Learning to be a Successful **Mathematics Teacher: Reflections on Two Teacher Education Models** Nicholas Wasserman, Marymount School Edward Ham, Bakersfield College **UTeach Institute Annual Conference 2011**



NEW YORK, NEW YORK



CLOSET-SIZED KITCHENS NEW YORK, NEW YORK



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EVEN SMALLER NEW YORK, NEW YORK



NARROW AISLES NEW YORK, NEW YORK



CARRYING GROCERIES NEW YORK, NEW YORK



SIDEWALK TRAFFIC NEW YORK, NEW YORK



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UMBRELLA GRAVEYARD NEW YORK, NEW YORK



CROWDED SUBWAYS NEW YORK, NEW YORK



SUMMER HEAT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Transitioning to NYC Living:

WHAT TYPES OF PEOPLE THRIVE IN A CITY LIKE THIS?
HOW MIGHT YOU PREPARE TO LIVE IN A CITY LIKE THIS?
BECOMING A NEW YORKER...

The Transition to Teaching BEGINNING SECONDARY MATHEMATICS TEACHERS

WHAT?

DOES GOOD TEACHING LOOK LIKE? DO GOOD TEACHERS DO THAT HELP THEM SUCCEED? **HOW?** IS GOOD TEACHING DEVELOPED? CAN IT BE IMPLEMENTED?

WHEN?

ARE ATTRIBUTES OF GOOD TEACHING DEVELOPED, LEARNED OR EXPERIENCED?

Research Questions

1. How do beginning mathematics teachers define "success" in regard to their first year teaching?

- 2. To what factors or experiences would beginning mathematics teachers attribute the success of their first year teaching?
- 3. To what degree were these significant attributes or experiences learned pre-teacher education program, during program, or post-program?



Beginning teachers, mathematics graduates from: December 2007, May 2008, December 2008, or May 2009

37 out of the possible 49 UTeach graduates participated 75% response rate

28 out of the possible 35 LAUSD graduates participated 80% response rate

Population

California Alternative



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN NATURAL SCIENCES

Population	Length of Program
California Alternative	
UNIFIED SCHOOD ISTRICT	4 weeks plus during 1 st year
Texas Traditional	
INATURAL SCIENCES	4 years

Population	Length of Program	Program Field experience
California Alternative	4 weeks plus during 1 st year	~10 days
Texas Traditional UTeach THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN NATURAL SCIENCES	4 years	~115 days (Student Teaching, and 4 other field requirements)

Population	Length of Program	Program Field experience	Typical Age
California Alternative	4 weeks plus during 1 st year	~10 days	Graduates and Career changers
Texas Traditional UTeach THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN NATURAL SCIENCES	4 years	~115 days (Student Teaching, and 4 other field requirements)	Recent Graduates

Population	Length of Program	Program Field experience	Typical Age	Math Major required
California Alternative	4 weeks plus during 1 st year	~10 days	Graduates and Career changers	No
Texas Traditional UTeach THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN NATURAL SCIENCES	4 years	~115 days (Student Teaching, and 4 other field requirements)	Recent Graduates	Yes

Population	Length of Program	Program Field experience	Typical Age	Math Major required	Working environment
California Alternative	4 weeks plus during 1 st year	~10 days	Graduates and Career changers	No	Title 1 Schools
Texas Traditional UTeach THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN NATURAL SCIENCES	4 years	~115 days (Student Teaching, and 4 other field requirements)	Recent Graduates	Yes	Various

- Teacher was genuinely passionate about education
- Large improvement in students' test scores
- The class was disorganized at times
- Students did not especially like or dislike the teacher
- Lessons were dry, but mostly informative
- Colleagues did not mention departmental involvement

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Administrators had good evaluations of the teacher
Slight improvement in students' test scores
Did not show much enthusiasm while teaching
Highly collaborative with other colleagues
Differentiated instruction for different types of learners
Class had minimal student involvement; very orderly

