

# PARTNERSHIPS

Learning and Service for  
High-Quality Education

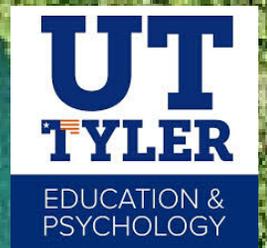


Photo by Tony Rath



# WELCOME TO UT TYLER

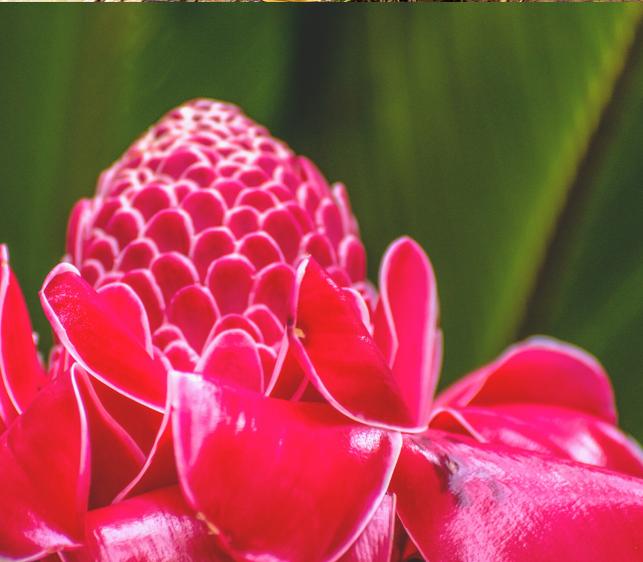
## Message from Dean Wes Hickey

The building of relationships, especially overseas, has benefits that transcend simple human connections. These relationships build on experiences and bonds that make us better both personally and professionally. That is one of the great things about the Consortium for Belize Educational Cooperation (COBEC); it facilitates the development of connections between U.S. and Belize educators, and as with all good relationships, provides consistent mutual support.

This year's COBEC conference has sessions that increase our understanding of ways to partner more effectively, teach more efficiently, and respond to the unexpected more strategically. COVID-19 changed the way in which we interact, and it created significant challenges for our education systems. Having a plan for remote instruction will be a strategic priority for all of us.

Handling the challenges of instruction does little to address the mental health issues that are expected. Teachers, students, and community members have felt emotional stress due to the fears of the pandemic, lost employment, family strife, and more. This disease has shown the best we have to offer in support and sacrifice, but it has also exposed gaps in our mental health system.

This COBEC Conference will address many of these issues, along with sessions on the impact of partnerships and more. Moving the conference online has provided the benefit of allowing non-members to attend, which was a decision made because COBEC wants to assist anyone, U.S. or Belize, who is uncertain at this time. So let's look forward to making new friends, learning new topics, and experiencing a conference unlike any other in COBEC history.



# COBEC MISSION

- Promote mutual understanding and friendship through bilateral and multilateral programs and activities that make significant contributions toward higher education in Belize and that enhance the international dimension of member institutions through the cumulative experiences of students, faculty, staff, and administrators.
- Collaborate in research, teaching, curricular and library development.
- Promote faculty, staff and student exchanges among member institutions.
- Implement systematic and comprehensive planning of educational development efforts.
- Develop human and financial resources to assist in meeting Belizean needs in higher education.
- Identify financial aid for students.
- Advance the professionalization of Belizean higher education.
- Encourage study abroad programs in Belize for faculty, staff and students.

Consortium for Belize Educational Cooperation (COBEC) was established in the late 1980s to link Belize with the United States and other countries for the purpose of strengthening and expanding their capabilities in higher education. In 2014 the consortium was incorporated as a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit corporation.

Belize Photos by Beth Hines

# UT TYLER

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGY

**Dr. Wes Hickey, Dean**

### **VISION**

The College of Education and Psychology is nationally recognized and respected for its academic programs and opportunities. It is a center of academic excellence, scholarly inquiry, and public service. The College prepares leaders to meet the critical challenges of the 21st Century, to make significant contributions to local and global communities, and to work toward individual and cultural equity.

