

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
UNIVERSITY CHARTER SCHOOL



The University of Texas at Austin
UT Charter School

Division of Campus and Community Engagement

Leadership Quotes



“Serving students across Texas, the UT-University Charter School, along with our facility partners, create a community of care that allows the youth we serve to learn more about the world in a safe and supportive environment.”

Dr. LaToya Smith

Vice President for Campus and Community Engagement

“Our school district has strategically built a network of community organizations that are dedicated to providing the most vulnerable children with the comprehensive services they need to be successful in their education and life.”

Dr. Melissa Chavez

Associate Vice President, the Division of Campus and Community Engagement;
Executive Director, the University of Texas Charter School System



“UT University Charter School has the experience and agility to incorporate a variety of programs, particularly in the areas of trauma-informed practices and serving students with special needs.”

Dr. Nicole Whetstone

Superintendent, UT Charter School System

The 2022-2023 School Year in Pictures

First-ever Bulldog Field Day at Methodist Children's Home



100th day of school at Helping Hand Home for Children



Dyslexia Services being provided to student



Pathways students compete in the Hays County Livestock Show

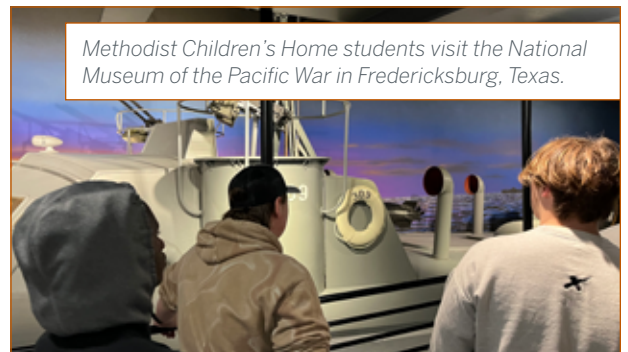


Settlement Home visits the San Antonio Zoo



Career Fair at the Texas NeuroRehab Center

Methodist Children's Home students visit the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, Texas.



Professional Development and Book Study

Every year, faculty and staff from UT Elementary and UT University Charter School partake in a year-long book study with an accompanying professional development program. These activities are some of the ways that our school districts remain leaders in incorporating best practices into our classrooms.

For the 2022-2023 school year, the book chosen was *What Happened to You? Conversations on Trauma, Resilience and Healing* by Bruce D. Perry, M.D. Ph.D. and Oprah Winfrey. The book study was led by Michelle Maikoetter. Ms. Maikoetter, who is a certified child trauma fellow in Dr. Perry's Neurosequential Model, serves as the chief program officer at Cal Farley's Boys Ranch in North Texas. At convocation in August 2022, Ms. Maikoetter laid the groundwork for the model that staff will be learning with a very engaging and participatory presentation.

Additionally, Andrea Menchaca, UT University Charter School social emotional coordinator, led workshops on Dr. Perry's



Michelle Maikoetter speaks at the UT Charter School System Convocation in August 2022

"Neurosequential Model in Education." Dr. Perry's model explains how our brains take in and respond to information and stimuli to provide guidance on how to best educate—not just children who have had traumatic experiences—but all children.

UT-UNIVERSITY CHARTER SCHOOL STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

STRATEGIC PLANNING KICK-OFF

UT-University Charter School began the process of updating our strategic plan with the goal of publishing the new plan in the fall of 2023. The committee is comprised of: UT-UCS Advisory Board Members, facility partner representatives, faculty and staff. The committee met several times throughout the year to provide their guidance on the goals and actions that UTUCS will follow when implementing new programs and projects.

Dr. LaToya Smith
Vice President for Campus and Community Engagement, UT Austin

Dr. Jennifer Maedgen
Sr. Associate Vice President for Campus and Community Engagement, UT Austin; and Board Member

Dr. Judy Loreda
Board Member

Chris Hutto
Legal Affairs, UT Austin

Vanessa Davila
Facility Partner, Helping Hand Home for Children

Amy Grisham
Facility Partner, Methodist Children's Home

Holly Engelman
Executive Principal, UT-UCS

Dr. Lucy Velez
Staff, UT-UCS

Andrea Menchaca
Staff, UT-UCS

Miguel Cabral
Teacher, UT-UCS

Jennifer Montoya
Staff/Parent, UT-UCS

Dr. Melissa Chavez
Associate Vice President, UT-UCS

Dr. Nicole Whetstone
Superintendent, UT-UCS

Dr. Autumn Leal
Assistant Superintendent, UT-UCS

Jenny Davis
CFO, UT-UCS

Council for Exceptional Children Conference



Shanika Ingram, Janina Roberts and Nicole Whetstone presenting at the CEC conference

In March 2023, Superintendent Dr. Nicole Whetstone, Director of Special Programs Dr. Janina Roberts and Special Education Program Facilitator Shanika Ingram presented at the Council for Exceptional Children's (CEC) National Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. The Council for Exceptional Children is the largest

international organization that shares and promotes research and professional development for educators who work with students with special needs. This conference is one of the largest gatherings for national leaders in special education.

