



# UTeach

WE PREPARE TEACHERS. THEY CHANGE THE WORLD.

June 5, 2020

Dear UTeach Family,

For too long, we and others at UTeach have witnessed injustices without summoning the courage to speak or the wisdom to know what to say. We were often afraid that even mentioning things out loud could make them worse. The murder of George Floyd and the national reaction to it compel us to break our silence. The injustices are not distant. They are right here around us.

We have always declared that a purpose of UTeach was to prepare all our graduates to teach every student. Yet not every student in our own classes felt that we heard them, or that we grappled with race and identity to prepare them for the challenging ways that these issues could manifest themselves in their own classrooms.

The faculty and staff of the UTeach program have a diversity that is unmatched in the College of Natural Sciences. This came about because UTeach provides a home that values science, teaching, equity, and service to the community alongside individual accomplishment. It is time to bring to bear the resources and strengths of our program to speak for and implement the changes we need to see at UT and in all the classrooms where our graduates will teach.

Here are some actions we will take

1. We ask the instructors of every UTeach course to explore how that course can appropriately deal with the intersection of math, science, race, and justice and make suitable modifications. These modifications should be reflected in our syllabi for the fall, and we will ask instructors to share their ideas with each other.
2. We will propose to the College of Natural Sciences creation of a new course on Race, Science, Ethics and Justice, led by UTeach instructors.
3. We will advocate within the College of Natural Sciences for the ideal of diversity as reflected in the hiring and compensation of faculty and staff and the accomplishments we celebrate and reward.
4. We welcome additional ideas from everyone in the UTeach community, by which we mean faculty, staff, and students alike. We will provide a forum where those ideas can be shared.

We are privileged to have you with us as we grapple with these challenges,

Michael Marder and Jill Marshall  
Co-Directors of UTeach