### **MISSION**

The mission of the College of Education and Psychology is to provide a positive environment that fosters the acquisition of knowledge and skills. The mission is individually and collectively realized through a community of scholars that contributes to knowledge through scholarly inquiry, organizes knowledge for application, understanding and communication, and provides leadership and service. Additionally, the College is committed to affirming and promoting global perspectives, cultural diversity, social justice, ethical practice and respect for individual differences as a means of enhancing learning, service, leadership and scholarship.

### **UT Tyler Mission**

UT Tyler is committed to student success by providing a uniquely balanced student experience in an environment of innovative teaching and research shaped to serve and advance the educational, economic, technological, and public interests of East Texas and beyond.

### **UT Tyler Vision**

We aspire to be the primary educational and economic driver of East Texas.



O. Land of the Free by the Carib Sea,  
Our manhood we pledge to thy liberty!  
No tyrants here linger, despots must flee  
This tranquil haven of democracy  
The blood of our sires which hallows the  
sod,  
Brought freedom from slavery oppression's  
rod,  
By the might of truth and the grace of God,  
No longer shall we be hewers of wood.  
Arise! ye sons of the Baymen's clan,  
Put on your armour, clear the land!  
Drive back the tyrants, let despots flee -  
Land of the Free by the Carib Sea!  
Nature has blessed thee with wealth untold,  
O'er mountains and valleys where prairies  
roll;  
Our fathers, the Baymen, valiant and bold  
Drove back the invader; this heritage hold  
From proud Rio Hondo to old Sarstoon,  
Through coral isle, over blue lagoon;  
Keep watch with the angels, the stars and  
moon;  
For freedom comes tomorrow's noon.

O! say can you see by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's  
last gleaming,  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars  
through the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so  
gallantly streaming?  
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs  
bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag  
was still there;  
O! say does that star-spangled banner yet  
wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of  
the brave?



# AGENDA

Thursday, July 23, 2020

## OPENING CEREMONY

9:30- 10:00 AM US CENTRAL STANDARD TIME  
8:30-9:00 AM BELIZE TIME



### Zoom Link

Meeting ID: 952 5650 9499

Password: BELIZE

- Master of Ceremony - Dr. Yanira Oliveras-Ortiz
- National Anthems
  - "Land of the Free"
  - "The Star- Spangled Banner"
- Welcome - Dr. Wes Hickey, Dean, College of Education & Psychology, UT Tyler
- Welcome - COBEC Co-Chairs, Dr. Karen Martinez (Belize) & Dr. Andy Novobilski (United States)
- VLK Architects, COBEC Sponsor

## BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

10:00 - 10:45 AM US CTS/9:00-9:45 AM BZ  
11:00 - 11:45 AM US CTS/10:00-10:45 AM BZ  
1:00 - 1:45 PM US CTS/12:00-12:45 PM BZ

**REFER TO PAGES 6-9 FOR BREAK-OUT SESSIONS INFORMATION AND ZOOM LINKS**

## STANDING COMMITTEES

- 2:00 - 4:00 PM US CTS/1:00-3:00 PM BZ
- Standing Committees Meetings
  - Standing Committees Reporting

**REFER TO PAGE 10 FOR ZOOM LINKS FOR THE STANDING COMMITTEES**



# BREAK-OUT SESSIONS 1

**10:00-10:45 AM CST**  
**9:00-9:45 AM BZ**

## **US-Belize Partnerships Series**

Dr. Yanira Oliveras-Ortiz (UT Tyler), Jeannie Garbutt (TEDS - Belize Ministry of Education), & Dr. Mathias Vairez (UB-Toledo) share their experiences as they collaborate to enhance teacher preparation in Belize. Dr. Oliveras shares the goals and initiatives of the new American Research Center for Belizean Studies.

