

WTCC takes Washington D.C: A Glimpse of Music Education while Traveling and Performing

Introduction

West Texas Children's Chorus allows kids from all over the city to gain valuable musical skills and be involved in a community of musicians outside of their regular school day. The WTCC was invited to sing a series of concerts in Washington, DC as part of the National Cherry Blossom Festival, April 7-11, 2022. In addition to the Cherry Blossom Parade, undergraduate interns had an opportunity to lead and perform with the ensembles in historic and prestigious venues, including a wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery and concerts at the National Amphitheater and the National Presbyterian Church, founded in 1795 and home to acclaimed choral ensembles such as the Navy Sea Chanters and the Washington Chorale.

Faculty Voice

"As a music education professor, I'm always looking for ways to **connect** our undergraduates with professional educators, community partners and of course, students in the "real" world. Without the **support** we received from TrUE, this opportunity to teach, travel and perform would not have been possible for our Texas Tech students. As ambassadors for the TTU School of Music, our students made a **strong positive impression** upon the West Texas Children's Chorus students and families, and we look forward to working with TrUE in future projects."

-- Dr. Susan Brumfield



Team

Faculty: Dr. Susan Brumfield

Students: Noah Byford, Hailey Gowens, Kiana Love, Olivia Sanborn, Max Vrij, Jana Zacharias

Goals

1. To provide each member of WTCC with the equal opportunity to represent West Texas's young musicians in our nation's capital.
2. To allow each member of WTCC to learn about and/or be enriched by our nation's culture and history through an up-close-and-personal experience.
3. To allow our undergraduate music education members to have an opportunity to assist in educating, mentoring, and leading the young musicians involved in WTCC.



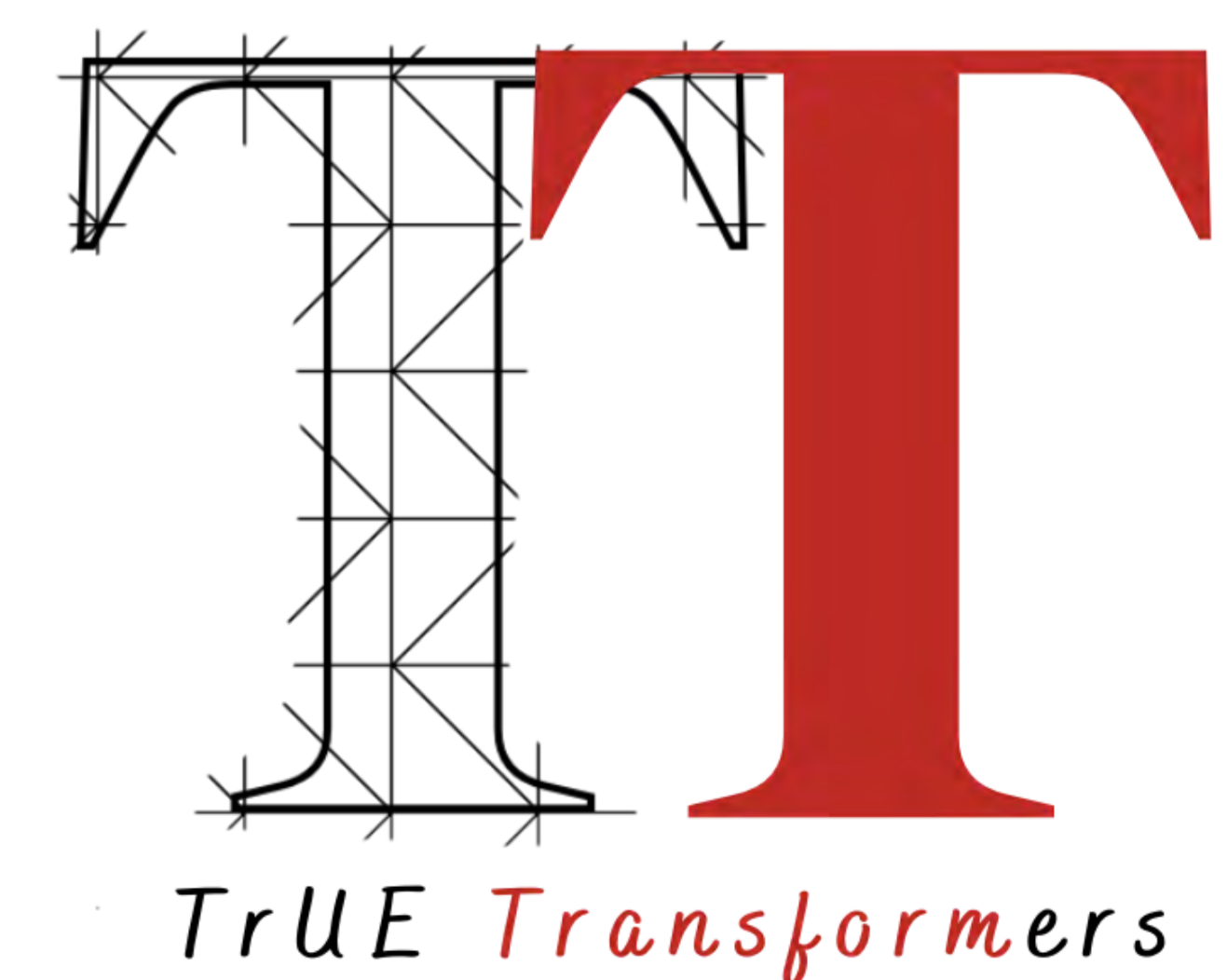
Student Voice

"This project gave me an opportunity to be **involved** in the education process in a way that I never would have this early in my degree or career. I hope to take what I've learned on this project and apply it to my future career as an educator. It won't matter if I end up teaching elementary or secondary school, I will still **take what I've learned** everywhere I go."

-- Undergraduate, Hailey Gowens

Impacts

Our child and young adult members all got to experience multiple varied aspects of American culture and history through museums, monuments, and more in the capital city, without having to worry about the burden of cost. Many of us college-age WTCC members may not have ever been able to have an experience like this without the support from the TrUE Transformers Program. Our undergraduate members gained valuable insight into educating young musicians in a travel setting. They observed strong leadership from the educators involved and were given the opportunity to jump in and assist in leading as well. It was an invaluable opportunity that many of them will be able to carry on and apply to their own teaching careers for years to come.



My Top 3
Transformative Priorities

Incorporated Community
Based Component

Intentionally Recruited
Underrepresented Students

Strong Potential for
Institutionalization