TIDES STEM Instruction Consultants

Brandon Campitelli

Brandon received his PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at University of Toronto, and did a postdoc at the University of Texas at Austin. As an **Assistant Professor of Instruction**, he then spent 5 years teaching a course called the Biology of Biofuels in the Freshmen Research Initiative, which focused on students developing research skills. He now teaches undergraduate courses focused on the development of professional skills required for current challenges in the workforce. As a **STEM Instructional Consultant** he facilitates departmental faculty teams through the process of redesigning their undergraduate curriculum, with the goal of improving internal alignment within degree plans, infusing more professional skills, and providing meaningful experiential learning opportunities to all undergraduates. As the **Experiential Learning Coordinator for CNS faculty**, Brandon will be playing a major role in coordinating, directing and enacting the vision for experiential learning laid out by the College of Natural Sciences.

Keely Finkelstein

Keely Finkelstein is an Assistant Professor of Instruction in the Department of Astronomy and a STEM Instruction Consultant in TIDES in the College of Natural Sciences at the University of Texas at Austin. Keely received her BS in Physics and Astronomy from the University of Washington, and her PhD in Physics with an emphasis in Astrophysics from Arizona State University. She routinely teaches large introductory astronomy courses for non-science majors. She has received the McDonald Observatory Board of Visitors Teaching Award, the "Clock Award" from Services for Students with Disabilities, and the Presidents Associates Teaching Excellence Award for her teaching efforts. Keely's research focuses on galaxy evolution, and studies of star forming galaxies at intermediate redshifts. Keely's career interests relate to undergraduate teaching and education, including curriculum design, as well as other avenues of astronomy education and outreach both in K-12 education and informal science.

Kristin Patterson

Kristin Patterson is an Associate Professor of Instruction in the Department of Molecular Biosciences and a STEM Instruction Consultant in TIDES in the College of Natural Sciences at the University of Texas at Austin. Kristin received her BS in Biology from Cornell University, and her PhD in Zoology from the University of Texas at Austin. She routinely teaches introductory biology and genetics courses for CNS majors in the Texas Interdisciplinary Plan. She has received the Biology Instructional Office and College of Natural Sciences teaching excellence awards for her teaching efforts, and is currently a Provost Teaching Fellow. Kristin's career interests focus on change management in STEM higher education and on faculty development related to teaching, including curriculum design in CNS departments, serving as a teaching mentor for the HHMI Summer Institutes, and developing teaching-related training for graduate students, postdocs, and faculty.

Cynthia LaBrake

Cynthia LaBrake is a Professor of Instruction in the Department of Molecular Biosciences. Cynthia received her BS in Chemistry with Honors from West Virginia University and her PhD in Biophysical Chemistry from Loyola University Chicago. She has taught a variety of courses including general chemistry for CNS students, biochemistry, and science for elementary teachers. Cynthia has been awarded the CNS Teaching Excellence Award, The Dad's Club Teaching Award, the Regents Outstanding Teaching Award and the Presidential Teaching Excellence Award. Cynthia has been active in many curriculum reform efforts within the College including the UTeach Primary program, the ChemBridge high school dual credit course, the web-based general chemistry course, and a course transformation of the general chemistry courses. She has served as the Chair of the Provost Teaching Fellows Program, on the Faculty Council Executive Committee, and many other college and departmental level service committees.