**Meeting ID 96543438780** 

## **Librarians Series**

Margo Duncan, Head of Electronic Resources and Collection Development (UT Tyler) reviews library discovery systems: what they are, how they fit into the library technology landscape and how to evaluate them.

**Meeting ID 94544593599** 

## **Online Learning Series**

Dr. Julie Delello (UT Tyler)

Online learning should engage students and promote active learning. Whether synchronous or asynchronous, students should have the opportunity to think critically, be creative, and collaborate and communicate with their peers (the four C's of 21st century skills). You'll leave this virtual workshop with an updated crowdsourced list of the top 20 innovative tools every teacher needs to motivate students and enhance student learning.

**Meeting ID 92481384328** 

## **Learning Styles in Higher Education & Virtual Learning Environments**

Dr. Dalane Bouillion (VLK Architects) an educator and Principal of Educational Planning shares ideas to integrate various learning styles to virtual and face to face environments.

**Meeting ID 97784604925** 

**SESSIONS #1 CONTINUE ON THE NEXT PAGE**



# BREAK-OUT SESSIONS 1

**10:00-10:45 AM CST**  
**9:00-9:45 AM BZ**

## **Data-Driven Decision Making for Quality Assurance**

Dr. Kent Willis (The University of Texas Health Science Center-Tyler) and Dr. Lou Ann Berman (UT Tyler) will facilitate an interactive session with examples of generally recognized institutional assessment protocol that participants may adapt for their home campus.

**Meeting ID 99539826969**



## **Moving Forward after a Global Crisis: Implications of COVID-19**

Dr. Carol Babb (Ministry of Education), Dr. Eve Aird (Galen University) & Dr. Wes Hickey (UT Tyler) explore the challenges their organizations have faced during the global pandemic. They'll share the lessons they've learned and ideas as they plan for the future.

**Meeting ID 92089863195**



# BREAK-OUT SESSIONS 2

**11:00-11:45 AM CST**  
**10:00-10:45 AM BZ**

## **US & Belize Partnerships Series**

Learning and Service for High-Quality Education: The BSU/Belizean Ministry of Education Partnership: Service, research, teaching, curriculum, scholarships and exchange programs. Dr. Carol Babb (Ministry of Education, Belize) Dr. Lisa Battaglini (Bridgewater State University), and Dr. Patricia Emmons (Bridgewater State University) discuss the history of this successful partnership and outline the progression of collaborative initiatives and activities leading to a mutually beneficial model of international collaboration.

**Meeting ID 96543438780** 

## **Librarians Series**

Elizabeth Bradshaw, Resource Librarian (Tyler Public Library) presents an overview of the procedures and processing of print and e-resource materials, using the Tyler Public Library's ILS, Sierra.

**Meeting ID 94544593599** 

## **Online Learning Series**

Allison Martin (Bossier Parish CC) shares ideas to engage college students in her session, "Brain Science, Gamification, and Smartphones: Engaging and Retaining Underprepared Students".

**Meeting ID 92481384328** 

## **Learning Styles in Higher Education & Virtual Learning Environments**

Dr. Dalane Bouillion (VLK Architects) an educator and Principal of Educational Planning shares ideas to integrate various learning styles to virtual and face to face environments.

**Meeting ID 97784604925** 

## **Mental Health**

Dr. Jessica Holm (UT Tyler) and Dr. Maria Avalos (UT Permian Basin) share tips and resources for navigating the mental health needs following a global pandemic.

**Meeting ID 99539826969** 

# BREAK-OUT SESSIONS 3

**1:00-1:45 PM CST**  
**12:00-12:45 PM BZ**

## **US-Belize Partnerships Series**

Dr. Yanira Oliveras-Ortiz (UT Tyler), Jeannie Garbutt (TEDS - Belize Ministry of Education), & Dr. Mathias Vairez (UB-Toledo) share their experiences as they collaborate to enhance teacher preparation in Belize. Dr. Oliveras shares the goals and initiatives of the new American Research Center for Belizean Studies.

