



WestTeach Leadership Program



*Bridging the Gap between
Classroom, Community, and Commerce*



WestTeach Purpose

WestTeach is the premier leadership development program for teachers in the 21 counties of West Tennessee. The program topics will expose our teachers to relevant and influential issues that can shape and reshape the classroom engagement for their students. Teachers will be challenged and equipped to translate their WestTeach experiences into transformational opportunities for their students.

WestTeach Mission

The WestTeach mission is to engage and equip West Tennessee teachers with tools and leadership skills for success in and outside the classroom.

WestStar Mission: WestStar Leadership educates, engages, and empowers a diverse group of community-minded individuals to collaborate, lead, and serve to facilitate positive change in West Tennessee.

Selection Criteria

Applicants must be K-12 teachers who aspire to stay in the classroom and want to be leaders in their schools and communities. They should be nominated by their Director/Superintendent of Schools. Selection is also based on leadership achievements and potential to contribute to the region's educational system.

Application Process

Applicants must submit their application with a letter of recommendation from their Principal. Applications are reviewed and selected by the WestTeach Leadership Advisory Council. One teacher per school district will be selected with a maximum of 30 members per class. It is a requirement that each class member attend all sessions, the opening session, and graduation. If requirement can't be met, then applicant needs to wait until next year. Applications can be found online at utm.edu/westteach.

Cost

Tuition for WestTeach is \$250. Tuition must be paid by the participant or their school system prior to the first session. Upon graduation, each teacher will be given a \$100 gift card to be used for their classroom.

Sponsored by Leaders Education Foundation



Why WestTeach?



Austin Kissel,
WestTeach '20 &
WestStar '25

“WestTeach was such a great experience! I was able to step out of the classroom and get hands-on experience with businesses, organizations, and individuals ready to help our students right here in West Tennessee. With each session, I was able to collaborate with fellow educators and explore ways to bring what we learned back into our classrooms. It was so rewarding to be able to answer my students' questions by providing information about local resources or connecting them with individuals. I'm so grateful to have been able to take part in this program that not only helped shape my leadership but also helped me empower my students.”

WestTeach may not directly increase your paycheck, but the opportunities it provides are far more valuable than any financial incentive. It connects you with like-minded educators who are deeply committed to student success and passionate about leadership within their schools. As someone who came into teaching as a second career, WestTeach helped me realize that leadership isn't tied to a title or tenure, it's about taking initiative. Anyone can be a leader by stepping up, speaking out, and taking action. Inspired by this program, I launched a Teacher and Support Staff of the Month initiative at my school to recognize and uplift my colleagues. If you have the chance to participate in WestTeach, seize it. The experience will not only enrich your career but also empower you to make a lasting impact on your school community.”



Mike Wright
WestTeach '24



Huge Thank You to our Amazing Sponsors!

Signature Sponsor: Leaders Education Foundation

Dr. Cheryl Browne
SIC Project Management
Tennessee District of TRANE Company
Yvette Blue
ATA Advisory, LLC
Security Bank, Dyersburg



Contact Our Assistant Director, Jennifer Smiley, at jblack32@utm.edu for more information.

