



PEER-LED TEAM LEARNING INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

CROSSING BOUNDARIES, BUILDING NETWORKS



2021

Ninth Annual Conference

Thursday-Saturday | June 3-5

PEER-LED TEAM LEARNING INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

VISION, MISSION, AND GOALS

Vision

Our vision is that the Peer-Led Team Learning is integral to excellent education practice.

Mission

Our mission is to foster student learning through peer-led teams by supporting practitioners and institutions.

Goals

To achieve our mission and vision we will transform formal education by:

1. Training practitioners and students
2. Establishing and maintaining an international organization
3. Disseminating content, research, and best practices
4. Supporting PLTL Programs across disciplines/departments/campuses
5. Examining and addressing hindrances to adoption
6. Providing ideas for PLTL implementation
7. Supporting institutional strategic plans through PLTL implementation

Crossing Boundaries, Building Networks

The concept of training undergraduates as effective facilitators of learning is becoming a popular transformative pedagogical strategy and a driving force in educational research. In an ever-changing global landscape, it is crucial for educators to build a network of practitioners and communicate with educators from different cultural backgrounds. Building international connections, especially for the Peer Leader, will help disseminate exciting new practices and opportunities for learning and enriching the quality of the student and instructor experience.

Advocacy, Networking, Resources

PRESIDENT HEATHER A. WILSON

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO



The granddaughter of immigrants and the first person in her family to go to college, Dr. Heather Wilson became the 11th President of The University of Texas at El Paso in 2019. Dr. Wilson graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in the third class to admit women. She is a Rhodes Scholar, and earned her master's and doctoral degrees from Oxford University in England.

Before joining UTEP, Dr. Wilson served as the 24th Secretary of the United States Air Force and as a Member of Congress for ten years from New Mexico. She also served as the President of the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology.

As UTEP's President, her steady leadership has guided the university and its 25,000 students and 3,000 faculty and staff forward -- increasing research proposal submission, improving retention rates, adding degree programs and developing a long term enrollment strategy -- during a global pandemic. The Chancellor of the University of Texas System, James B. Milliken recently commended her successful leadership through one of the most challenging times in history, noting her "grit and grace" has benefited the entire community.

Active in community and national affairs, Dr. Wilson is a member of the National Science Board, which oversees the National Science Foundation. An instrument-rated private pilot and aircraft owner, she also chairs the Women in Aviation Advisory Board of the Federal Aviation Administration.

Dr. Wilson and her husband, Jay Hone, have three adult children.

WELCOME FROM HEATHER A. WILSON PRESIDENT, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

At the University of Texas at El Paso, we are our stories. Just a few weeks ago I met Alma Hernandez. She graduated from UTEP with a degree in Microbiology. She has a 4.0 GPA and earned a prestigious, full-ride scholarship through the National Science Foundation. She credits a lot of her success to UTEP's peer-led team learning program, which she joined as a way to learn English. She also found that helping her peers made her a stronger student, and a leader. UTEP has embraced Peer-Led Team-Learning for 20 years, not just in chemistry, but also in other STEM disciplines like Math and Physics.

I want to personally welcome you to this Ninth Annual Meeting of the Peer-Led Team Learning International Society. I'm sorry we have to beam you in rather than host you in person on our amazing campus. Regardless, I'm confident you will find lots of inspiration and best practices from others already using this program to improve student outcomes and further cultivate learning excellence. I hope that someday you'll visit us in El Paso to see our peer program in person. Best of luck in your peer-led team learning journey.



Photo caption: UTEP President Dr. Heather Wilson congratulates Alma Hernandez on graduation day. Alma was a peer educator in UTEP's Peer-Led Team-Learning program for four years. She helped hundreds of her fellow students in their Chemistry coursework.

Welcome to the Ninth Annual Conference, PLTL Practitioners!

We are delighted to welcome you to the 2021 Conference of the Peer-Led Team Learning International Society, co-chaired by James Becvar, from the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and Milka Montes, from the University of Texas, Permian Basin.

While this year's conference will be fully online, we are excited to learn about your PLTL programs and your experiences and help you with your questions if you are starting a PLTL program. We will get to meet in virtual rooms so please help us make it feel as warm as if we were in person.