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- •Lessons were very engaging for students
- No notable improvement in students' test scores
- The class ran smoothly, very few disruptions
- Students liked the teacher
- Teacher showed signs of growing professionally
- Did not work well with other teachers; teachers feedback was mediocre

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1. Defining Success

1=Most Important; 2=Important; 3=Least Important		UTeach Beginning Teachers (n = 37)		LAUSD Beginning Teachers (n=28)	
Q	Attribute	Mean	StdDev	Mean	StdDev
1g	GOOD CLASSROOM LEARNING ENVIRONMENT – including discipline, management, participation, etc.	1.27	0.51	1.11	0.31
1b	Creating and implementing ENGAGING LESSONS for all students	1.43	0.65	1.50	0.64
1h	A belief in yourself as a teacher to GROW PROFESSIONALLY	1.68	0.71	1.57	0.63
1d	Having GOOD RAPPORT with students	1.68	0.72	1.61	0.63
1c	Participating in productive COLLABORATION with colleagues	1.76	0.58	2.46	0.69
1a	Using DIFFERENTIATION to cater to all student learning needs	1.86	0.54	2.21	0.74
1e	POSITIVE FEEDBACK on your teaching from colleagues, administrators, students, etc.	1.97	0.50	2.04	0.74
1f	GOOD STUDENT TEST SCORES relative to the school average	2.38	0.55	2.00	0.90

Defining Success

Without a good classroom environment, students "won't feel comfortable to learn," and teachers won't be able to "show their enthusiasm..." [various]

"my hands on learner...needs to touch a conics section to understand...and trying to incorporate all those learning styles at least somewhere in your unit...I think you're reaching all your learners then." It is the process of engaging students, that while not absolutely necessary for learning, "maximize[s] their learning." [Abby]

...there's such a fine line between controlled chaos and complete chaos...So I'm big on the cooperative learning, but its got to be done in such a fashion... maintaining that classroom management I think allows that type of learning; without it, I don't think cooperative learning can really take place. [Abby]

I also think that engaging lessons and a good classroom learning environment kind of go hand in hand. Each allows the other to happen; if my lessons are engaging, I don't have to worry about classroom management. Also, if my classroom management behaves well, I'm more willing to take the risks and make really interactive and engaging lessons because I don't have to worry about keeping my students on track. [Gerry]

Defining Success

You want to come back... ending this first year and I'm happy... Looking back and being like... I succeeded enough.. I did what I could and I'm okay with that...[but] I can do so much better next year... So that desire makes me want to come back. [Elisa]

That whole first year is like, whoa. So that I think is important to come away with...This is what I want to do. I think that your desire to be a teacher...is big in making you a success. [Abby]

Well the biggest thing is making it through it and still wanting to do it. I feel like a lot of people give up after that first year...Because immediately after my first year I was thinking of everything that I could change to make the next year even better. And even though I did have some rough times, it was a good year. I was really happy with it. I felt like I did everything I could. [Erin]

Perhaps...they hate math, but at least they like me, so some of me rubs off on math... [Elisa] And if students feel like they can trust you, then there's purpose to their learning. [Rebecca]

Implications

The framework for how beginning teachers defined success in this study revolves around feeling comfortable – in the classroom, with students, and with being a teacher.

Counter to the growing national trend of using value-added measures of student test scores as a component of teacher evaluations and pay, the beginning mathematics teachers of this study did not value good student test scores as necessarily indicative of successful teaching.

2. Learning Attributes of Success

First, we'll begin by looking at what some of the literature identifies as important attributes that contribute to good mathematics teaching.

- 1. Mathematics Knowledge
- 2. Pedagogical Content Knowledge
- 3. Personal Traits

Mathematics Knowledge



...NOT JUST THE FORMAL QUAL MATE HAT CAME IN A CARROLL, 2005; BROWN & BORKO, 1992; SHULMAN, 1986)
Mathematics Knowledge



Yet while a strong content knowledge is useful for teaching, Davis and Brown (2009) note that it is easy to find deviations from this rule – strong teachers who lack formal content instruction, or those strong in content who are ineffective teachers.