Their session, titled: *Strategies for Supporting Students with Special Needs in Alternative Settings*, was the culmination of the research, best practices and experiences of the presenters. Dr. Whetstone, who is a member of the CEC, began the presentation by explaining the particulars of our school district: high mobility rates, frequency of disability types, gaps in the students' education continuum and the relatively new consideration of traumatic life experiences and their effect on a student's learning abilities.

Dr. Roberts shared the organizational structure and types of documents used to ensure a comprehensive delivery of services and to remain in compliance. Shanika focused on the professional development of first-year teachers and special education staff to help ensure that a strong foundation is created.

After their presentation, our three presenters learned that theirs was one of the most highly attended sessions. One attendee thanked the presenters and noted that addressing the needs of students in alternative settings is a topic that is not always covered, but very much needed. And while their focus was students in alternative settings, their guidelines can be used in traditional settings as well.

IN MEMORIAL

Randy Truett Jackson was a vocational and career education teacher at the Texas NeuroRehab Center (TNC) for 42 years. Randy had been teaching at the campus for many years, and when TNC partnered with UT-University Charter School in 2002, he officially joined UT-UCS. For his hard work and dedication to his students, TNC honored Randy by naming their Career Education Center after him when he retired in 2022.

Randy passed away on June 17, 2023. His kindness will forever be in the hearts of everyone he touched.



Randy Jackson

Accolades for UT University Charter School Faculty and Staff

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2023 DISTRICT AWARD WINNERS

Every spring, UT-UCS faculty and staff nominate colleagues to be recognized as the Teacher of the Year, Rookie of the Year and Staff of the Year. Additionally, we recognize one of our partner facilities for ensuring that education is a priority in their program and for the young people we serve. We also take this opportunity to name a District Administrator of the Year who provides excellence in leadership that benefits our entire district.

"I feel blessed to be able to work in an environment with high-level learners and motivated athletes who allow me to continue to grow as an educator, leader and member of the UT-UCS community."

TEACHER OF THE YEAR
Jaime Saal
Math and Science Teacher
at Olympia Hills



Ms. Saal (L) with Principal Kris Ann Schmidt (R)



Ms. Kedrowski (L) with Principal Maricela de la Cruz (R)

STAFF OF THE YEAR
Lisa Kedrowski
Instructional Assistant
at Laurel Ridge



Ms. Grona with Superintendent Nicole Whetstone (L) and Principal Melissa Ruffin (R)

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR
Stacy Grona
Agriculture Teacher
at Pathfinders



NEW TEACHER OF THE YEAR
Noelia Rodriguez
Special Education Teacher
at Cedar Crest

FACILITY PARTNER OF THE YEAR

"Methodist Children's Home is a consistent, supportive partner in many different ways. They collaborate with us to ensure good attendance and support us to provide fun educational experiences for students, like field trips and interesting labs. They provide open communication on a regular basis with all stakeholders so that school expectations are clearly understood throughout our entire community. Their staff is genuinely supportive and positive for both our students and teachers. Because of their commitment to the educational program and UT-UCS, the students thrive and when the students thrive, our whole community is a better place for everyone."

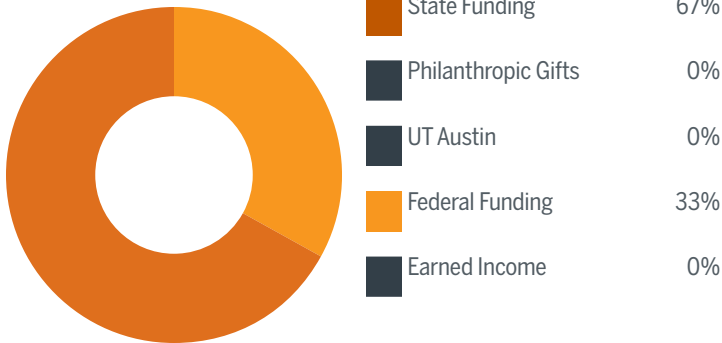


METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME IN WACO
Michelle Meister
Executive Principal, Methodist Children's Home