Our PLTLIS conferences have a relaxed, friendly atmosphere which is conducive to sharing resources and ideas. We hope that you will be inspired in your practice while networking with other PLTL practitioners and enjoy this opportunity to learn and grow! The Conference Committee has coordinated three days of programming with something for everyone. This conference is entitled "Crossing Boundaries, Building Networks." We have a full program with presentations from peer leaders and faculty practitioners. We also have a great sequence of keynote workshops where we are going to be exploring the art of storytelling, starting with our personal stories, going into our programs and finishing with a look at our future careers and the impact that PLTL had on many of us.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Society, we invite you to continue working with us over the course of the next year. Whether you are interested in creating regional networks of practitioners, formulating what benefits an Alumni Network could bestow on former and current Peer Leaders, submitting a paper to the new Journal, *Advances in Peer-Led Learning (APLL)*, co-authoring a workbook, working on next year's Conference Committee, or have another idea for the practice of Peer-Led Team Learning, we look forward to your involvement to strengthen PLTLIS and PLTL practitioners.

Enjoy the next few days and thank you so much for being a part of PLTLIS!



Marcelo O. Sztainberg
PLTLIS President (2019-2021)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2021

Introduction to the PLTL Model (Part 1)

11:15 AM – 12:00 PM

The workshop introduces the experience of working in collaboration with colleagues to solve a problem, facilitated by a trained Peer Leader. The focus of the process of learning is highlighted as well as the critical attributes that students gain. The Peer-Led team Learning model's six critical components are introduced.

Introduction to the PLTL Model (Part 2)

12:15 PM – 1:15 PM

Three components of the PLTL model are introduced, with collaborative exercises that support participants' understanding of each so that they will be able to choose how to apply the concept to implement the program. Recruiting and training Peer Leaders, faculty roles and responsibilities, and the rewards/challenges in implementation are discussed.

Introduction to the PLTL Model (Part 3)

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

The importance of challenging problems to promote interaction, the issues of integrating peer-led workshops into schedules, and physical space, and the attention to issues of assessment and integration for the implementation of PLTL at participants' institutions will be explored through brief exercises and discussion.

Presenters

James Becvar, The University of Texas at El Paso
AE Dreyfuss, Peer-Led Team Learning International Society
Ana Fraiman, Northeastern Illinois University
Mitsue Nakamura, University of Houston Downtown
Allison McKee, Peer Leader, University of Houston Downtown
Jacob Najera, Peer Leader, The University of Texas at El Paso
Paulina Torres, Peer Leader, The University of Texas at El Paso

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

DAY ONE

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2021

Welcoming Remarks

11:00 AM – 11:15 AM

Marcelo Sztainberg, President, PLTLIS
James Becvar, Conference Co-chair
Dr. Heather A. Wilson, President, UTEP (Video)
Milka Montes, Conference Co-chair

Keynote Workshop I

11:15 AM – 12:45 AM

Projects with Purpose:
Telling Stories About Why You Do What You Do
Presenters: Jonathan Adler and Gillian Epstein

1:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Oral Presentations I and Q&A

1:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Oral Presentations II and Q&A

2:15 PM – 2:45 PM

Oral Presentations III and Q&A

2:45 PM – 3:15 PM

Oral Presentations IV and Q&A

3:15 PM – 4:00 PM

Networking Session

SPECIAL SHOWCASES

Available throughout
Conference

Chemistry PLTL at Washington University in St. Louis

Link also available in WHOVA App
https://youtu.be/MLn6MQS_8Aw

Available throughout
Conference

Campus Showcase: The University of Texas at Arlington

Link also available in WHOVA App
<https://youtu.be/cMsXee3rmy4>

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

DAY TWO AND THREE

FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 2021

11:00 AM – 11:15 AM

Opening Remarks

James Becvar, Conference Co-Chair, PLTLIS

11:15 AM – 1:15 PM

Keynote Workshop II

Shaping the Future of PLTL with Story

Presenter: Marymoore Patterson

1:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Oral Presentations V and Q&A

2:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Oral Presentations VI and Q&A

2:45 PM – 3:15 PM

Oral Presentations VII and Q&A

3:15 PM – 3:45 PM

Peer Leaders' Meeting

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2021

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Keynote Panel III

The Influence of the Experience of Peer Leading

Moderator: Milka Montes

12:15 PM – 1:30 PM

Plenary Session – By This Time Next Year...

