Innovation Academy Palestine

T-STEM Renewal Application

2018-2019

Contents

Background

District Affiliation

UT TYLER INNOVATION ACADEMY

DC #: 212804
Region: 07
Mailing Address (Line 1): 3900 UNIVERSITY BLVD INGENUITY CENTER
Mailing Address (Line 2):
City, State, Zip: TYLER, TX 75799

School Affiliation

UT TYLER INNOVATION ACADEMY - PALESTINE

CDC #: 212-804-103
Region:
Mailing Address (Line 1): 3900 UNIVERSITY BLVD-INNOVATION ACADEMY
Mailing Address (Line 2):
City, State, Zip: TYLER, TX 75799

Academy Information

T-STEM Academy Name:
Innovation Academy Palestine

What grade level range will your academy serve in the 2018-2019 school year?
6-12

Grade Level	Number of Students
6	25
7	25
8	25
9	25
10	25
11	25
12	25

Contacts

Business Partner

Affiliation: Discovery Science Place
Job Title: Executive Director
Full Name: Mr. Chris Rasure
Email: crasure@uttyler.edu
Phone Number: 903-533-8011

Superintendent

Job Title: Superintendent
Full Name: Dr. Jo Ann Simmons
Email: josimmons@uttyler.edu
Phone Number: 903-456-7832

Applicant

Job Title: University Faculty Curriculum
Full Name: Dr. Michael Odell
Email: modell@uttyler.edu
Phone Number: 903-566-7132

IHE Liaison

Affiliation: University of Texas at Tyler
Job Title: Executive Director, Ingenuity Center/ Professor STEM Education
Full Name: Dr. Michael Odell
Email: modell@uttyler.edu
Phone Number: 903-566-7132

Narratives

Model Implementation

Which T-STEM model does the district intend to implement at this time? Within these models, there are variations. For this purpose campus is defined as a CDC number not a physical location.

Stand Alone Academy - All students on the campus are enrolled in the T-STEM academy

Endorsements

Identify the current endorsements that are offered:

- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)
- Multi-disciplinary Studies

Industry Certificates

Identify all industry certificates offered to students.

Certificate	Description
Auto Desk Inventor Certification	CAD Software Certification

Level One Certificates

Identify all level one certificates offered to students.

Certification	Description

Level Two Certificates

Identify all level two certificates offered to students.

Certification	Description

Key Elements for Success

Provide a link to the job description, roles of design team, leadership team, and advisory board.

http://www.uttia.org/designation

Provide a link to your mission statement.

http://www.uttia.org/about/

Provide a link to the final, signed, and executed MOU.

http://www.uttia.org/designation/MOU

Provide a link to the academy's master schedules.

http://www.uttia.org/designation/Schedule

Provide a link to the academy's Student IGPs with CCRS and Performance Acknowledgement Plans.

http://www.uttia.org/designation/IGP

Provide a link to the academy's written admission policy and enrollment application.

http://www.uttia.org/admissions/

Provide a link to the academy's written recruitment plan including a timeline of recruitment and enrollment events, and recruitment materials for distribution at feeder schools and other appropriate locations in the community

http://www.uttia.org/designation

Provide a link to the academy's description of instruction practices.

http://www.uttia.org/designation

Provide a link to the academy's STEM-focused extracurricular activities.

http://www.uttia.org/designation

Provide a link to the academy's internship and externship opportunities.

http://www.uttia.org/designation

Provide a link to the academy's Senior Capstone Project description.

http://www.uttia.org/designation

Provide a link to the academy's Student Portfolio Plans.

http://www.uttia.org/designation

Provide a link to the academy's Academic Literacy Plan.

http://www.uttia.org/designation

Provide a link to the academy's Assessment strategy.

http://www.uttia.org/designation

Free-Response

Describe how the Academy will recruit, support, and retain highly qualified teachers.

The UT Tyler Innovation Academy has developed a unique merit-based advancement system that has allowed us to recruit, support and retain highly qualified teachers.

Recruitment: Starting salaries are competitive with area school districts. In addition to salary teachers are in the Texas Teacher Retirement System and Social Security. We also provide free college tuition to all teachers, spouses, and dependent children. We also offer a health benefits package free to the teacher.

