



Welcome to PAL Project

PAL Program

Project PAL is a National Professional Development (NPD) grant (\$2.57 million) for 120 certified in-service teachers (three cohorts of 40 teachers each), who serve on campuses with large numbers of English learners (ELs), with the intent to improve instruction in order to improve ELs academic achievement.

The in-service teachers will meet high professional standards as they receive dual (two) advanced professional certifications in bilingual or English as second language (ESL) education and leadership.



PAL Students' Success Stories

Aggie Term Student and more..



Diana Rios (cohort 1): I have always been in HISD since arriving to the United States from Colombia. I was interning at one of the schools throughout the Summer while in the PAL program and I was told that I may have an opportunity to serve as an assistant principal once I graduate. One day I got a call from my former boss who was my principal and told me that a position had opened up. She told me that I should apply and that she believed I was the right person for the position. I had a lot of fears of whether I had all the skills to actually do the job. However, I realized that I was already appraising and coaching 15 teachers, in charge of testing for grades 3-5, and also serving as the tutorials coordinator.

My former boss told me that she had seen me grow tremendously over the past year and that with these positions you won't ever feel like you are fully prepared for them. So I decided to apply. As part of the application process I had to create a powerpoint that included my vision for the school. I am happy that I had already done this during the PAL program as it helped me during my interview, and also helped me understand why the vision I had for the school was important. I also had to submit work from my current job to show how I promote cultural diversity in my school, and interview with two administrators who recorded the interview for the chief of schools. Afterward, I interviewed with the chief of schools and he offered me the job. Overall, I feel very blessed to have been given this opportunity.

Summer AP for the District

Kimberlyn Webb (cohort 1)

I was proud to be named as the Summer School Assistant Principal in my district. I know that this may not be a big thing to others, but I am very proud to have the opportunity. It is an Internship, so I am not on payroll, but having the opportunity to lead and utilize my developing leadership skills are important to me. I am extremely humbled and honored to have this opportunity.



Leading EL Writing Committee

Brooke Burns (cohort 1)

While enrolled in the PAL Program, I developed an EL Writing Committee on my campus (Scott Johnson Elementary School) in Huntsville, TX. Under my guidance, the committee and myself focused on how to better serve our second language learners pertaining to writing. I composed a writing model that used strategies specifically to meet the needs of all ELs. This model not only allowed ELs to become better writers, but also equipped teachers with the necessary tools to successfully teach writing skills to second language learners. I almost had participation from every grade level, and also special education teachers. My goal for next year is to have representation from all grade levels, and then the district.

Bilingual Academic Night

Maricela Jimenez (cohort 1)

I was able to implement for the first time a Bilingual Academic Night at our campus. It is the first one in the district we are hoping to create one night at each school. We are currently planning next year's meeting. I have also been part and accomplished the first Administration Leadership Cohort for the Waller ISD district and have been invited along with my peers to stay and continue to part 2.

PAL Events

AEL Training

PAL-Cohort 2 students are going to be on campus to attend the Advanced Educational Leadership Training in February 2020 (exact dates to be determined). The students will have the opportunity to share leaderships ideas. Dr. Beverly Irby, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs; Dr. Jean Madsen, K-12 Program Chair; Dr. Carl Fahrenwald, and Dr. Webb will join the training and the meeting.



268 Exam Preparation

In February (Saturday to be announced) PAL will host special session of Principal Certification Exam 268. Dr. Elaine Wilmore will be the guest speaker for this session. She will provide information and instruction regarding the 268 exam with PAL students.



Faculty Spotlight

Dr. David D. Jimenez: is an Assistant Research Scientist with Texas A&M University (TAMU), College Station, TX. He received his Ph.D. in Educational Psychology with an emphasis in Bilingual Education from TAMU in May, 2017. He holds a state teaching and principal certification in Texas, and is currently the lead coordinator of project Empowering Teachers of English Language Learners (ETELL) Dr. Jimenez also serves as a visiting faculty member for the department of Educational Psychology, and teaches courses related to research in bilingual education, teacher action research, and English language learning.

Dr. Jimenez teaches two of the courses that students take during their first semester in project PAL. In conversation with Dr. Jimenez, he provided the following details about the courses:

BIED 614: This course provides an overview of bilingual curriculum development for principal leaders that work with English learners. Students have the opportunity to audit curriculum development so that they can gain an understanding of how to look for holes in current curricula, and prepare them to develop future curricula that are rigorous and are aligned with the state standards and competencies.