What are the goals for your program?

Moderator: Marcelo Sztainberg

Closing Remarks

Milka Montes, Conference Co-Chair, PLTLIS

2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Meeting of the Peer-Led Team Learning International Society Board of Directors

KEYNOTE WORKSHOP I

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2021

Projects With Purpose: Telling Stories About Why You Do What You Do

Whether interviewing for a job, planning your professional trajectory, or trying to make sense of daily life, understanding and sharing stories about why you do what you do is essential. This workshop offers creative, scaffolded ways for participants to access and distill why they care about their work. Participants will leave with an integrated story about their personal stakes in an individual or team project, as well as with prompts and tools to help colleagues, peers, and students do the same.



JONATHAN ADLER is a Professor of Psychology at Olin College of Engineering, Needham, Massachusetts, and a Visiting Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. He is also the Chief Academic Officer of Health Story Collaborative, a non-profit organization aimed at elevating the role of personal stories in health care. Dr. Adler's research focuses on identity development, with an emphasis on the role narrating challenging experiences has on mental health. His research has been published in

leading scholarly journals and he serves as Associate Editor of both *Journal of Personality* (his field's oldest journal) and *Collabra: Psychology* (his field's newest journal). His research has been covered in The New York Times, National Public Radio, The Boston Globe, The Atlantic, Scientific American, CNN, BBC, and The Today Show, among other outlets. He lives in Newton, Massachusetts, with his husband and their two young children.



GILLIAN EPSTEIN is the Writing Initiatives Specialist at Olin College of Engineering, Needham, Massachusetts, where she coaches and cultivates writing and storytelling across both the curriculum and the community. Dr. Epstein's academic research focused on unreliable narrators in American realist literature, and this work has taken on a whole new life as inspiration for helping others experiment with multiple ways of telling and exploring their own stories. Her teaching, projects, and programs invite participants

narrating who they are and what they care about, with a focus on amplifying diverse voices and building insight, empathy and connection. Based on her belief that the practice and power of writing and storytelling is within everyone's reach, Dr. Epstein works with a broad range of people and organizations—including her ongoing teaching at Amazon Robotics and her creative partnership with a local artist commissioned to create community storytelling events. She lives in Lexington, Massachusetts, with her partner and almost fully grown-up children.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS I AND Q&A

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2021

1:00 PM – 1:30 PM

PLTL Implementations

**Overcoming Challenges to Learning in PLTL Spaces:
The Experiences of Underrepresented Students**
Robin D. Frye, University of Rochester

**Leader Training/PD for PLs,
Instructors**

**Dominican University STEM Success Model: PLTL,
Inclusive Pedagogy, and Student Success Case
Management**
Tina Taylor-Ritzler, Dominican University

Peer Leader Strategies

**Strategies and Materials that Support Best Practices
for the Professional Development of Peer Leaders
in San Jose City College's PLTL & SI Programs**
Artie Evans, San Jose City College

Workshops – Plus!

**Fostering Communication Skills in Peer Leader
Workshops**
Nataly Amaya, Florida International University
(Continued through Oral Presentations II)

ORAL PRESENTATIONS II AND Q&A

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2021

1:30 PM – 2:00 PM

PLTL Implementations

Developing a Machine Learning Strategy to Identify STEM Students Most in Need of PLTL

Pliny A. Smith, Dominican University

**Leader Training/PD for PLs,
Instructors**

Peer Leader Training: Using Interactive Theatre to Challenge Peer Leaders' Assumptions About Student Participation in PLTL Workshops

M. Cecilia Barone, University of Rochester

Peer Leader Strategies

How has PLTL Helped me with a Sense of Belonging?

Reagan Hudson, University of Texas Permian Basin

Workshops – Plus!

