

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

ACUE Contact: Christine Ferrell [cferrell@acue.org](mailto:cferrell@acue.org), 919.949.1190

**The University of Texas System and the Association of College and University Educators Partner to Advance Student Success**

*Expanded partnership will prepare and credential faculty at all eight UT academic institutions in teaching practices proven to increase student achievement and close equity gaps*

Austin, TX and New York, NY (April 23, 2020) — The University of Texas System (UT System) and the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) have expanded their partnership to benefit hundreds of faculty members — and ultimately thousands of students — through quality teaching at all eight UT academic institutions.

As part of a UT System initiative to support student success, faculty at the UT academic institutions are selected to enroll in ACUE’s 25-week course in Effective Teaching Practices to learn instructional skills — relevant to both traditional and online learning environments — shown to improve student achievement and close equity gaps. Faculty who satisfy the course requirements will be awarded a nationally recognized Certificate in Effective College Instruction that is co-endorsed by ACUE and the American Council on Education (ACE).

ACUE’s courses in effective teaching practices are based on more than three decades of research that shows effective teaching improves learning for all students. According to the [independently validated research](#), students, particularly those who are underserved, are more engaged, learn more, and complete courses in greater numbers when taught by ACUE-credentialed faculty.

“Through the ACUE course, the UT System and UT academic institutions are investing in the quality of our faculty, which will result in stronger teaching, deeper learning, and most importantly, improved student outcomes,” UT System Chancellor James B. Milliken said.

The UT System Board of Regents approved funding for the ACUE program in December, following a [successful pilot](#) spearheaded by the UT System’s Faculty Advisory Council and Office of Academic Affairs. The expanded partnership also builds on the successful engagement with ACUE taking place at UT Arlington and UT El Paso.

According to feedback from UT faculty who participated in the first cohort last year, 96% indicated the knowledge and skills acquired through the ACUE course were relevant to their teaching. On average, they learned 55 new teaching practices and implemented 27 new teaching practices in their classrooms.

“Our initial data from faculty at UT institutions who have completed the ACUE course indicate they are implementing practices in their classes that are proven to positively impact student engagement, learning, and retention,” said Susan Cates, CEO of ACUE. “We’re particularly excited about the opportunity a systemwide approach allows to scale improved outcomes for university students in Texas.”

Each UT institution is customizing how the program is implemented so that it can provide tailored professional development to its faculty. For some, their faculty are already participating in the ACUE

course this spring; others have already recruited or are in the process of recruiting faculty to participate in summer or fall.

“In the past three years, UT academic universities have coalesced around the role of faculty in student success and how to more intentionally support faculty in this shared mission,” said Rebecca Karoff, Ph.D., associate vice chancellor of academic affairs at the UT System. “Especially in this rapidly evolving teaching and learning landscape, our focus on student success remains unchanged. The ACUE course enables more of our faculty access to high-impact, cutting-edge pedagogies that they can immediately implement in their physical or virtual classrooms to support students.”

### **About ACUE**

The Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) is on a mission to ensure student success through quality instruction. In partnership with colleges, universities, higher education systems and associations, ACUE prepares and credentials faculty in the evidence-based teaching practices that improve student achievement and close equity gaps. Nationwide, ACUE-credentialed faculty are transforming developmental education, reimagining gateway courses and first-year experiences, implementing practices in support of guided pathways, and connecting classroom learning to the skills students will need to be successful in their future careers. Numerous and independently validated efficacy studies confirm that students are more engaged, learn more, and complete courses in greater numbers — more equitably with their peers — when taught by ACUE-credentialed faculty. ACUE’s online, cohort-based credentialing programs are delivered through institutional partnerships and open enrollment courses endorsed by the American Council on Education. The ACUE community connects college educators from across the country through member forums, podcasts, and updates on the latest developments in the scholarship of teaching and learning. To learn more, visit [acue.org](https://www.acue.org).

###