



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



WWW.UTM.EDU/WESTTEACH

Purpose of WestTeach?

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 have a letter of support from their school principal. Selection is also based on leadership achievements and potential to contribute to the region's educational system.

Nominations from WestTeach alumni will be highly considered.

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 Board. 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 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. Recruitment begins March 1st.

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.

Teachers will receive professional development hours to participate in the program.

Sponsored by Leaders Education Foundation.

Program Topics

Agriculture & Entrepreneurship
August 26-27 | Martin/Union City

The Humanity of Leadership
September 25 | Jackson

Education: Creating Partnership
for Economic Development
October 30 | Dyersburg

Fundamentals of Economic Development:
Building Communities from the Base Up
November 14 | Brownsville

“Celebrating the WestTeach Class of 2023:
Graduation Banquet”
December 17 | UT Martin

Testimonials

“I wish everyone could be a part of this amazing program. I’ve made life long friends and great memories. I am thankful for the opportunity to be a part of WestTeach.” - Autumn Ratliff, WestTeach ‘18

“The WestTeach program connected the classroom, community and workforce of West Tennessee. I was able to learn about all of the resources available in West Tennessee that would help the students and families represented in my classroom find success beyond high school. WestTeach strengthened the relationship between the workforce and the school system that will create a pipeline for students’ future employment.” - David Westbury, WestTeach ‘21

WestTeach Alumni *(by county)*

BENTON COUNTY

Sarah Comuzie
Camden Central High School
Class of 2019

Jenna Leonard
Briarwood Elementary School
Class of 2020

Autumn Ratliff McGee
Briarwood Elementary
Class of 2018

CARROLL COUNTY

Cara Chadwick Pruett
Carroll County Technical Center
Class of 2019

Spencer Ezell
Huntingdon High School
Class of 2022

Amanda Pruitt
Huntingdon High School
Class of 2019

Tracy Connell
Huntingdon High School
Class of 2018

Clayton Morris
West Carroll Jr./Sr. High School
Class of 2022

Brittany Fowler
West Carroll Elementary School
Class of 2019

Susan Dyer
McKenzie High School
Class of 2023

CHESTER COUNTY

Colette Carrabba, retired
Class of 2019

CROCKETT COUNTY

Haley Williams
Crockett County High School
Class of 2021

DYER COUNTY

Tom Mathis
Dyersburg High School
Class of 2020

Lauren Mathis
Dyersburg Intermediate School
Class of 2022

Lauren Newell
Dyersburg Intermediate School
Class of 2018

MaryKate Estes
Dyersburg Middle School
Class of 2023

Anne Ladd Welch
Dyersburg Primary School
Class of 2019

Monica Robbins
Holice Powell School
Class of 2021

Meredith McMackins
Finley Elementary School
Class of 2019

Britni Singleteary
Fifth Consolidated Elementary School
Class of 2023

FAYETTE COUNTY

Wes Holmes
Fayette Ware Comprehensive High School
Class of 2022

Amelia Morrison
Buckley-Carpenter Elementary
Class of 2023

GIBSON COUNTY

Haley Stafford
Gibson County High School
Class of 2023

Taylor Record
Dyer Elementary School
Class of 2021

Beth Glover
Milan Elementary School
Class of 2020

Candi Collier
Milan High School
Class of 2022

WestTeach Alumni *(by county)*

Brittany Reeves
Milan High School
Class of 2023

Sheronda Rivers
Trenton Elementary
Class of 2023

Ronny Criswell
Trenton Elementary School
Class of 2019

Ben Di'Chiara
Peabody High School
Class of 2020

Jennifer Walls
Trenton Rosenwald Middle School
Class of 2021

Franky Hodges
Trenton Rosenwald Middle School
Class of 2018

Kelly Vonner
Humboldt Jr. Sr. High School
Class of 2023

Bethany Enochs
East Elementary
Class of 2022

Bradford Special School District
Paul Richards, Bradford High School
Class of 2019