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Neubrand and Seago (2009) note the relationship between Mathematical and Pedagogical Knowledge....people who possess strong content knowledge are also highly likely to possess strong pedagogical content knowledge...but these two types of knowledge do exist independently of one another

Personal Traits





Personal Traits





Personal Traits

Personable

flexible, enthusiastic, clear, well organized, caring, humorous, confident, approachable and respectful





Considerate of the Student adapt to individual differences, provide specific feedback, promote active learning, motivate students, encourage questions, and be good at gauging student comprehension levels

Research instruments

QUANTITATIVE SURVEY...

WAS DEVELOPED INCORPORATING IDEAS OF SUCCESSFUL MATHEMATICS TEACHING FROM NCTM AND OTHER RELEVANT LITERATURE.

(can be seen at: <u>http://eh2351.limequery.com/</u>)

QUALITATIVE SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW... WAS DESIGNED TO EXPAND UPON RESPONSES FROM THE SURVEY, AND IN PARTICULAR TO GIVE MORE DEPTH TO THE CONCLUSIONS OF WHEN?.

Large, Broad	
	Select, Deep

Methodology

Develop Survey

Strand	Itom # Variable
CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF	2 Engaging Mathematical Activities
	11 Confident in Mathematics
14 11 1 MA (17)	12 Depth and Breadth of Mathematics
Knowlodge for Mathematical Tasks	13 Problem-Solver
	14 Knowledge of State Standards
	30 Mathematics Knowledge
	7 Teacher-Centered Instruction
	8 Active Student Participation
Role in Discourse	9 Heuristic Hints/Questioning Strategies
	21 Rexibio/Adaptable
	29 Model of Mathematics Teaching
	1b Engaging Lessons
	1d Good Rapport
Learning Environment	tg Good Classroom Learning Environment
	15 Classroom Management
	17 Balaf in Al Studients
	3 Technology
	6 Otherentiation
Tools to Enhance Discourse	9 Houristic Hints/Questioning Stratogies
	10 Contextualize
	24 Resources
	ta Assessments for Differentiation
	te Pasitive Feedback
Analysis of Teaching and Learning	1f Good Studient Tast Scores
wayse o maning an caring	6 Refect
	21 Rexibio/Adaptable
	22 Assess Lesson Objectives
	19 Organizad
Personality	20 Enthusiasm
	23 Previous Experience
	Th Growing Professionally
Boliefs	16 Efficacy
	18 Grow Professionally
Colora os	to Collaboration with Colleagues
Consigned	4 Collaborato
Count like	24 Resources
Current Job	25 Jab Satisfaction
UTapp), preparation	26 Weest
	27 Pre-Lileach
	28 Past Josep
	31 Achieving Success

Methodology

Develop Survey



15 identified in Select group also interviewed

SELECTION CRITERIA:

- 1. Nominations from knowledgeable teacher educators as the top of his/ her graduating class
- 2. A minimum 3.0 GPA in college Mathematics courses
- 3. And to have held some sort of leadership position prior to teaching

Methodology



WHAT ARE THE ATTRIBUTES YOU THINK MIGHT BE MOST HELPFUL TO BEGINNING TEACHERS?

NOT NECESSARILY WHAT "DEFINES" SUCCESS (I.E. NOT THE BENCHMARKS FOR DETERMINING GOOD OR BAD), BUT THE THINGS THAT HELP BEGINNING TEACHERS ACHIEVE IT.

Texas - Traditional

1 4	
Inter	(n=8)
	$\langle \cdot \cdot \rangle$

Mathematics Knowledge

Caring/Belief in all students

Inquiry Engaging Pedagogy

Experimenting and Practical Tools

Hard-working

Contextualize/Flexible

Classroom Management

Colleagues, Collaboration

Other Personality Traits

Previous Experiences

Texas - Traditional

Interview (n=8)	Survey (n=37)
Mathematics Knowledge	Mathematics Knowledge (11, 13, 14)
Caring/Belief in all students	
Inquiry Engaging Pedagogy	Engaging Mathematical Activities (2), Active Student Participation (7)
Experimenting and Practical Tools	Technology (3), Heuristic Hints/ Questioning Strategies (9)
Hard-working	Growing Professionally (18), Confidence/Efficacy (16, 5)
Contextualize/Flexible	Flexible or Adaptive to Context (10,21)
Classroom Management	Classroom Management (15)
Colleagues, Collaboration	Collaboration (4)
Other Personality Traits	Organized (19), Enthusiastic (20)
Previous Experiences	Previous Experience (23)

