Leadership Bios

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 member of the Center for Nonlinear Dynamics, internationally known for its experiments on chaos and pattern formation. He specializes in the mechanics of solids, particularly the fracture of brittle materials. He also specializes in statistical physics, with recent applications to educational data. He has published two textbooks: The graduate text *Condensed Matter Physics* and the undergraduate text *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 is a Professor in the Department of Kinesiology and Health Education and teaches courses related to neural and mechanical aspects of the control of human movement. His research uses advanced techniques to measure or calculate contributions of neural activation, individual muscles and groups of muscles, as well as the interactions of self-generated and externally applied forces. His research has been applied 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, M.Ed., is Director of the UTeach Institute, where she oversees national expansion of the UTeach secondary STEM teacher preparation program. She was a member of the original team formed to design the Institute’s approach to program replication and has played an integral role in developing the organization since 2006. Kim has strategically expanded the work of the UTeach Institute to address national STEM education challenges. She founded the UTeach STEM Educators Association (USEA), a professional association dedicated to developing STEM literacy for all students through innovation and excellence in university-based teacher education. In 2015, she launched a national UTeach computer science education initiative to expand access to high quality computer science coursework to teachers and students in Texas and nationally. Kim’s professional career in education began with high school science teaching. She went on to earn 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.

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.