HARDEMAN COUNTY

Deana Sain
Bolivar Middle School
Class of 2021

HARDIN COUNTY

Bellis May
Hardin County High School
Class of 2022

Jenilyn Sipes
Hardin County Middle School
Class of 2023

Todd Alexander
Hardin County High School
Class of 2018

Nicole Lusk
Hardin County High School
Class of 2019

Amanda Gober
Hardin County Middle School
Class of 2020

HAYWOOD COUNTY

Ariell White
Anderson Early Childhood Center
Class of 2021

Brittany Ferrell
Anderson Early Childhood Center
Class of 2020

Stacie Carlton
Haywood Elementary School
Class of 2023

Sharon Clark
Sunny Hill Intermediate School
Class of 2019

HENDERSON COUNTY

Marinda Hildenbrandt
South Haven Elementary
Class of 2023

Shelly Russell
Bargerton Elementary School
Class of 2019

Rebecca Rainey
Lexington High School
Class of 2021

Jill Huddleston
Lexington Middle
Class of 2020

Natalie Salmon
Paul G. Caywood Elementary School
Class of 2023

DECATUR COUNTY

Cary Bivens
Riverside High School
Class of 2019

HENRY COUNTY

Carrie Jones
Inman Middle School
Class of 2019

Christy Buckelew
Paris Elementary
Class of 2018

WestTeach Alumni *(by county)*

Patrick Corbin
W. O. Inman Middle School
Class of 2020

Colby Prosser
Dorothy and Noble Harrelson
Class of 2020

Holly Thompson
Dorothy and Noble Harrelson
Class of 2023

Melissa Berry
Henry County High School
Class of 2022

Holly Meyer
Briarwood Elementary
Class of 2022

LAKE COUNTY

Crystal Prince
Lake County High School
Class of 2021

LAUDERDALE COUNTY

Chad Davis
Halls High School
Class of 2019

Dana Parmenter
Ripley High School
Class of 2022

Austin Kissell
Ripley High School
Class of 2020

Susan McGovern
Ripley High School
Class of 2023

MADISON

Christina Warren
Jackson Central Merry Middle School
Class of 2019

Bob Sparks
Jackson Central-Merry Early College High School
Class of 2021

Dana Helton
Jackson Central Merry Early College High School
Class of 2023

David Westberry
Jackson Central Merry Early College High
Class of 2020

MCNAIRY COUNTY

Lisa Forsythe
McNairy Central High School
Class of 2022

Madine Nichols
Selmer Elementary School
Class of 2019

OBION COUNTY

Catherine Nailling
Lake Road Elementary School
Class of 2019

Lindsay Walker
Union City Middle School
Class of 2019
Beth McManus
Class of 2018

Jamie Knott
South Fulton High School
Class of 2021

JB Suiter
South Fulton High School
Class of 2020

Beth McManus
Class of 2018

Holly Owen
Class of 2018

SHELBY COUNTY

Lalania Vaughn
Tipton-Rosemark Academy
Class of 2020

Jill Baker
Lakeland Elementary
Class of 2018

TIPTON COUNTY

Jennifer Botticello
Munford Middle School
Class of 2020

Ann Johnson
Munford High School
Class of 2022

WestTeach Alumni *(by county)*

Beth Smith
Retired
Class of 2019

WEAKLEY COUNTY

Kimberly Elliott
Westview High School
Class of 2018

Danielle Johnson
Sharon School
Class of 2023

Alyssa Bynum
Dresden Elementary School
Class of 2022

Brittan Knott
Martin Elementary School
Class of 2022

Lindsey Parham
Class of 2018

Kandace Jackson
Greenfield High School
Class of 2020

WestTeach Speakers

MARTIN/UNION CITY SESSION

Leslie Williams Anderson, Vice President,
Williams Sausage

Leigh Anne Bentley, President, *Leaders Credit Union*
David Belote, *UT Student Leadership, UT Martin*
Skipper Bondurant, Administrator,
Baptist Memorial Hospital, WestStar '19

Janice Bone, HR Manager, *Made In America*

Dr. Cindy Boyles, Associate Professor,
Dept. of Behavior Sciences, UT Martin

Polly Brasher, Education Director, *Obion County Schools*

Shea Brown, Director of Community Impact,
Leaders Credit Union

Mayor Randy Brundige, *City of Martin*

Mayor Jake Bynum, *Weakley County*

Dr. Keith Carver, Chancellor, *UT Martin*

Dr. John Cole, Assistant Professor, *UT Martin*

Mike Cox, Founder/CEO, *Cox Oil Company*

Jim Cheatham, President, *Universal Contractors, LLC.*

Dr. John Cole, Assistant Professor, *Dept. of Geosciences & Natural Resources, UT Martin*

