

2022 TRTF Beginning Teacher Scholarship Winners

Allison Divin (Tarleton State University), Major area of study: Elementary Education. She plans to enhance her students' learning by allowing hands-on experience and embracing choice within her students' learning. Allison was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Vicki Cook of Erath County ARSP.

Britni Sanchez (Texas A&M University—Commerce), Major area of study: Interdisciplinary Studies. The main objective for her classroom will be to cultivate a safe and welcoming learning environment that ensures all her students' needs are met and all will be able to meet their full potential. Britni was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Paula Massey of Northeast Hunt County Chapter.

Cecilia Herrera (University of Texas—Permian Basin), Major area of study: EC-6 with Bilingual and ESL Supplement. Her aspiration for her students is that they practice higher order thinking so they can problem-solve, connect, plan, and experience knowledge through questioning and analysis. Cecilia was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Brenda Young.

Charis Rohrs (LeTourneau University), Major area of study: Elementary Education. She plans to create active and engaged learners who are pushed to think critically in her classroom with hands-on learning methods. Charis was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Trudy Matus of Hardin County RTA.

Corinne Erb (University of North Texas), Major area of study: Interdisciplinary Studies. She wants to act as a guide to her students' curiosities and learning and encourage them to have student-led discussions. Corrine was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Lou Todd of Lewisville Area RSPA.

Elizabeth Mjos (Texas State University), Major area of study: Interdisciplinary Studies. She envisions a learning environment adaptable to each students' unique schema, personality, and personal learning needs, in addition to one that lets students learn essential knowledge and skills in a fun, autonomous way. Elizabeth was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Mindy Long.

Gabriel Cunningham (Texas A&M University—Commerce), Major area of study: Interdisciplinary Studies. He believes that diversifying how you teach is useful in ensuring that each student receives the best chance at learning. Gabriel was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Paula Massey of Northeast Hunt County Chapter.

Jesseca Flanagan (Texas A&M University—Commerce), Major area of study: Interdisciplinary Studies. Her vision for teaching is to create an environment within her classroom where all her students feel safe and welcome. Jesseca says when students feel welcome in a classroom and know their teacher cares about them, they are more receptive to learning. Jesseca was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Paula Massey of Northeast Hunt County Chapter.

Jessica Diosdado (University of Houston—Downtown), Major area of study: Biology/Physical Science. Her vision for public education is to motivate all students to apply science positively in their everyday lives. She believes student-centered instruction is most beneficial for students. Jessica was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Faith Hiller of Humble Area RTA.

Kaitlyn Pipkin (Abilene Christian University), Major area of study: Special Education. One of her main visions is to create a safe space for students by creating a predictable and structured classroom that is also welcoming. One way she intends to do this is by creating a “Cool Down” corner, which is designed for students feeling overwhelmed or stressed and who need a minute to breathe. Kaitlyn was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Leanne Phillips.

Katia Estrada (University of Texas—San Antonio), Major area of study: Interdisciplinary Studies. She plans to center her classroom learning on student collaboration and conversations. She wants to build confidence in her students to make them lifelong learners. Katia believes that children need to feel safe and good about themselves so they successfully can focus on learning. Katia was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Antoinette Connaughton of Brownsville Area RSEA.

Krystal Reyna (University of Texas—Rio Grande Valley), Major area of study: Interdisciplinary Studies EC-6. She aspires for each student to have the opportunity to develop a curiosity of learning, discover their interests, and grow in their love of learning. Krystal was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Antoinette Connaughton of Brownsville Area RSEA.

Erin LaFleur-Bailey (Sam Houston State University), Major area of study: Education. She will create a positive classroom culture by being inclusive. One way she plans on doing this is to have a bulletin board where she and her students will post pictures of their families. Erin was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Michelle Parker.

Litzy Aleman (University of Texas—Rio Grande Valley), Major area of study: Interdisciplinary Studies. She believes it is important to offer students opportunities to grow inside and outside of the classroom and to make sure her classroom is student-centered. Litzy was referred for the scholarship by TRTA member Antoinette Connaughton of Brownsville Area RSEA.

Magali Salazar (Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi), Major area of study: Interdisciplinary Studies. She believes it is her mission to mold students into setting high expectations for themselves and to create an environment in which they can achieve their goals. She plans to make learning more engaging by incorporating hands-on learning and group lessons. Magali was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Lupita Hurst of Corpus Christi Area RTA.

Margaret Hess (Abilene Christian University), Major area of study: Middle School Science Education. She plans on creating many Project Based Learning (PBL) lessons for her classroom, which allows students to build teamwork skills, research topics that are relevant to their community, connect classroom content to their lives, and display understanding of the content in a way that caters to their abilities. Margaret was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Larry Hess of Lubbock-South Plains RTA.

Meridith Cooper (University of Texas—Austin), Major area of study: Biology. She plans on creating many Project Based Learning (PBL) lessons for her classroom, which allows students to collaborate with their peers and use creativity to solve real-world problems related to the lesson content. Meridith was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Darlene Bealmear of Rockwall Area RTA.

Rylie Roark (University of Texas—Austin), Major area of study: History. Her goal is to inspire her students to follow their dreams and instill confidence in them that they can achieve anything to

which they set their minds. Rylie was referred for this scholarship by TRTA member Sara Post Meyer of De Witt County RSP.

Staci Robinson (Trinity University), Major area of study: Geoscience. Her vision for public education in Texas is garnering equity in the school and classroom by empowering students with their potential. She wants to bring experiences and memories to her students with science experiments, outdoor treks, and field trips, helping them to make scientific connections in their everyday lives. Staci was referred to this scholarship by TRTA member Brenda Teykl of Alvin Area RSP.