 Texas

Teacher of the Year

RISD Teacher of the Year  
RISD STARS Award

STEM Teaching Award



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