Mike Cox, Founder/CEO, *Cox Oil Company*

Dr. Charley Deal, Vice Chancellor of University
Advancement

Dr. Brian Donavant, Criminal Justice Professor,
UT Martin, WestStar '17

Chuck Doss, CEO, *Inco Ag Irrigation/Inco Well Services, WestStar '12*

Chris Flemming, Associate Director & State
Coordinator of Ag in the Classroom, *TN Farm Bureau*

Dr. Yancy Freeman, Chancellor, *UT Martin*

Dr. Michael Gibson, Professor of Geology, *UT Martin*

Samantha Goyret, Executive Director,

NWTN Local Food Network

Suzanne Harper, Director of Marketing & PR,
Twin Oaks Technology

Kevin Herrell, Owner, *Higher Ground Coffee*
Kandice Jackson, Director CTE/Textbook
Coordinator, *Weakley County*

Clint Joiner, COO & Director, *Jiffy Steamer Company, LLC*

Shane Jones, Director of Percussion, *UT Martin*
Nicole Kincade, COO, *Twin Oaks Technology*

Jason Kizer, *Kizer Pharmacy, Union City*

George Leake, Supervisor of Secondary
Instruction, *Obion County Schools*

Hadley Malone, Manager, *Farm Bureau Insurance*
Eric Maupin, Farmer, *Maupin Farms, Dyersburg*

Jo Ann Maupin, *Maupin Farms, Dyersburg*

Gina McClure, Assistant Vice Chancellor
Student & Residential Life, *UT Martin*

Lindsay Parham, Director Career & Technical
Education, *Weakley County Schools*

Don Parks, Co-Owner, *First Choice Farm & Lawn*

Jon Ed Powers, Co-Owner, *Final Flight Outfitters*

Keith Riley, Complex Manager, *Tyson Plant*

Elizabeth Pritchett, Center Point Business
Solutions, LLC, *WestStar '16*

Dr. Debbie Reynolds, Owner, *Veterinary Home Healthcare & Blessed Pet Shop*

Keith Riley, Complex Manager, *Tyson Foods, Inc.*

Dr. Jason Roberts, Associate Professor of Animal
Science, *UT Martin Mobile Energy Classroom*

Dr. Robert Smith, Interim Executive Director,
Tennessee Higher Education Commission Education

Dr. Brady Spitz, Professor of Music, *UT Martin*

Dan Strasser, Special Programs Director, *Tenn. Farm Bureau Federation*

Will Wade, *Wade Acres LLC*

WestTeach Speakers

Amy West, *Director of Human Resources, Dyersburg State Community College*

Roger Williams

Scott Williams, *President/CEO, Discovery Park of America*

Dr. Todd Winters, *Dean of College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, UT Martin*

JACKSON SESSION

Richard Barber, *Executive Director, Aspell Recovery*

Jennifer Barham, *CTE Director, Jackson-Madison County School System*

Dave Brasher, *President, The S.T.A.R. Center*

Melanie Buchholz, *Director of Survivor Services, Scarlet Rope Project*

Dr. Keith Carver, *Chancellor, UT Martin*

Sharon Clark, *Sunny Hill Intermediate School*

Mayor Scott Conger, *City of Jackson*

Ronny Criswell, *Trenton Elementary School*

Teresa Crouse, *Liberty Technology Magnet High School*

Dr. Charley Deal, *Vice Chancellor for University Advancement, UT Martin— WestStar '00*

