

UTeach Exemplary K-12 Partnership Nomination

Purpose and goals of the initiative

The overarching goals of the UTeach program at the University of Texas are to prepare high-quality, long-term STEM teachers, to help transform novice teachers into expert teachers, and to enhance STEM education through partnerships at all levels

As of fall 2016, 998 students have completed the UTeach Teacher Preparation program. The specific goals of UTeach Induction are to:

- Retain these new STEM teachers for at least five years.
- Transform novice teachers into expert teachers through continuous professional development and support.
- Improve student achievement scores by assuring that UTeach graduates have the training and resources needed to teach effectively.
- Develop leadership among recent UTeach graduates by providing one-on-one, intensive support to help meet their individual goals.

The specific goals of UTeach Outreach programs are to place undergraduate students in Austin-area schools teaching hands-on science lessons to inspire elementary and middle school students to love learning. The undergraduates work in pairs with two elementary classes for the entire semester and serve their community and underrepresented populations while earning course credit. Classroom teachers praise the lessons for their alignment with the topics being taught in the classroom during the school day. Many UTeach future teachers serve in training and leadership roles in these programs, gaining additional experience as interns.

How the partnership is organized to engage all stakeholders

As pre-service teachers, UTeach students are provided early and ongoing field experiences that allow them to develop teaching proficiency. UTeach students receive intensive coaching and constructive feedback about their lesson development and instructional practices from UTeach Master Teachers and Mentor Teachers working at the Austin-area campuses. The program has developed excellent working partnerships between UT and K-12 schools in the Austin area. The UTeach Induction program extends the support provided during a UTeach student's undergraduate education and supplements any efforts in place by the campuses where they work. More information can be found at <https://alumni.uteach.utexas.edu>

UTeach Professional Development is delivered by members of the nationwide network of UTeach programs and partners. The UTeach teacher preparation program's expertise in STEM education assures that in-service teachers receive the best professional learning possible. UTeach customizes professional development solutions for individual districts,

schools, and teachers, with the belief that teachers are intellectuals who are eager to improve their practice.

UTeach has developed a program of online professional learning designed for in-service teachers called the Academy of Innovative Teaching and Learning. The Academy provides online and on-demand courses that address topics repeatedly requested by teachers and administrators. The courses have been created by Master Teachers and vetted by university faculty and practicing teachers. All of the courses are aligned to the Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS), which focuses on providing continuous, timely, and formative feedback to educators. More information can be found at <https://pd.uteach.utexas.edu>

UTeach Outreach staff serve on the steering committee of the Greater Austin STEM Ecosystem, which is designed to maximize STEM opportunities for PreK-16 students. The Ecosystem supports our future teachers' efforts to fill the STEM workforce. Over the past 21 years, UTeach Outreach estimates that it has contributed more than 500,000 STEM contact hours with children. <https://outreach.uteach.utexas.edu/greater-austin-stem-ecosystem>

Activities undertaken to meet the goals

The UTeach Induction Program is constantly evolving to meet the needs of our graduates. Decisions on what kinds of workshops and other forms of induction support to offer are based on data collected from alumni surveys and discussions with mentors and administrators. From 2002-2016, the UTeach Induction Program has conducted approximately 150 events for induction teachers, 2,900 visits to the classrooms of induction teachers and delivered 764 New Teacher Starter Kits.

UTeach Professional Development provides customized support to schools. These options may include face-to-face training, online courses, blended support, and/or individual consulting. Some examples include: Project-Based Learning (PBL) Institute for secondary STEM teachers who were the first to implement PBL in their school district, support and training for teachers who were implementing a blended instructional model, and online professional development for teachers implementing flipped instruction models and 1:1 technology initiatives.

Since 2003, UTeach Outreach has conducted multiple initiatives to support K-12 partnerships.

Successes, by the numbers include:

- 30,000 individual contact hours with children for STEM lessons during the school day each year
- over 7,000 hours annually on STEM-related special events or presentations and after-school clubs
- over 1,300 university students serving the schools each year

- over 250 6th-10th grade students participating in six-week, full-day UT Prep STEM Camps in summer 2016 with scale-up partnership plans for 2017
- 100+ classroom teachers and future teachers trained each year in great instruction and rich content for out of school time
- 1,400 students introduced to STEM concepts each year on UTeach Outreach field trips to the University

How the impact of the partnership is monitored and assessed

UTeach students, volunteers and graduates are surveyed each year for feedback to make improvements. According to the fall 2015 survey results, 94% of respondents noted that they had received some sort of induction support, with 83% stating that the support was very useful. Anecdotally, the impact of the UTeach Induction program is evident in the number of administrators that reach out to UTeach to hire graduates.

In the past three years, more than 1,000 teachers have taken online courses offered by UTeach Professional Development, which also has provided approximately 200 face-to-face professional development sessions since 2002.

The successful STEM educational partnership strategies designed and employed by UTeach Outreach have been recognized across the UT campus, in Central Texas, and nationally.

A few examples:

- UTeach Outreach instructional staff serve on the advisory board for university-wide service learning initiatives.
- Austin Independent School District has enlisted in UTeach Outreach to develop popular after-school STEM clubs and has provided funds to support undergraduate mentors' in these clubs as coaches.
- Partner surveys with a cycle of improvement take place in every program every semester. All programs routinely score in the top 5% of ratings.
- UTeach Outreach summer camps consistently receive top evaluation ratings and are funded by partnerships.