BIED 632: This course focuses on research in second language education. It goes hand in hand with the BIED 614 course as students will be asked to create an Action Research Plan (ARP) that fills in the holes they discovered during their curriculum audit. The ARP is designed to then improve and have an impact on student achievement.



Dr. David D. Jimenez

Dr. Barbara Polnick: is a full Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership at Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas. She holds an Ed.D. in Educational Administration from Texas A&M University and a Master's in Reading from Sam Houston State University. Her expertise lies in writing and evaluating grants, leading school improvement initiatives, and curriculum alignment. She has 47 publications (peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, textbooks), and has delivered over 60 national presentations. Dr. Polnick is an especially proud recipient of the Texas A&M University College of Education and Human Development Outstanding Alumni Award.



Dr. Barbara Polnick serves as one of the mentors/coaches for the Video Mentoring and Coaching groups. In an interview with Dr. Polnick, she explained her approach to VMC and common questions and themes that arise during the meetings:

The VMC provides an emotional support in which students can ask questions and bring up challenges they are encountering personally or in their organizations. I get a lot of questions regarding career decisions and I provide support and guidance through this process and assist them in identifying their goals, as well as brainstorming solutions to problems. I try to steer away from questions and answers that their professors could provide better answers to. However, during the VMC meetings I do provide individual suggestions relating to course assignments to help students succeed academically during the program.

Dr. Barbara Polnick

TAMU Academic Resources

TAMU Libraries

Texas A&M University provides excellent services for graduate students through its libraries. Graduate students can have access to several databases where you can read and download documents online. You can also borrow paper and digital references that help you excel in your academic life.

<https://library.tamu.edu/>



TAMU Writing Center



As graduate students, you sometimes feel challenged to ensure that your writing meets the academic writing standards and the expectations of your professors. Don't worry! TAMU writing center can help through various options. You can submit your writing document and get feedback from writing consultants. The good news is, you can submit your work electronically and you can even meet virtually, if you need it as well!

<https://writingcenter.tamu.edu/>

Upcoming Conferences

University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA)

The 34th UCEA convention will be held on from November 18-22, 2020, at the Sheraton hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

<http://www.sheratonpuertoricohotelcasino.com/>

<http://www.ucea.org/>



American Educational Research Association (AERA)

The 2020 Annual Meeting will be held April 17 - 21, 2020, in San Francisco, California. The theme is "[The Power and Possibilities for the Public Good When Researchers and Organizational Stakeholders Collaborate](#)." Please [click here](#) to watch a video of AERA President Vanessa Siddle Walker discussing the 2020 Annual Meeting theme.

<https://www.aera.net/Events-Meetings/Annual-Meeting/2020-Annual-Meeting-Theme>





Recruitment for Cohort #3 will open on April 1st, 2020

PAL SCHOLARSHIP

Upon university acceptance in the Educational Administration Master's Program, scholarship offers in the amount is \$9,000 will be applied based on the following selection criteria:

- GPA (2.5 or higher)
- Face-to-Face interview
- Essay writing sample at interview
- Experience in aspects of campus and community leadership
- Experiences in working with English learners and economically challenged students
- Professional letters of recommendation

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Dr. Nahed Abdelrahman
Project Coordinator
nrahman@tamu.edu
979-862-4407

Dr. Beverly Irby
Faculty Sponsor
beverly.irby@tamu.edu

Melissa Kuhlmann
Academic Advisor
mkuhlmann@tamu.edu

Preparing Academic Leaders (PAL) are new federal U.S. Department of Education research grants awarded to the Education Leadership Research Center and the Center for Research and Development in Dual Language and Literacy Acquisition, College of Education and Human Development, Texas A&M University.

Participants who complete the program and participate in the research activities will earn a Master's degree (M.Ed.) in Educational Administration, TExES Principal Certification (Exam #268 and PASL), and TExES ESL Teacher Certification (Exam #154).

The M.Ed. program is formatted as an online cohort model with an accelerated pace of four semesters (including summer) with some face-to-face meetings, and participants may remain in a full-time teaching role. A residency model is

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Texas elementary teacher certification
- Serving on high-need campuses inclusive of English learners (ELs)
- Two years of full-time classroom teaching experience
- Desire to continue to serve on high-need campuses
- Application fee (nonrefundable \$65 for domestic applicants and \$90 for international applicants)
- Initial Essay
- Official transcripts
- Three letters of professional recommendation
- Professional résumé

IN PROJECT PAL, WE PREPARE FUTURE ACADEMIC LEADERS WITH FEDALITY