Lauren Diffie, *Greenhouse Technician, Liberty Technology Magnet School*

Dan Drogosh, *Operations Manager, CO Bus*

Leslie Emerson, *Culinary Arts Teacher*

Jennifer Graves, *President, The S.T.A.R. Center*

Mayor Jimmy Harris, *Madison County*

Karrie Hart, *Internet Crimes against Children Unit, Jackson Police Department*

Trish Jared, *Outreach Coordinator, Aspell Recovery*

Erma J. Johnson, *Culinary Arts Assistant & Culinary Arts Students*

Danielle Jones, *Commander of Safe Hope Center, Jackson Police Department*

T.J. King, *Madison County Sheriff's Department*

Mitzi Kirk, *C.T.E. Administrator*

Ron Kwasigroh, *Executive Director, Therapy & Learning Center*

Nathan Lewis, *Principal, Early College High, JMCSS*

Margaret Livingston, *Leadership Jackson Chair &*

Kris Kelley, *Leadership Jackson Vice Chair*

Shelby Matthis, *Alumnus, WestStar '13 & Leadership Jackson '18*

Dr. Teresa L. McSweeney, *Chief of Innovation, JCM Early College High*

Terrence Murphy, *Bus Tech, CO Bus*

Pam Nash, *CEO, Exchange Club-Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child*

Richard Newbill, *Gang Enforcement Team Commander, Jackson Police Department*

Marie Parker, *Bus Tech, CO Bus*

Will Paul, *Bus Manager, The CO Bus*

Randy K. Pearson, *Lead for LOOP Program, JCM Early College High*

Dr. Dave Roberts, *Chief Medical Officer (retired), West Tennessee Healthcare*

Derek Seaton, *USAF Retired Executive Vice President*

Bob Sparks, *Jackson Central Merry Early College High School*

Julianne Stone, *Executive Director, Scarlett Rope Project*

Vice Mayor Paul Taylor, *City of Jackson*

Derek Tisdale, *Patrol Division Commander, Jackson Police Department*

David Westberry, *Jackson Central Merry Early College High School*

Dalton Wilson, *Ag Teacher, & Agriculture Students - Liberty Technology Magnet High School*

Dillon Wooley, *Madison County Sheriff's Department, Internet Crimes Against Children & Human Trafficking*

Tammy Yosich, *Compliance Officer, Aspell Recovery Center*

DYERSBURG SESSION

Olivia Abernathy, *Director of Early Education Initiatives, United Way of West Tennessee*

Jennifer Bane, *Executive Director, NWTN Workforce Board*

Laura Brimm, *Principal, Dyer County High School*

Dr. John Combs, *Superintendent of Tipton County Schools*

Dr. Scott Cook, *President, DSCC*

Linda Deberry, *Principal, Dyersburg Primary School*

Chris Donaldson, *Owner, TennCom Services, WestStar 2021*

Neel Durbin, *Director, Dyersburg City Schools*

Dr. Charlotte Fisher, *Director of Operations/ Assistant Superintendent Tipton County Schools*

Chancellor Yancy Freeman, *UT Martin*

Mayor John Holden, *City of Dyersburg*

Jim Coy Houston, *Farm Bureau Insurance, WestStar '17*

Dr. Youlanda Jones, *President of Tennessee College of Applied Technology; Covington/Ripley/Newbern, WestStar '05*

Shawn Kimble, *Superintendent, Lauderdale County Schools*

Larry Lusk, *Superintendent, Dyer County Schools, WestStar '19*

Dr. Jamie Mantooth, *Office of Student Engagement & Interim Sr. Advisor to the Chancellor*

Cheryl Matthis, *Director of Schools, Dyer County*

Jennifer Medford, *Manager of Education, WLJT Public Television*

Seela Newbill, *DCS Curriculum Coordinator, WestStar '22 Dyer County High School*

Lindsey Parker, *Instructional Coach, Dyer County High School*

WestTeach Speakers

Ginger Powell, *Deputy Director, NW TN Workforce Board*

Kamela Rogers, *Principal, Dyersburg High School*

Jennifer Shell, *Manager of Education, WLJT Public Television*

Sandy Tarkington, *Senior VP of Marketing & Public Relations, First Citizens National Bank, WestStar '17*

Graham Thomas, *Deputy Director of Outreach, tnAchieves*

Ben Torres, *General Counsel & Director of Government, TN School Board Association*

Dr. Carolyn Tyler, *Elementary Supervisor, Dyer County Schools & Staff*

Danny Walden, *Director, PDC, WestStar '96*

Dr. Amanda Walker, *Vice President of Advancement & External Affairs, DSCC*

Emily Warren, *Director of Government Relations & Staff Attorney, Tennessee School Boards Association tnAchieves*

