



West Dallas

West Dallas STEM School News

Get the latest news on the West Dallas STEM School Partnership



This is an unprecedented time in history. The COVID-19 pandemic is having an impact on the health of our loved ones, the businesses we rely upon, the health of the global economy, and the way we live our daily lives. As we continue to navigate through these unique and uncertain challenges, we want to assure all our partners that we are keeping focus on opening the school as planned. We are also striving to accommodate our partners' needs in these unsettling times.



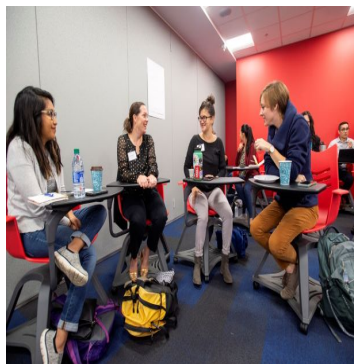
Project Manager On Board



Katrina Martinez joined the SMU team March 30. She will work as the project manager for the WDSS partnership in the Teaching & Learning Department. Katrina entered the field of education in 2005 serving as a bilingual elementary educator for seven years in Dallas Independent School District.

Throughout her profession, Katrina has served urban, under resourced populations in a multitude of capacities including director of a PK-8 project-based learning public charter, and director of elementary curriculum and instruction overseeing bilingual program and problem-based learning implementation and support. Her most recent work with PBL Works and New Tech Network includes collaboratively supporting district and school systems to disrupt and transform traditional environments to more innovative, learner-centered programs. [Read more.](#)

Nonprofits Selected to Participate in WDSS Cohort II Experience



A second cohort of nonprofits has been selected to participate in capacity building within the West Dallas STEM School Partnership. The relationship building, learning, and skills these organizations experience within the cohort will support their ability to effectively engage in the West Dallas STEM School should they be chosen as providers when the school opens.

During the nine-month cohort experience, organizations will identify problems of practices and work together to solve those challenges across the organizations. With continuous improvement as the organizing framework for professional learning within the STEM school, cohort participants will have the opportunity to engage early in the practice--developing language, routines, and structures to solve problems systematically and through iterative cycles. Each organization will receive sub-grantee funds to support their participation in the cohort.

[See participants.](#)

Dallas Business Journal Highlights Builders of Hope CDC



Dallas Business Journal recently featured one of WDSS community partners, [Builders of Hope Community Development Corporation](#)'s current projects on its cover. This equitable development was made possible through a \$6 million TREC Community Fund by J.P. Morgan Chase Pro Neighborhoods Grants.

The grant focuses on three historically disinvested Dallas communities including West Dallas. Builders of Hope CDC serves as the partner in the grant, and plans to build 20 affordable units and 50 multi-family units. Builders of Hope was recently approved to build 20 additional affordable housing units in a \$3.6M project in a nearby West Dallas census tract. [Read more.](#)

SMU Presents at Annual AACTE Conference



On February 29, Simmons Dean Stephanie L. Knight, Yetunde Zannou, and Erin Crosby from SMU presented on the West Dallas STEM School partnership at the Annual Conference of the American Association for Colleges of Teacher Education in Atlanta. The presentation, entitled “Partnering to Support Learning,” highlighted the development of the partnership from various perspectives, beginning with early project aims through the Year 2 Partner Survey. The team discussed key learnings from the data and ideas to analyze the WDSS partnerships and other similar multi-sector partnerships.

More updates coming soon in WDSS news...