Texas - Traditional

California - Alternative

Interview (n=8)	Survey (n=37)	Interview (n=7)
Mathematics Knowledge	Mathematics Knowledge (11, 13, 14)	Mathematics Knowledge
Caring/Belief in all students		Caring/Belief in all students
Inquiry Engaging Pedagogy	Engaging Mathematical Activities (2), Active Student Participation (7)	Making mathematics content accessible to all students
Experimenting and Practical Tools	Technology (3), Heuristic Hints/ Questioning Strategies (9)	Use of technology in the classroom
Hard-working	Growing Professionally (18), Confidence/Efficacy (16, 5)	Hard-working, Sacrifice
Contextualize/Flexible	Flexible or Adaptive to Context (10,21)	
Classroom Management	Classroom Management (15)	Classroom Management
Colleagues, Collaboration	Collaboration (4)	Colleague Support, Methods and Advice
Other Personality Traits	Organized (19), Enthusiastic (20)	Personality
Previous Experiences	Previous Experience (23)	Prev. leadership experience

Texas - Traditional

California - Alternative

Interview (n=8)	Survey (n=37)	Interview (n=7)	Survey (n=28)
Mathematics Knowledge	Mathematics Knowledge (11, 13, 14)	Mathematics Knowledge	Mathematics Knowledge (11, 13, 14)
Caring/Belief in all students		Caring/Belief in all students	
Inquiry Engaging Pedagogy	Engaging Mathematical Activities (2), Active Student Participation (7)	Making mathematics content accessible to all students	Active Student Participation (8)
Experimenting and Practical Tools	Technology (3), Heuristic Hints/ Questioning Strategies (9)	Use of technology in the classroom	Heuristic Hints/ Questioning Strategies (9)
Hard-working	Growing Professionally (18), Confidence/Efficacy (16, 5)	Hard-working, Sacrifice	Grow Professionally (18), Efficacy (16), Reflection (5)
Contextualize/Flexible	Flexible or Adaptive to Context (10, 21)		Adaptive to Context (10)
Classroom Management	Classroom Management (15)	Classroom Management	Classroom Management (15)
Colleagues, Collaboration	Collaboration (4)	Colleague Support, Methods and Advice	Collaboration (4)
Other Personality Traits	Organized (19), Enthusiastic (20)	Personality	
Previous Experiences	Previous Experience (23)	Prev. leadership experience	

How impressed are you by someone who uses a formula sheet to find the Volume of a Sphere?

How impressed are you by someone who uses limits, and the ideas of Calculus to justify the Volume of a Sphere?

How impressed are you by someone who, living in **1750, uses limits, and the** ideas of Calculus to justify the Volume of a Sphere?

How impressed are you by someone who, living in 250 **BC**, uses limits, and the ideas of Calculus to find the Volume of a Sphere?









Texas - Traditional

California - Alternative

Interview (n=8)	Survey (n=37)	Interview (n=7)	Survey (n=28)
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Classroom Management	Classroom Management (15)	Classroom Management	Classroom Management (15)
Colleagues, Collaboration	Collaboration (4)	Colleague Support, Methods and Advice	Collaboration (4)
Other Personality Traits	Organized (19), Enthusiastic (20)	Personality	
Previous Experiences	Previous Experience (23)	Prev. leadership experience	



When do teachers really learn what good mathematics teaching looks like? Is it from a teacher preparation program, a mentor teacher, or a favorite high school teacher?

