GLOBAL TEACHING PROJECT

bringing great teachers to everyone, everywhere.

Advanced STEM
Summer Preparatory Program

Mississippi State University • June 2023

Lead Instructors

Morgan Bishop
Computer Science Instructor

Morgan Bishop received her Bachelors in Education and Mathematics from Mississippi State University and her Masters in Education from the University of Alabama. Ms. Bishop is highly involved in STEM education, having taught a wide range of mathematics courses and AP Computer Science Principles and coached a BEST Vex Robotics program and SEAPERCH Underwater ROV program. This is her second year working with the Global Teaching Project and its Advanced STEM Summer Preparatory Program, where she will be instructing the AP Computer Science Principles sessions. Ms. Bishop lives in Tuscaloosa, Alabama with her cat, Moo Moo.

Anna Creekmore
Physics Instructor

Anna Creekmore is a Mississippi native and Mississippi State University alumna. She currently teaches in the New Albany School District and has a passion for serving Mississippi students. Mrs. Creekmore is certified to teach AP Physics and has been a part of the Global Teaching Project and the Advanced STEM Summer Preparatory Program since its inception in 2017. She loves spending time with her husband Josh, her daughter Dempsey, her two dogs, and being active in her local community.

Dane Peagler
Physics, Statistics and Computer Science Instructor

Dane Peagler attended Mississippi State University, where he earned a BS in Physics and a BS in Secondary Education. Mr. Peagler is certified to teach AP Physics, AP Statistics and AP Computer Science, and has taught those subjects in Mississippi high schools where his students achieved some of the state's top results. Mr. Peagler has been a part of the Global Teaching Project and the Advanced STEM Summer Preparatory Program since its inception in 2017. He currently lives in Brandon, Mississippi with his wife Morgan and son Luka.

Nicole Roberson
Executive Director, MS Consortium; Biology Instructor

Nicole Roberson, a native of Belmont, Mississippi, attended the University of Mississippi where she earned a BA and M. Ed. in Secondary Science Education. After teaching AP Biology and other STEM courses at the high school level for 20 years, Ms. Roberson is currently on the faculty of the University of Mississippi School of Education, where she teaches Secondary STEM Education, and serves as the Executive Director for the Mississippi Public School Consortium for Educational Access. She resides in Oxford with her husband, Bradley, and their two children, Riley and Cullen.

Staff

Matt Dolan
Global Teaching Project

Matt Dolan is founder and CEO of the Global Teaching Project, which provides promising high school students in rural and underserved areas access to advanced courses they need to achieve their full potential, but which their schools otherwise may not be able to offer. Prior to founding the Global Teaching Project, Mr. Dolan, an attorney, practiced law in the private sector and on the staff of the U.S. Senate. In addition, Mr. Dolan has served in a volunteer capacity for many charitable, philanthropic, and public service entities. Mr. Dolan is a graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law and Yale College.

Lizzie Brandon
Summer Program Coordinator

Lizzie Brandon, a native of Woodland, Mississippi, earned a B.S. in Biology Education and General Science Education in 2017 and a M.S. in Teacher Leadership in 2022 from Mississippi State University. Mrs. Brandon taught high school biology at Starkville High School (2018-2019) and 8th grade science at Houston Middle School (2019-2021). She was a project manager at MSU's Center for Cyber Education from July of 2021 to December of 2022. Her passion for the education of students in science education led to her return to the classroom in January of 2023 to Houston High School where she currently teaches biology. During her educational and professional journey, she has also worked with MSU's Bagley College of Engineering in teaching various STEM and engineering related camps, as well as working with the Region IV Science Fairs. She has been a staff member with the Advanced STEM Preparatory Summer Program since its inception, and has been Summer Program Coordinator for five years. Mrs. Brandon and her husband welcomed their first child, Nate, in February of 2021. In January of this year they welcomed their second child, AC.

Kiran Ghia
Global Teaching Project

Kiran Ghia is Chief Strategy Advisor to the Global Teaching Project. Ms. Ghia has worked closely with Mississippi public schools for the past 6 years, connecting students to critical resources and building enduring relationships within these communities. As an attorney practicing international law and international human rights law, Ms. Ghia has worked with underserved populations around the world and has witnessed the injustice and inequities that plague resource-poor settings. Prior to her current role, Ms. Ghia served as Director and inaugural CEO of The Leadership Foundation of India, which promotes educational opportunity for girls and supports the development of Avasara Academy, a secondary school and leadership academy for adolescent girls in India. Ms. Ghia is a graduate of Georgetown Law Center and Yale College.