**Meeting ID 96543438780** 

## **Librarians Series**

Ashley Taylor & Ami Fortriede (Tyler Public Library) give an overview of various aspects of the Sierra desktop application and it's many functions.

**Meeting ID 94544593599** 

## **Online Learning Series**

Dr. Staci Zolkoski (UT Tyler) shares best practices and tips for effective online learning to engage students.

**Meeting ID 92481384328** 

## **Moving Forward after a Global Crisis: Implications of COVID-19**

Dr. Carol Babb (Ministry of Education), Dr. Eve Aird (Galen University) & Dr. Wes Hickey (UT Tyler) explore the challenges their organizations have faced during the global pandemic. They'll share the lessons they've learned and ideas as they plan for the future.

**Meeting ID 92089863195** 

## **Data-Driven Decision Making for Quality Assurance**

Dr. Kent Willis (The University of Texas Health Science Center-Tyler) and Dr. Lou Ann Berman (UT Tyler) will facilitate an interactive session with examples of generally recognized institutional assessment protocol that participants may adapt for their home campus.

**Meeting ID 99539826969** 

# STANDING COMMITTEES

**2:00-2:45 PM CST**  
**1:00-1:45 PM BZE**

## **College Fair**

Chairs, Ms. Aragon (BZ) and Allison Martin (US)  
Meeting ID 96543438780

**zoom**

## **CAFE**

Chairs, Neil McCrillis (US) and Fermin Magana (BZ)  
Meeting ID 94544593599

**zoom**

## **Study Abroad**

Chair, Dr. Eve Aird (BZ)  
Meeting ID 92481384328

**zoom**

## **Action Research**

Chairs, Noel Carballo (BZ) and Dr. E. Hodge (US)  
Meeting ID 97784604925

**zoom**

For the Standing Committees reports at 3 pm, join the main conference Zoom session.  
**Zoom Meeting ID: 952 5650 9499 Password: BELIZE**

# BUSINESS MEETING MEMBERS ONLY

Friday, July 24, 2020

**9:30 AM - 12:30 PM CST**  
**8:30 AM - 11:30 AM BZE**

**zoom**

**Meeting ID: 952 5650 9499**

**Password: BELIZE**

## **Welcome and Greetings**

**Guest Speaker:** Audrey Robin (The Trust for the Americas)

## **Business Meeting Call to Order**

**Acceptance of Agenda**

**Acceptance of Minutes**

Winter Conference February 6, 2020

**Reports of Officers**

**Matters Arising**

**Emeritus Nominations**

**Membership Applications**

The University of Texas at Permian Basin, Dr. Larry Daniel

**Any Other Business**

**Conference Evaluation** (Qualtrics)

**Venue for next COBEC conferences**

Winter 2021 Centro Escolar Mexico Junior College

Winter 2022 John Paul II Junior College



# THANK YOU!

Dear COBEC Colleagues & Friends,

Thank you for being part of the COBEC 2020 Summer Conference!

I want to express my gratitude to all the presenters for their contribution to the Summer 2020 COBEC conference! Thank you to the UT Tyler students and staff for your time and support in helping us ensure the Zoom sessions ran as smoothly as possible. Thank you, participants, for being a part of COBEC and helping us continue COBEC's tradition of collegiality and great conversations despite the unprecedented times we are living in. Last but not least, a special thank you to Andy, Karen & Wes for giving me the opportunity and trusting me to organize this summer conference. It was a pleasure serving COBEC.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all again at the Winter 2021 Conference at Centro Escolar Mexico JC in Corozal, Belize.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, and take care!

With much appreciation,

Yanira Oliveras, Ph.D.

UT Tyler

Chair, Summer 2020 Conference Planning



# VLK | ARCHITECTS

The UT Tyler College of Education & Psychology and COBEC would like to recognize and thank VLK Architects for their contribution and support. Their commitment to educational research and service are greatly appreciated! A special thank you to Dr. Dalane Bouillion for her partnership and willingness to be a part of the Summer 2020 COBEC Conference.