Fostering Communication Skills in Peer Leader Workshops

Nataly Amaya, Florida International University
(Continued from Oral Presentations I)

ORAL PRESENTATIONS III AND Q&A

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2021

2:15 PM – 2:45 PM

PLTL Implementations

UHD Peer Led Team Learning Journey: From Content Facilitation to Inclusive Leadership Development

Mitsue Nakamura, University of Houston Downtown

Leader Training/PD for PLs, Instructors

Learning by Video, a Critical Skill for Education and Communication

Enid Martinez, The University of Texas at El Paso

Peer Leader Strategies

Shadow Peer Leading in PLTL

Madeline R. Olivas, The University of Texas at El Paso

Workshops – Plus!

Peer Leaders Training Program Workshop Style: Transitioning to a Virtual Environment

Allison McKee, University of Houston Downtown

ORAL PRESENTATIONS IV AND Q&A

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2021

2:45 PM – 3:15 PM

PLTL Implementations

Peer-Led Team Learning and Student Success
Rita Upmacis, Pace University

**Leader Training/PD for PLs,
Instructors**

**The Impact of the Shift to Virtual Learning on
Latinx Students and Peer Leaders in the Peer-Led
Team Learning (PLTL) Program at UTEP**
Vanessa L. Rodriguez, The University of Texas at El Paso

Peer Leader Strategies

**PLTL Ambassador Program: Expanding Peer
Leading to Early College Students**
Alissa Saenz, The University of Texas at El Paso

Workshops – Plus!

**Enhancing metacognition in PLTL sessions through
reflective practice**
P. Brandon Johnson, University of Texas at Dallas

KEYNOTE WORKSHOP II

FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 2021

Shaping the Future of PLTL with Story

Becoming a leader begins with understanding your own story and drawing from your unique experiences to inspire hope and transformation. For a society, these stories weave together to become “our story,” making visible and obvious the impact your shared values and practices of learning, teaching, caring, and engaging can bring. In this workshop, you will surface personal moments of discovery and empowerment you have experienced as a learner, faculty, staff, peer leader, or colleague. Participants will be coached through a series of individual and group activities to expand on these stories and craft collective stories that will help others understand, engage, and shape the future of PLTL programs and PLTLIS.



MARYMOORE PATTERSON is an innovation strategist, design researcher, ethnographer, and storyteller, and with 25 years of experience in keeping high tech human. She is a big fan of emerging technology, human-centered design, and solving problems that matter. She believes that innovation is essentially about telling new stories, and that the best innovations and stories create hope and transformation. She also believes that everyone has a powerful story to tell and that everyone’s story matters.

Marymoore holds an MA and MBA, and is working on an MS. She has spent a lot of her life in China and Japan (and speaks and translates from both languages). In her spare moments, she hangs with her husband and three daughters, practices creative writing, and writes and plays with her folk-rock trio, Hitchhiking Honeymoon.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS V AND Q&A

FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 2021

1:30 PM – 2:00 PM

PLTL Implementations

Disrupt, Rethink, Reimagine: PLTL Forging Alliances with Pre-service Mathematics Teachers
Nadia S. Kennedy, New York City College of Technology,
The City University of New York

Leader Training/PD for PLs, Instructors

Always Learning: Peer-Leading as a Non-Traditional Student
Kaleigh J. Love, The University of Texas at El Paso

Peer Leader Strategies

The Necessity of Change: The Living Chemistry 1305 Workbook
Raymundo A. Aragonéz, The University of Texas at El Paso

Workshops – Plus!

PLTL in the Age of Remediation Reform: A Corequisite College Algebra Model Workshop
Michele C. Doney, Baruch College, City University of New York
(Continued through Oral Presentations VI)

ORAL PRESENTATIONS VI AND Q&A

FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 2021

2:00 PM – 2:30 PM

PLTL Implementations

**Evaluation of a Peer-Led Team Learning Course
Designed to Increase Underprepared Students
Success in Engineering**

Kimshi Hickman, University of Texas at Arlington

**Leader Training/PD for PLs,
Instructors**

**Building a Team of Peer Leaders through GD Zero:
A How-to Guide**

Jose Alberte, Florida International University

Peer Leader Strategies

Time Management as a Peer Leader

Sofia Delgado, The University of Texas at El Paso

Workshops – Plus!