Canaan Harris
Global Teaching Project

Canaan Harris is from Belmont, Mississippi, where he was valedictorian at Belmont High School. He attended Yale University, where he received a BA in Global Affairs, before returning to his hometown. Previously, Mr. Harris worked for a non-profit organization that helped college students coordinate debates and conferences on American history, and he joined the Global Teaching Project as Education Program Manager in January of 2022.

Counselors

Matthew Peterson
Lead Male Counselor

Matthew Peterson, a native of Falkner, Mississippi, earned a B.S in Secondary Mathematics Education from Mississippi State University and a M.S in Higher Education Administration from Mississippi College. Mr. Peterson has taught mathematics at the secondary level for six years. Mr. Peterson has been a part of the Advanced STEM Summer Preparatory Program as the Lead Male Counselor since 2018.

KayKay Foster
Lead Female Counselor

Katelynn (Kay Kay) Foster, a native of Mendenhall, Mississippi. Ms. Foster graduated with a B.S. in Secondary Biology Education from Mississippi State University, where she also was a member of MSU's Famous Maroon Band. She has taught Biology at Starkville High School and Mendenhall High School. This is Ms. Foster's fifth summer working with students at the Advanced STEM Preparatory Summer Program. She loves working on the farm, reading, playing video games and going on adventures.

Teaching Assistants

Gracemarie Buehlmann
University of Virginia

Gracemarie Buehlmann is a second-year graduate student at University of Colorado Boulder studying physics. This is her second year working with the Global Teaching Project as a Teaching Assistant for AP Physics 1. Apart from tutoring, Gracemarie participates in marching band. Additionally, Gracemarie enjoys knitting, reading, and playing her instruments - which include percussion and trombone. Gracemarie is originally from Arlington, Virginia, and is a graduate of the University of Virginia.

Sarah Pentzke
Yale University

Sarah Pentzke is a rising senior at Yale University studying Economics. This is her first year working with the Global Teaching Project as a tutor for AP Physics 1. Apart from tutoring, she is a board member of the Yale Quantum Physics Coalition, is the project lead of the Yale Space Station Project, and is a member of Yale Undergraduate Diversified Investments. Additionally, Sarah enjoys playing video games, watching movies, and practicing the flute. She is originally from Cocoa, Florida.

Carson Hill
Mississippi State University

Carson Hill is a second-year student at Mississippi State University studying Physics and Computer Science. This is his second year working with the Global Teaching Project as a Teaching Assistant for AP Physics 1 and AP Computer Science Principles. In addition to tutoring, Carson participates in Sports Media. Additionally, Carson enjoys coding, chess, photography, and graphic design. Carson is originally from Brandon, Mississippi.

Jade Hackett
University of Southern California / Yale University

Jade Hackett is a PhD student in computer science at the University of Southern California. They joined the Global Teaching Project in 2019 as a Physics tutor, while studying Physics and Computer Science at Yale University. When not tutoring or tinkering with computer science research, Jade can be found baking bread or wrenching at their local bike co-op.

Carlos Negron
Vanderbilt University

Carlos Negron is a rising third-year student at Vanderbilt University studying Mechanical Engineering. This is his third year working with the Global Teaching Project as a Teaching Assistant for AP Physics. Over the summer, he did research on conjugated polymer nanoparticles at the NanoScience Technology Center at the University of Central Florida. Additionally, he enjoys playing tennis, and video games. Carlos is originally from Coamo, Puerto Rico.

Kareem Elgohry
Vanderbilt University

Kareem Elgohry is rising third-year student at Vanderbilt University studying Computer Science. This is his third year working with the Global Teaching Project as a teaching assistant for AP Physics 1 and AP Computer Science Principles. In his free time, Kareem enjoys being outdoors, playing sports, and learning new languages. He is a part of his school's robotics, ultimate frisbee, and Table Tennis teams. Kareem grew up in Oxford, Mississippi.

William Harkless
University of Pennsylvania

William Harkless is a recent graduate of the University of Pennsylvania where he majored in Systems Science and Engineering, and minored in Mathematics. William also has expertise in computer programming and has worked on several mobile and web-based apps, as well as co-founded a trading company for which he currently serves as CFO. William is a Mississippi native and has tutored and mentored students in elementary, middle and high school, as well as through Operation Shoestring.

Travis Montgomery
University of Virginia

Travis Montgomery is a rising third-year student at the University of Virginia studying Computer Science and Data Science. This will be Travis' second year working with the Global Teaching Project as a Teaching Assistant for AP Computer Science Principles. Apart from tutoring, Travis enjoys being outdoors, either fishing, hunting, or hiking. Additionally, Travis enjoys playing disc golf and participating in his fraternity's Intramural sports teams. Travis is originally from Richmond, