NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2020

FEATURED GWTEACH MENTOR TEACHER

MS. HALLIE EICHEN

Hallie Eichen, or Ms. Eichen, is a favorite in the GWTeach community. But before becoming a wonderful mentor for GWTeach students, Ms. Eichen was a UTeach student herself.

"I decided to become a teacher in the UTeach program because I wanted to do something where I could have fun every day and make a difference," recalls Ms. Eichen. "When I lectured my chemistry professor after class one day about how not everyone in there wanted to be a doctor, some of us wanted to teach, he immediately introduced me to the University of Houston's UTeach program. And the rest is history!"

Ms Eichen's experience as a teachHOUSTON student only solidified her interests in education. After gaining teaching experience through her teachHOUSTON field work, Ms. Eichen ended up teaching in the same district where she student taught. She taught regular and pre-AP chemistry and was the team lead for regular chemistry section.

"As a UTeach student and Noyce scholar, there were so many opportunities- I got to travel across the nation and meet teachers and other UTeach students from all over," states Ms. Eichen. "I had the most supportive master teachers and UTeach became like a big family."

Ms. Eichen moved to Washington, DC in 2019, where she is now going into her second

year of teaching at DCPS's Wilson High School. For Ms. Eichen, moving meant meeting more members of the UTeach family!

"Now that I am mentoring GWTeach students, the feeling of being in a big family still hasn't gone away," said Ms. Eichen. "I love being a part of UTeach nation and am so excited to be mentoring a new generation of UTeach students! GWTeach students have some of the most creative, innovative ideas."

Last year, Ms. Eichen had the opportunity to mentor three students taking GTCH 3102: Classroom Interactions and each of them taught her something different and inspired her in different ways. Michael F. taught her some new ways to use technology in the classroom through an amazing simulation for Mitosis. Lucinda M. was so on top of everything with the students, inspiring Ms. Eichen to try some great classroom management techniques. Vanessa V. had such creative ideas to catch the students' attention, modeling mitosis with candy.

"One thing that I loved seeing was how inspired my students were after a GWTeach student taught," Ms. Eichen states. "My students kept asking when their GWTeacher was coming back to teach another lesson. Some of my favorite moments as a mentor teacher, was seeing a lesson playout successfully and how excited the GWTeach students got when it all worked out. I also loved seeing those “lightbulb” moments, of how to adjust a lesson quickly and adapt in a strenuous moment."

Even throughout the transition to virtual classrooms, Ms. Eichen has continued to search for new ideas and methods to bring to her classroom.

"Distance Learning has certainly had its challenging moments, but at the same time, I think it has pushed me to become a better teacher," relates Ms. Eichen. "It has inspired me to create a "flipped" classroom, which is something I had always thought about doing, but never really got around to. It has also really challenged me to think outside the box and become more creative. I know that even when we go back, there are a lot of components from my digital classroom that I will continue implementing."

This semester, Ms. Eichen is a mentor for GTCH 3103: Project-Based Learning. Though this semester's field experiences will look different from others, Ms. Eichen is confident her GWTeach students will grow as teachers.

"My piece of advice for GWTeach students entering the virtual classroom this semester is to be patient, trust your instincts, and don’t give up. We’re all learning and figuring out how to do distance learning. Don’t be afraid to try something new because you’ll never know until you try!"

Many thanks to Ms. Eichen and all of our amazing mentors for the work you do to support our students, in addition to your own!

UPCOMING EVENTS

GWTEACH READING & DISCUSSION GROUP

Tuesday, October 6th from 7pm-8pm

We invite all members of the GWTeach community to join us for a monthly reading and discussion group to explore how we can take action to promote equity, justice, and opportunity for all students.

This month we will discuss the the role and impact of teachers as antiracist educators. We will use the following two short articles as a basis for this conversation:

1. *What Anti-racist Teachers Do Differently* by Pirette McKamey
2. *Teachers Must Hold Themselves Accountable for Dismantling Racial Oppression* by Kelisa Wing

GWTEACH SPEAKS

Thursdays, from 6pm-7pm

In September, GWTeach community members Jordan Bower, Ms. Alicia Bitler, Fiona Walsh, and Faith Arthurs took to Instagram to talk about what GWTeach means to them. The speakers touched upon their experiences in DCPS schools, their favorite GWTeach events, and what makes GWTeach such a tight-knit community.

Head over to our Instagram (@gw_teach) every Thursday for more GWTeach Speaks!

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Barbara Lotze Scholarship for Future Physics Teachers: The American Association of Physics Teachers offers scholarships for future high school physics teachers. Undergraduate students enrolled, or planning to enroll, in a physics teacher preparation program are eligible to apply. Must be a U.S. citizen attending a U.S. college or university. Successful applicants receive a stipend of up to $2,000 and a complimentary AAPT Student Membership for one year, up to four years. **Applications can be submitted online at any time.**

VIRTUAL RESOURCES

GOOGLE SKETCHUP

Ever thought about bringing 3D shapes to your virtual inquiry classroom? If so, Google Sketchup is a free, 3D modelling platform that is simple and easy to use.

Using Google Sketchup could encourage students to interact with geometric shapes in a distance learning setting. Users can create shapes with specific dimensions to explore volume, surface area, and vertices. Looking for a more long-term lesson? Google Sketchup can access your students' inner architects by allowing them to design, collaborate, and view whole cities from multiple viewpoints at any time.

Google Sketchup can also be brought to the science classroom. A lesson on bacteria could become a study of a city's water system, prompting students to analyze how infrastructure prevents contaminents from entering drinking water supplies and causing water-borne diseases. Or, population biology could be explored in the context of human development, using Goolge Sketchup to illustrate habitat fragmentation.

Access Google Sketchup for free at https://www.sketchup.com/.

VIRTUAL LEARNING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The UTeach STEM Educators Association is providing a space for interactive conversations over blended, remote, and hybrid learning. Topics will be chosen based upon participant input. All USEA members, including UTeach alumni are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Upcoming sessions will occur on October 13th and October 27th.

GWTEACH BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

- Emily S.
- Elsie B.
- Riley A.
- Kara S.
- Sasha C.
- Liam S.

KNOWLES TEACHER INITIATIVE

The Knowles Teacher Initiative is accepting referrals for the Knowles Teaching Fellowship. Fellows receive mentoring and coaching from a staff of experienced teachers and teacher educators, financial support, and membership in a nationwide community of more than 450 mathematics and science educators.

To be eligible for a Knowles Teaching Fellowship, applicants must:

- have the capacity and determination to commit to teaching as their primary career;
- have earned a degree in a major related to the mathematics or science discipline they intend to teach between 2011 and September 1, 2021;
- have earned or will earn a valid state teaching credential/certificate/license that enables them to teach mathematics or science in grades 9–12 in the United States no earlier than January 1, 2016 and no later than September 1, 2021; and
- be entering their first or second year as teacher of record during the 2021–2022 academic year.

If you are interested in being referred for the Knowles Teacher Initiative, please reach out to a Master Teacher. **The application deadline is January 18, 2021.**

LATINO STUDENT FUND

The Latino Student Fund provides opportunities for a strong academic foundation for underserved PreK-12th grade students and their families to promote higher education and professional leadership. The organization provides year-round, out-of-school-time programs for low-income, at-risk students and their families with the goal of increasing levels of educational attainment in the community. If you are interested, fill out the interest form from GWU's EngageDC.

CONNECT WITH US!

GIVE TO GWTEACH

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