**PLTL in the Age of Remediation Reform: A
Corequisite College Algebra Model Workshop**
Michele C. Doney, Baruch College, City University of New
York

(Continued from Oral Presentations V)

ORAL PRESENTATIONS VII AND Q&A

FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 2021

2:45 PM – 3:15 PM

PLTL Implementations

The Importance of PLTL Workshop in Improvement of the Performance of UTPB Undergraduate on General Chemistry II
Chao Dong, University of Texas Permian Basin

Leader Training/PD for PLs, Instructors

Quality Control in Peer-Led Workshops
Edna D. Tepezano, The University of Texas at El Paso

Peer Leader Strategies

Developing a Peer Leader's Pedagogical Bag of Tricks for Transitioning Learning Environments
Jose Alberte, Florida International University

KEYNOTE PANEL III

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2021

The Influence of the Experience of Peer Leading

The Alumni Panel will focus on highlighting the life-changing experiences that peer leading brought to the panelists

MODERATOR



MILKA MONTES is an Associate Professor and Chair of Chemistry at the University of Texas Permian Basin (UTPB). Milka served as a Peer Leader in Chemistry at her *alma mater* The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) the early 2000's while getting her bachelor's degree in Chemistry. She has used the skills learned as a Peer Leader throughout her career, and now serves in several committees at her institution including faculty senate. She

is the campus Director of the UT-System LSAMP Program, Director of the Natural Resource Center at UTPB, and President-elect of PLTLIS.

PANELISTS



LESLIE CERVANTES graduated from University of Texas at El Paso with a B.S. in Biology and was a Peer Leader in Chemistry. She attended New England Law School and is currently employed as an immigration attorney at Cervantes Law in Boston, Massachusetts.



CHINEDU CHUKUIGW was a Peer Leader in Chemistry at the City College of New York, City University of New York, while studying biomedical engineering. He is currently a software engineering consultant helping teams at companies like Airbnb and Squire Technologies build innovative products.



A. TURCHANINOVA (AT) is a third-year graduate student in physics at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill, studying the evolution of the universe in its very first second. AT served as a peer leader in mathematics and computer science at the University of Houston-Downtown and now uses their peer-leading experience as a teaching assistant for intro physics courses at UNC.

PANELISTS CONTINUED



MELISSA GREENLEE graduated with dual degrees in Applied Mathematics and Computer Science from the University of Houston - Downtown in May 2014 and has since worked for Microsoft's Azure Machine Learning platform as a software engineer at the New England Research and Development (NERD) Center in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She leads service reliability efforts for several

Component services within Azure Machine Learning and acts as a board member for the Women at NERD employee resource group.



NICOLE VARGAS was a Peer Leader for several years at Florida International University; she was also a research assistant and the chair of outreach for the PLTL program. She recently graduated with her Master's degree in Adult Education and Human Resource Development and works as a high school Biology teacher for a charter school near Miami, Florida.



YIMING YU is an applied mathematician and a research scientist II at Georgia Tech Research Institute. He was a Peer Leader in Mathematics for three years at New York City College of Technology, City University of New York.



DAVID ZARATE is a 37-year-old graduate of Grand Canyon University with a BS in Biology in pursuit of a medical school degree. He was a Peer Leader at San Jose City College (SJCC) which instilled in him the tools necessary to make headway in higher education.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

University of Texas, El Paso

The Office of the President

Heather A. Wilson, President

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Mahesh Narayan, Department of Chemistry

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Milka Montes, Co-Chair and PLTLIS President-Elect

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Mitsue Nakamura, PLTLIS Board Member

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Special thank you to the Moderators and you, the participants!

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Committees and Leadership Activities

Conferences and Workshops

Webinars

Workbooks (shop.pltlis.org)

Research

Advances in Peer-Led Learning (APLL) Journal

Alumni Network

Certification Program Development

Internship Development

Communication and Outreach

The Peer Leader Newsletter

The Forum (online)

Open Houses

For more information:

info@ptlis.org

www.pltlis.org

The Peer-Led Team Learning International Society was founded in September 2011 at Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia and incorporated in April 2012 in the state of Texas, and is registered as a 501(c)(3) organization.