

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY PADR

**MAY
2021**

What a great semester! Thank you all for being amazing as always. Right now, we are gearing up for our summer 1 and summer 2 sessions.

I hope you have a restful summer off for those of you taking a break, and we will see you in the Fall!

NEW ADDITIONS TO PADR

****NEW** PADR YouTube Channel** – Follow and subscribe to this link for the most recent PADR YouTube tutorials for both instructors and students.

Notes from the field – We will be interviewing some of our veteran instructors and getting their wisdoms put down in our newsletters to share with everyone.

PADR website updates – We are updating our website with an instructor resource page and more!



Notes from the field

Dr. Cathrine Nutter, Ph.D. – Senior Director of University Advising; Instructor - PADR & HRDV

How long have you worked as a PADR instructor?

Dr. Nutter: 7-8 years

Why did you take an interest in teaching PADR?

Dr. Nutter: It gave me the opportunity to better connect with my advising students. I wanted to show them that a better plan was what they needed to succeed. I could model success after a detour (I had plenty)....and I thought teaching that on a skill level was important.

What is your favorite lesson to teach your PADR students?

Dr. Nutter: I like the procrastination lesson – because we all procrastinate in some areas – whether it's putting off studying for history or ignoring the laundry for a week and a half. We're all guilty of it; it's part of life. Not everything can be a priority, and that's an important lesson to learn.

What pointers/tips/tricks do you have for anyone who is just starting their instructor journey for our program?

Dr. Nutter: Engage. Talk to your students; learn who they are and what they need. Make the class an opportunity to achieve, not a punishment for failure. Carol Dweck's Mindset is a perfect place to start.

If you could give one piece of advice to our new instructors, what would that be?

Dr. Nutter: Remember what it was like to be a student. Remember that you had to be taught some "obvious" lessons, too. Most of the time, our students are in PADR classes not because they don't care but because they don't know.

Patrick Bohn M.S – Director, The Learning Center; Instructor, PADR

Notes from the field

How long have you worked as a PADR instructor?

Patrick: I started in the Fall 2014 semester as a PADR instructor and have taught in the Fall and Spring every year since. I have taught both first-timers and repeat students.

Why did you take an interest in teaching PADR?

Patrick: I have always enjoyed being able to impact students' lives directly and have always felt a natural pull toward teaching. In all of my previous full-time jobs, I have had the ability to teach in one way or shape. I used to tutor on the side when I worked at The Princeton Review in Dallas. I really liked the experience and the students, as well as the process. When I came to SOAR in the summer of 2012, it was an aspect of the job that I really was interested in.

What is your favorite lesson to teach your PADR students?

Patrick: It depends on which group I have that semester. When I do repeater sections, I really like going over the "Employing Interdependence" chapter in the On-Course text. I think it really ties well into how students need to form connections with each other and the university, so they understand that we are here for them and want them to succeed. Working with the Learning Center allows me to give them a direct path to that support system.

What pointers/tips/tricks do you have for anyone who is just starting their instructor journey for our program?

Patrick: I think the best way for a new PADR instructor to start their journey is to ask questions. Reach out to other instructors. We can be a wealth of knowledge for each other. Because we all work in different departments on campus, we all bring different perspectives to the student experience to the table. Everyone was new once, so asking questions should never be frowned upon. We challenge our own students to ask questions, so we should have no problem modeling it ourselves.

If you could give one piece of advice to our new instructors, what would that be?

Patrick: Be genuine to your students (they will know if you are not). If you are goofy like me, allow them to see it...embrace it. The more that you can relate to them and be open usually helps bring their guard down. Once they see that you want them to succeed, that connection starts to build.