Support: Teachers receive 2 weeks of training beyond most school districts. We also follow the blueprint and provide additional planning periods and Professional Learning Community time. Each teacher has a dedicated instructional coach from the district.

Retention: Teachers have the opportunity to advance. In most districts teachers move up the pay scale based on years of service. We have modeled our system on the university professor model. We have different teacher ranks that include significant pay increases based on value added performance. The ranks are Teacher; Master Teacher; and Teacher Leader.

We have a 80% plus Retention Rate.

Describe the current STEM pathways available at the academy.

As a STEM Academy we place every student in a STEM Pathway. By code we have to offer the Multidisciplinary Pathway as well. We reserve the multidisciplinary pathway for transfer students who would be unable to complete an Engineering Pathway.

Our pathways start in 6th grade with PLTW Gateway. All students participate in Gateway. In addition all students complete 2 years of Computer Science.

Our current STEM Pathway is Engineering with Project Lead the Way as our curriculum. This is a CTE Pathway and students can also earn concurrent college credit for Introduction to Engineering and Visual Graphics at the university.

We also initiated the PLTW Biomedical program at UT Tyler. This will be a CTE Public Service Pathway for the Health Professions.

We also offer a Computer Science option as an enhancement to Engineering.

Describe how strategic alliances with industry partners and IHEs will support the Academy. The description should include details regarding the role of each IHE, business, and/or community partnership; along with parent/family partnerships and communication conventions with the Academy.

The Innovation Academy is a University Charter School located at each of the UT Tyler Campuses. As such our STEM Pathways, Dual Credit, and Advising is aligned with the UT Tyler STEM Majors. Unlike students in ECHS and most STEM Academies working with community colleges, we provide the Dual Credit Courses for STEM Majors, not the general core. This eliminates the issue of wasted college credits. We also provide students the opportunity to be "core complete" upon high school graduation. IA students are also eligible for scholarships through UT Tyler. UT Tyler will also offer seniors the opportunity to work in university Engineering and Health Science Labs as an internship experience.

Our current primary industry partner is the Discovery Science Place. The partner provides placements for student service projects and internships. There are limited Engineering opportunities but the Palestine IA has partnered with the NASA Columbia Balloon Facility for research projects and UCAR for participation in the GLOBE Program.

The Palestine IA has a seat on the school board and its own design team for the campus. The campus is also engaged in Rotary.

Parent communication conventions include the campus design teams, working parent groups, a development board that is working on a capital campaign for the campus. We also have newsletters and meetings throughout the year to engage parents.

Describe the Academy's work-based and contextual learning in the curriculum.

The mission of the UT Tyler Innovation Academy is to develop students who leave school STEM College and Career Ready. STEM College Ready indicates students are prepared to enroll in a STEM Major at a university. Typically this means they are calculus ready upon graduation or have completed calculus in high school. Our academy is designed for students to enter a STEM Major at the University.

The IA provides work-based learning experiences for students including facility visits, guest speakers, presentations, career information, and beginning in 2018-19 internships for seniors (first senior class). We have hired a coordinator for these experiences who will develop roles and responsibilities for supervisors, mentors, teachers, support personnel, and other partners

In addition, we provide students opportunities such as clubs, Career and Technical Student Organizations (TEAMS) , competitions, and special initiatives involving service learning.

As part of our academy model, our STEM pathways are aligned with UT Tyler STEM majors to assure seamless transition into their STEM major.

Describe the STEM-focused extracurricular activities (field experiences, clubs, and competitions) offered to students.

Each UT Tyler Innovation Academy offers a number of extracurricular activities and clubs. All campuses participate in the NASA sponsored GLOBE Student Research Symposium and competition. Each year we have competed and in May we will compete in the Southwest Regional competition in Boulder CO. We also compete in the Chevron Design Challenge in Houston, Vex Robotics Competitions, and UIL TEAMS competitions.

In addition, all students visit colleges with an emphasis on UT Tyler. It is our wish that they finish their undergraduate degree at UT Tyler. Students not only visit campus, they are enrolled in courses on the main campus and attend weekly. This approach allows them to experience college.

Palestine Students have the added benefit of having access to the NASA Palestine Columbia Balloon Facility. They have been on site and participated in actual NASA missions. The facility also is home to many government contractors and students have the opportunity to see how large scale STEM projects are implemented. .