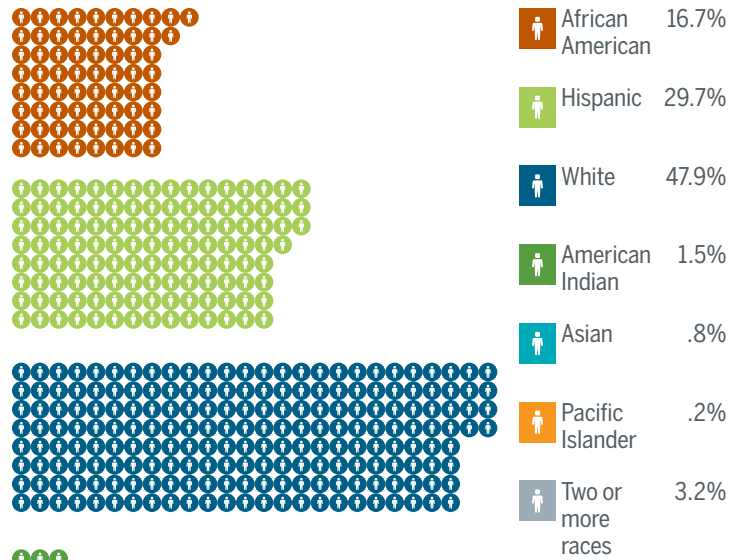


DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR
Holly Engleman
Executive Principal

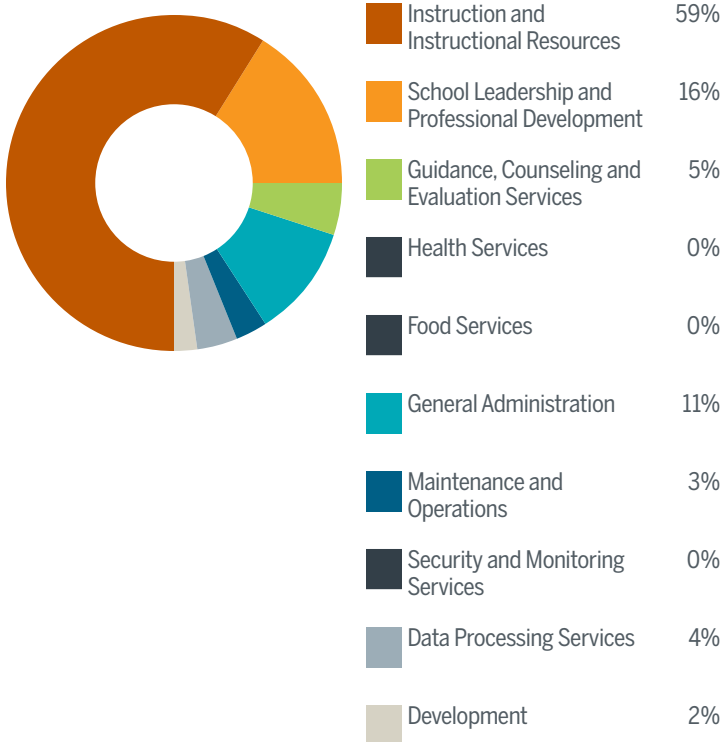
REVENUE



STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



EXPENSES



	NUMBER	NOTES
TOTAL STUDENTS	532	
STUDENT POPULATION		
Economically Disadvantaged	50%	
English Language Learners	3.9%	
Special Education	40.6%	TX is 8%
At-Risk	82.9%	
Foster Care	31.2%	TX is .3%

Financial information is based on the 2021-2022 audited financials. Student population information and the Texas Academic Performance Report. Additional financial and academic information is available on our website under the Public Information section.

UT-UCS MISSION

To provide access to effective educational opportunities for unique learners by creating safe environments and holding high expectations for all.

UT-UCS VISION

In full partnership with our communities, the University of Texas–University Charter School’s vision is to provide the best educational system for students with specialized learning needs in unique settings where each student will achieve academic, social and emotional success.

UT-UNIVERSITY CHARTER SCHOOL CAMPUS LOCATIONS

Austin Oaks Austin	Dell Children’s Medical Center Austin	Laurel Ridge San Antonio	The Refuge for DMST Restricted
Boysville Converse	DePelchin-Richmond Richmond	Methodist Children’s Home Waco	Safe Have Youth Ranch Hempstead
Cedar Crest Hospital Belton	Georgetown Behavioral Health Center Georgetown	Munday Restricted	Settlement Home Austin
Clearfork Academy North Fort Worth	Helping Hand Home for Children Austin	Olympia Hills Gymnastics Buda	SJRC Bulverde
Clearfork Academy South Cleburne	High Point San Antonio	Pathfinders Camp Driftwood	Texas NeuroRehab Center Austin
Cross Creek Hospital Austin		Pathways 3H Mountain Home	Unlimited Visions Aftercare Houston

VISIT US ONLINE AT
utcharter.org

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS–UNIVERSITY CHARTER SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD

Jennifer W. Maedgen, Ph.D.
Chair

Linda Addicks

David Anderson

Eboni Calbow, Ph.D.

Suzon Kemp

Judith Loreda, Ph.D.

Jessica Toste, Ph.D.

Nicole Whetstone, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Non-voting

Melissa M. Chavez, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Non-voting

