

## UTeach Dallas 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!



**Celebrating  
Amiee Himler**

**Graduate of the 1<sup>st</sup>  
UTeach Dallas class**

The UTeach Dallas Program changed my life. It was a safe place, during my undergraduate career, to explore my love of teaching and was full of supportive faculty who encouraged me to think outside of the box, one of my favorite things to do. Thanks to the UTeach Dallas program, I have been teaching in Richardson ISD for 6 years and currently serve as the LHHs Math Department Chair. I also have the privilege of serving as a mentor teaching for the UTeach Dallas program, giving back to the community that helped make my dreams come true!

UTeach Dallas Alumni  
Newsletter  
May-August 2017



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### UTeach Dallas Alumni: Finny Philip Attended the 2017 UTeach Alumni Conference

Finny is a 2013 UTeach Dallas graduate who is now teaching at Newberg High School in Newberg, OR. Finny came back to Texas this summer to attend the **UTeach Alumni Conference** in Austin. Here are his words:

I enjoyed getting a chance to be with like-minded teachers who have all been inculcated with the same teaching principles as I have been taught with. There were mingling sessions where I got to meet people who have taken different career paths within education, which helped me see how I can pursue a diverse, but long-term career in education.

One of the highlights of this trip was watching a presentation by teachers at Manor New Tech High School about colloquium, which is a way that students can become experts on a scientific article and present what they have learned. I appreciated that the presenters gave us a ready-to-go curriculum as well as a set of classroom management strategies to go along with them. I hope to implement colloquium into my classroom next year, since it helps promote science literacy as well as academic discourse.

I also came away with some ideas for sustaining informal UTeach alumni groups. There are small groups of UTeach national alumni that meet in Seattle and in Austin, but lately we've been wondering what we should be doing at these meetings that is unique to UTeachers and worth our time. At the conference, I met a UTeacher from Austin who introduced me to the Reformed Teaching Observation Protocol, which can help teachers find out if they are truly living out their ideals as UTeachers.

### UTeach Dallas Anniversary Celebration: Richardson's Mayor Pro Temp Visits UTeach Dallas Alumni's Engineering Class

Josh Sisk and his Engineering Class at Berkner High School in Richardson helped in making our Anniversary Celebration a Great One! <https://goo.gl/FQburQ>  
Click link for full article in Richardson Today paper!





## UTeach Dallas 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

We had lots of fun catching up with many alumni from our first class to our most recent. From updates on marriages, babies, school moves, new positions, awards, fabulous test scores, and district changes, lots of conversations to be had. It was a great opportunity for alumni from across classes to network with other Comet STEM teachers. Everyone had so much fun, we hope to continue the annual end of year celebration. Let us know what you think about a new annual tradition.







Congratulations to our Spring 2017 **UTeach Dallas** Graduates

### Spotlight on Alumni



**Jermaine Cledera**

**UTeach Dallas '14**

**Crandall Middle School Teacher of the Year 2016-2017**

Jermaine is an active member of the UTD Mathematics TRC and is completing her Master's Degree at Texas A&M University. She has a very hands on approach to teaching Mathematics. Follow her on Twitter for some fun ideas:

[@jcledera1418](https://twitter.com/jcledera1418)

**Mario Castillo**

**UTeach Dallas '15**

**Valley View HS in**

**Moreno Valley**

**Unified School**

**District, California**



Moving over to California was a tough decision because I knew I wouldn't have the same support as if I stayed but knowing you were going to call me or email me one day to make sure I was doing something. Whether it was those discussion boards or filling in our 5Es, all that work culminated in such an effective first year. I was volun-told to sign up for a few committees and ended up as a great asset to them. In fact, I have been selected to play a big role in our PBIS committee next year. I was selected (but not allowed) to teach avid next year. Contributed many new ideas to my department and have often been mistaken for being an experienced teacher. One of my proudest accomplishments was making deep relationships with my students and having them actually get interested in math (most for the first time). I had teachers come and ask me what I was doing with these student to get them to work. I've also been entrusted in teaching our freshmen honors math program and selected to implement a program known as Building Assets, Reducing Risks. I hope this doesn't come across the wrong way, but I tell you all of this to say that UTeach works. I owe most of the credit to the program and all you are doing there. Thank you again and I've attached the latest achievement.

Click here to see the [UTeach Dallas 2017-2018 Induction Event Calendar](#) !

We hope to see you at the next training meeting.