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THIS PUBLICATION IS THE 13<sup>TH</sup> IN A SERIES THAT HIGHLIGHTS THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MANY OUTSTANDING TEACHERS AT UTEP

I believe teaching is more than a syllabus and textbook; I agree with Parker Palmer (1998) that **we teach who we are** and my teaching is informed by most of my backgrounds:

- 1) I teach content differently because I am a statistics/mathematics education researcher. For example, I note and address literature-referenced student misconceptions and I examine student reasoning, not just final answers.
- 2) I teach and mentor with further authenticity because of my professional experiences outside academia, especially my years as a full-time high school teacher or government statistician.
- 3) Drawing from my broader creative backgrounds, I connect my subject to such diverse realms as music, humor, magic, and culture (this not only makes for a more engaging, motivating, and memorable pedagogy, but has also led to papers and an NSF TUES grant) as well as to real-life realms such as lotteries, ethics, equity, and current news events. These beyond-the-book connections have turned into published classroom-ready lessons (e.g., in *Mathematics Teacher*) and books (e.g., Freeman math-for-liberal-arts text). A humanized subject helps when so many enter the classroom with poor backgrounds, attitudes, past experiences, or stereotypes.

My teaching is also informed by **who my students are**:

- 1) As more of my students exhibit the shorter attention span often associated with the millennial generation, I have gradually made my teaching style more interactive and comprising varied modalities.
- 2) Because my UTEP students are mostly current/future teachers, I strive to teach content in a way that makes classroom connections and models best practices.
- 3) Because many of my UTEP students are English learners (or are/will be teaching them), I have incorporated strategies (e.g., multiple representations) into my teaching to make content more accessible for ELs (and, it turns out, for everyone else as well!). Because many of my UTEP students come from underrepresented backgrounds, my teaching (and scholarship of teaching) has come to be more responsive to dynamics of culture, diversity, ethics, equity, etc.

# The Teaching Spotlight

## CETAL

Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning



NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:



## 2013 Sun Conference on Teaching and Learning

- Call for Proposals is NOW OPEN!

The Sun Conference will be held on February 28 and March 1, 2013

Teaching Enhancement Fridays!  
Faculty Development Workshops  
GO TO:  
<http://workshops.utep.edu>

## November 2

- **Social Media: Hype of Hope?**  
Led by Steve Varela
- **Interactive Lecturing to Create Deep Learning**  
Led by Larry Lesser
- **Time Management for Work-Life Balance and Career Success**  
By Mark Lusk and Irasema Coronado