Good Morning Candidates,

You are receiving this email because you are scheduled to Clinical Teach in the Spring of 2020. Congratulations on reaching this important milestone. TEA mandates that anyone completing their clinical teaching in a Spring semester must engage in an August Experience to be able to see the first weeks of school, which TEA defines as the first two weeks that students attend.

We have exciting news, we have 3 partnering districts that will allow us to come in on two days. The first day you will be allowed to help a classroom teacher set up a classroom during a district work day. During this time, you will be able to see what goes into environment preparation as well as talk to the classroom teacher during this time about expectations, how to get to know students, what the first days look like, and anything else you might have questions about. The second day will be during the first two weeks of students attending classes. During this day, you will observe the classroom teacher and students in action and see how procedures, rules, and classroom management are established. This is a big deal for these districts to allow us to come and see these things, and it will be a great experience for you before going into Clinical Teaching in the Spring.

There are several attachments on this email. One is more detailed instructions, one is a sign up page to choose districts, dates, etc., I have also included instructions on background checks for the districts. I would suggest doing your background check for your first choice ASAP, and then if you do not receive that choice, you can do your background check for the second choice when you are notified.

We understand that this is short notice; I like to give as much time as possible, but this took a great deal of collaboration and working out logistics to set up. I thank you for your willingness to participate.

**\*\*Important:** Go into this experience with a positive attitude and get the most out of it that you can. **Do not speak unprofessionally**. This means do not talk negatively about any of the districts, anything you see in the classrooms, teaching styles, WTAMU, polies, etc. If there are issues, please address those with me personally. However, I have seen students talk about these things during an August Experience or Observations and then the district never wants them back. Just make sure that you don’t burn any bridges, and think of each time you step on ANY campus as a practice job interview—it very well may be.

If you have any questions, please let us know. However, **you will not be allowed to clinical teach in Spring 2020 if you have not successfully completed an August Experience** within the first weeks of school. This again is a TEA mandate.

Dr. Beth Garcia

Director of Teacher Preparation and Certification

Assistant Professor ESL/Bilingual Education

West Texas A&M University

P.O. Box 60208

Canyon, TX  79016

806-651-2609 fax 806-651-3610

egarcia@wtamu.edu



