

Letter from Joan Pedro Dean, College of Education



Dear Students, Faculty, Alumni and Friends,

I am thrilled to launch our first publication of the College of Education Newsletter. Our spring semester was off to a great start and as we reflect on this past academic year, we immediately think of how COVID-19 pandemic has certainly changed our lives, and granted us many unique experiences over the past year. This crisis prompted us to make a quick transition to fully online classes, while our faculty and staff worked remotely and actively provided both academic and administrative support to ensure the well-being of our UHCL community as we continued to deliver the highest level of education to students.

As we all adjusted to this new normal, we have assisted our students both financially and with technology through internal and external financial resources. Additionally, we are still engaging our informative professional development initiatives that included the Teacher Mentoring Collaborative and Diversity Initiative with resources that are available on our website to the in-service teachers, and current students.

If you are a College of Education, UHCL graduate who would like to share your success story with our us, please reach out to Alumni Relations in the University Advancement office at <https://www.uhcl.edu/alumni/update-your-information>.

We hope you are all staying healthy and safe, and we look forward to seeing you soon, whether virtually or in person.

Sincerely,

Joan Pedro, PhD
Dean, College of Education

College of Education Welcomes Faculty and Staff

This year we welcomed new faculty and staff to the College of Education!



Dr. Jennifer Grace,
*Assistant Professor, Educational
Leadership*



Ms. Cordeen Hudson,
Senior Certification Officer

College of Education Board of Advisors



We have a newly appointed Advisory Board of 14 distinguished members of the Community who have worked this year to forward the goals of COE.

College of Education Doctoral Students Shine in the Community



Dr. Tanya Edwards,
South Area Middle School
Principal of the Year in the
Houston Independent
School District!



Dana Green
has been named principal
of Nolan Ryan Jr. High!



Victoria Garza
has been named Assistant
Principal of the Year at
Galena Park ISD!

UHCL Launches the UHCLTeach Program, A University Strategic Priority

- UH-Clear Lake collaborated with Uteach Institute to launch our UHCLTeach program, a secondary (7-12) teaching certification program for STEM Majors. The institute provides comprehensive support for UHCLTeach including curriculum, technical assistance, evaluation, content expertise and training.
- UHCL College of Science and Engineering and College of Education collaborated, in partnership with area independent school districts to launch the program in Fall 2020 and we are the second Uteach model university for the region. Superintendents from 14 area school districts formally endorsed the establishment of UHCLTeach.
- UHCLTeach benefits Texas high school students with an increased number of highly qualified STEM teachers in their classrooms.

COE Amplifies Diversity and Inclusion Efforts

- **2020 was a challenging time of confusion and unrest.** As educators we respond to social injustices and what our roles were as educators or parents, citizens and socializing agent. We witnessed a racial reckoning in the US against the back drop of a global pandemic. Faculty of the College of Education saw a need to help one another heal during this troubling time. We worked together to develop a platform that created spaces for faculty to share their personal narratives and feelings as a way to begin the healing process. A faculty-led online forum with an information session led by Dr. Pedro and Dr. Hart identified some ways in which we could move forward in efforts to highlight diversity and inclusion in our spaces, particularly, at the university.
- One such initiative was the creation of the **COE Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Anti-racism (I.D.E.A.) Resource page** compiled by Dr. Lisa Jones and Ms. Michelle Lane and is found on the college's website. This website provides valuable information on carefully selected and vetted reading materials and websites to help users learn more about facilitating discussions or teaching on such topics as equity, inclusion, anti-racism/racism, and implicit biases.
- In our commitment to prepare educators who are skilled professionals dedicated to making meaningful and transformative impacts on the community and the world, **we will continue to develop activities that support a more inclusive and diverse teaching and learning environment.**

