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LDMS TEACHER SELECTED FOR TEX² Teacher Externship

Lake Dallas ISD is proud to announce that Olivia Stalnaker, Lake Dallas Middle School science teacher in Lake Dallas, Texas, has been selected for the TEX² teacher externship with NASA Texas Space Grant Consortium to be held at The University of Texas at Austin this summer with follow-up taking place during the first semester of the 2018-2019 school year. This program is in partnership with the Texas Teacher Externship Program based at the Center for STEM Education at the University of Texas at Austin. This externship is one of twenty programs around the state and one of close to 400 educators participating in externships through this TEA-funded program.



This statewide competitive program sponsored by NASA's Texas Space Grant Consortium selects teachers who will increase their knowledge of science, technology, engineering, and math through space education while exploring careers at NASA. The externship is sure to be dynamic, engaging, and inspiring, providing educators with a variety of experiences to take back to their classroom, students, and peers. TEX² defines an externship as a professional development opportunity connecting the classroom to the workplace.

program where educators will learn about trends, skills, and opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) industries in order to enrich and strengthen instruction and bring relevance to student learning.

Those participating in the externship will benefit from:

- Increased awareness of real-world connections between subject areas and what they observe in industry,
- Opportunities to reflect on educator practice,
- Connections with community professionals, and
- Increased understanding of college and career readiness.

NASA is more than astronauts. It is scientists, engineers, IT specialists, human resource specialists, accountants, writers, technicians, and many other kinds of people working together to break barriers to achieve the seemingly impossible. Teacher externs will learn about the unprecedented array of missions – from laying the foundation to expand our human presence in deep space to developing cutting-edge technologies to study Earth's system. Each adventure is tackled with curiosity and innovation to leave an enduring impact on the world and humanity.

Careers at NASA provide the opportunity to work on unique and challenging projects that truly make an impact on humanity. During the externship, teachers will visit NASA facilities, work with scientists and engineers that are analyzing earth observing satellite data, tour NASA labs and facilities, and question astronauts and engineers about degrees and opportunities...all while exploring the extraordinary.

NASA brings together technology, science, and unique global Earth observations to provide societal benefits and strengthen our nation. Critical to understanding how our planet's natural resources and climate are changing, our observations form the foundation for important environmental planning and decisions by people all over the world. Teacher externs will celebrate all that NASA has contributed in the past and will contribute in the future and the engineering behind its accomplishments at the TEX² TSGC Externship. Teacher selected will return to their school districts to not only use materials received in their own classroom, but to train other educators.

The TEX² externship proves that the excitement teachers, and more importantly, their students, feel about earth and space science can be used to enrich STEM education and inspire the next generation of explorers.

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