Pre-UTeach

"...one of my favorite math teachers, I had her for Geometry and Calculus. And I remember cutting apart pieces of bread to figure out different math concepts in Calculus. And she even had an example of a radar gun as average rate of change. And that's something I can still incorporate in Pre-Calculus." [Julia]

During UTeach

"Cause I came with the conception of, this is the way I learned it so its got to be the best way to teach it so that's probably the way I'll teach it. And then UTeach changed my views completely, took a 180...I think the UTeach structure completely changed my vision of what its like to be a teacher." [Chris]

"I think the pedagogy of kids need to explore, they need to be challenged....I think the big thing is 5-E..." [Elisa]

"When I finally actually got to teach in Step I and teach in Step II, I learned that I can't just drill it into their head...you can drill it in their head, but will kids really want it to be drilled in their head? Will they be motivated enough..." [Sarah]

"Definitely, engaging lessons...and maybe that's just UTeach engrained it in my mind, that they've got to be engaged to be to maximize their learning..." [Julia]

"Okay, well the idea of inquiry anything was brand new from [UTeach]." [Erin]

Post-UTeach

"So I think hands-on helps them remember stuff, as far as they have something to associate it with, but actually coming up with their own conclusions is still really hard." [Erin]

"...there are a lot of different maturity levels, and some students take to an interactive lesson plan, while others abuse it." [Chris]

"I don't think I can efficiently do it all of the time...but [knowing the curriculum] will allow me to implement more inquiry-based [next year]." [Chris]

"...it wasn't just here is a bunch of methods. The more, the further I went into the UTeach program, I realized that they were using the methods on us. That we were learning in the ways that they were teaching us to learn. And so I appreciated that and got to see the real impact of inquiry-based learning and the power it can have because I had been taught by so many lecture styles." [Abby]

"It was a Modern Geometry class...But of course, he implemented his Allen Inglesness of it...Because he's always thinking...How can you change this into teaching?"

"So many great professors. Debbie Davis...she is just so inspiring, and talk about positive, I'm going to cry thinking about her. Her positive energy, and her belief in her kids." [Abby]

The statements made by UTeach faculty frequently "[rang] in [their] ears" throughout the first year teaching.
Modeling Instruction

"And so people like Allen Ingles and

Garrett Locke at UTeach, not so

much...their classes, but more

witnessing them teach their classes

made a huge difference." [Elisa]

BELIEF IN ALL STUDENTS	TECHNOLOGY ADAP	TABLE TO CONTEXT
MATHEMATICS KNOWLEDGE		PREVIOUS
CONFIDENCE RESOURCES	PRACTICAL TOOLS EXPERIMENT WI	S TO TH LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE
CLASSROOM	SUPPORT IN CLASSROOM	ORATION
MANAGEMENT BELIEF IN ALL	PREVIOUS EXPER	FLEXIBLE
STUDENTS MATHEMAT KNOWLEDO	ICSFEELING COMFORT/ FRONT OF PEOFGEFRONT OF PEOF	ABLE IN PLE PERSONALITY
HARD WORKING MAN	ASSROOM INQU NAGEMENT	JIRY/ENGAGING PEDAGOGY

BELIEF IN ALL INQUIRY/ENGAGING STUDENTS PEDAGOGY During-Pre-HARD WORKING PRACTICAL TOOLS TO MATHEMATICS **CONFIDENCE** KNOWLEDGE **FRONT OF PEOPLE** COLLABORATION EXPERIENC MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY ADAPTABLE TO CONTEXT CLASSROOM Post-**FLEXIBLE CLASSROOM** MANAGEMENT **RESOURCES**

BELIEF IN ALL INQUIRY/ENGAGING STUDENTS PEDAGOGY During-Pre-PRACTICAL TOOLS TO **HARD WORKING** MATHEMATICS **CONFIDENCE KNOWLEDGE** FRONT OF PEOPLE **COLLABORATION** PERIENCMANAGEMENTTECHNOLOGY **ADAPTABLE TO CONTEXT** CLASSROOM Post-**FLEXIBLE CLASSROOM** MANAGEMENT **RESOURCES**

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Depth



Implications

Recruitment

Training

Retention