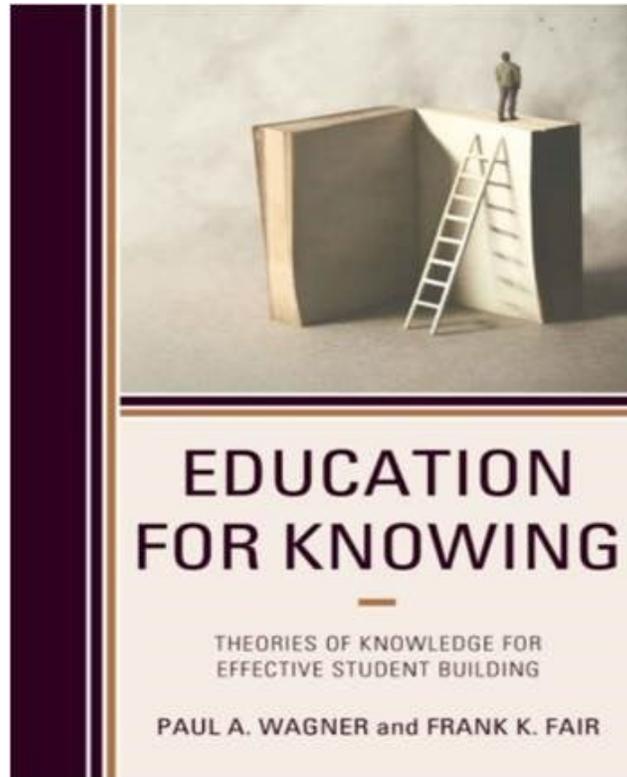
College of Education Accomplishments



COE won the first College Cup from The Center for teaching and Learning for having the most faculty using the resources to inform and innovate their teaching. Bravo to the faculty who won this award for COE.

Natandra Gradney and Stephen Gruber received the SERA 2021 Deans' Award for their outstanding work on their Doctoral Projects for UHCL-COE.

Faculty Publishes during COVID-19



During this year of the pandemic, our resilient faculty in COE published 18 articles and one faculty produced a text.

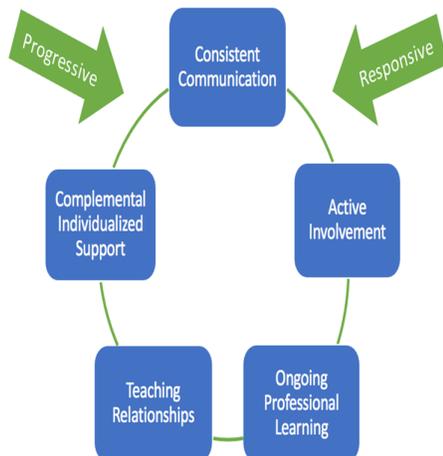
Wagner, P., & Fair, F. (2021). *Education for knowing: Theories of knowledge for effective student building.* New York, NY: Rowman & Littlefield.

COE Receives Grant to Enroll Masters Students

With the receipt of the PPHOA Grant, the **Exploring Careers in Teaching (EXCITE)** Scholarship was formed with the intent of increasing the number of certified teachers from Hispanic and/or Low-Income backgrounds through enrollment into the UHCL College of Education – MAT & EDCI program.

- Create a community of support and success from Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) and Doctorate of Education in Curriculum & Instruction (EDCI) from recruitment to graduation and beyond.
- EXCITE provide financial, academic and social support to enhance a student's graduate experience.
- Free Financial Literacy and Career Preparedness Workshops.
- The end goal is to increase the number of trained and certified teachers in Houston, TX.

College of Education New Teacher Mentoring Collaborative



- College of Education is the home to programs, research, and scholarship aimed at supporting K-12 educators, students, and families during remote instruction.
- Expert Faculty from the COE provide tips for parents and children during COVID 19.

Awards and Honors



Dr. Preeti Jain, assistant professor in Early Childhood Education, was named the Teacher Educator of the Year by TXAEYC Awards because of her extraordinary contributions to the field of Early Care and Education.



Dr. Renee Lastrapes, associate professor of Education Research and Assessment, was selected as the University of Houston-Clear Lake's SAKS fellow.



Dr. John Decman, associate professor of Educational leadership, received the Texas Council of Professors of Educational Administration 2019 Educator of the Year award on Jan. 27 at the TCPEA Midwinter Conference in Austin.

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