Kim Worley, *Director, Dyersburg City Schools*

Kim Yeiter, *CTE Director*

Mayor Chris Young, *Dyer County*

Marianne Dunavant, *Government Relations Manager, BlueOval City*

Jaclyn Eubanks, *Owner, The Forked Deer*

Art Garrett, *Interim Superintendent, Haywood County Schools*

Senator Dolores Gresham, *WestStar '00*

Joey Hassell, *Superintendent, Haywood County Schools*

David Hayes, *President, Security Bank, WestStar '95*
Mark Herbison, *President & CEO, HTL Advantage, WestStar '00*

Rep. Chris Hurt, *Tennessee State Representative, District 82*

Dr. Brian Ingram, *Executive Director of Communications, Haywood County Schools*

Ray Jones, *Unit Director, Boys & Girls Club*

Dr. Vicki Lake, *Director, Market Research/Comm. Development, West Tennessee Healthcare, WestStar '08*

Karen Larson, *Author, Ways to Win at Work*

Madison Lewis, *Director of Career & Technical Education, Haywood County Schools*

Elizabeth Lovelace, *Assistant Principal, Haywood Elementary School*

Amie Marsh, *Superintendent, Haywood County Schools*

Dr. Jack Pettigrew, *Brownsville Family Medicine & Owner, Livingston's Soda Fountain & Grill*

Anna Roberts, *Principal, Haywood Elementary School*

Teresa Russell, *Assistant Principal, Anderson Early Childhood Center, WestStar '20*

Lisa Smartt, *Speaker, Author and Humorist*

Scott Stookey, *Director of Career-Technical Education, Haywood County Schools*

Beth Tripp, *Brownsville Historian*

Billy Tripp, *Sculptor*

Libby Wickersham, *Executive Director, Greater Gibson county Area Chamber of Commerce, WestStar '17*

Representative Mark White, *District 83*

*Listed at the time of present position

BROWNSVILLE SESSION

Sarah Aitken, *Director of Elementary Education, Haywood County Schools*

Brittany Avent, *Director of CCTE & PLC Support, Haywood County Schools*

Michael Banks, *CEO of Haywood County Community Hospital, WestStar '00*

Gem Bell, *Supervisor, Teknor Apex Tennessee Company*

Yvette Blue, *Assistant Superintendent, Haywood County Schools, WestStar '18*

Julie Allen Ward, *Director, Milan Chamber of Commerce, WestStar '12*

Dr. Keith Carver, *Chancellor, UT Martin*

Calandria Currie, *Owner, IN Her Hands, LLC*

Chris Davis, *Deputy Superintendent, Haywood County Schools, WestStar '19*

Dr. Charley Deal, *Vice Chancellor of University Advancement, UT Martin*



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Leaders Education Foundation

ATA CPAs + Advisors

Yvette Blue

BlueOval SK

Community Foundation of West Tennessee

Security Bank, Dyersburg

SIC Project Management

The TRANE Company

Cary & Lalanina Vaughn

Advisory Board

Dr. Jamie Mantooth, Board Chair, Enrollment Services
& Student Engagement, UT Martin, WestStar '21
mantooth@utm.edu

Leigh Anne Bentley, Leaders Credit Union,
WestStar '18
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Yvette Blue, Tenn. Department of Education,
WestStar '18
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Charlene Burpo, Twin Oaks Technology, WestStar '17
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Alyssa Bynum, Weakley County Schools, WestTeach '22
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Shannon Cotter, SIC Management, WestStar '95
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WestTeach '18
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Danielle Johnson, Weakley County Schools,
WestTeach '23
danielle.vancleave@wcsk12tn.net

Jack Matthis, ATA, WestStar '13
jmathis@atacpa.net

Dr. Frank McMeen, WTHC Foundation, WestStar '11
Frank.mcmeen@wth.org

Jennifer Nunley, Security Bank, WestStar '05
jnunley@downhomebank.com

Teresa Russell, Haywood County Schools, WestStar '21
Tfrussell12@gmail.com

Donna Vick, Second Harvest Food Bank, WestStar '17
Donna.vick@secondharvestmidtn.org

David Westberry, Jackson Madison County School
System, WestTeach '21
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Virginia Grimes, vgrimes@utm.edu
Jennifer Black Smiley, jblack32@utm.edu

For more information: weststar@utm.edu | utm.edu/westteach

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