Dr. Michael Marder, Executive Director of UTeach and Professor of Physics

Michael Marder oversees the national expansion of UTeach, is a professor of physics, and serves as a co-director of UTeach at the University of Texas at Austin. Marder is a physics researcher and a member of the Center for Nonlinear Dynamics, internationally known for its experiments on chaos and pattern formation and for many years ranked the number 1 graduate physics program in the nation by U.S. News and World Report.

He is involved in a wide variety of theoretical, numerical, and experimental investigations, ranging from studies of plasticity and phase transformations to experiments on sand ripples at the sea bottom. He specializes in the mechanics of solids, particularly the fracture of brittle materials. He has also published two textbooks: a graduate text called Condensed Matter Physics and an undergraduate text called Research Methods for Science.

Dr. Lawrence Abraham, Co-Director of UTeach Austin and Associate Dean in the School of Undergraduate Studies

Lawrence Abraham is Associate Dean in the School of Undergraduate Studies and a co-director of UTeach at the University of Texas at Austin. He teaches courses in the Department of Kinesiology and Health Education related to neural and mechanical aspects of the control of human movement. His research uses advanced techniques to measure or calculate contributions of individual muscles and groups of muscles, as well as the interactions of self-generated and externally applied forces. Applications are found in clinical rehabilitation, sports, and microgravity settings. At the graduate level, Abraham participates in two university-wide interdisciplinary programs: neuroscience and biomedical engineering.

Kimberly Hughes, Director of the UTeach Institute

Kimberly Hughes was a member of the original team that designed the UTeach Institute’s approach to program replication and has played an integral role in developing the organization since 2006. Hughes’s professional career in education began with high school science teaching. She earned her M.Ed. in curriculum and instruction from the University of Texas at Austin in 1997 and joined the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL) in 2001. While at SEDL, she led the design and development of professional development courses and technology support tools for teachers, administrators, school districts, and state departments of education.

Hughes provides strategic leadership for the growth and development of the Institute. She supervises all grant activities and is responsible for directing project personnel, planning and executing activities in support of grant deliverables, and communicating with funders on budgeting and grant requirements.

Pamela Romero, Associate Director of the UTeach Institute

Pamela Romero brings years of experience in planning and managing evaluation projects to the UTeach Institute, where she oversees the development and implementation of comprehensive program evaluation services. Romero holds an M.S. in community and regional planning from the University of Texas at Austin. From 1998 to 2008, Romero worked with an education consulting company that she co-founded—Academic Information Management, Inc.—which designed and managed evaluations of a variety of education programs. While employed with the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB), she provided technical assistance and conducted workshops for Texas school board members on education issues. Romero has worked with state agencies, nonprofit and for-profit organizations, universities, and school districts and has a strong understanding of various educational and political settings.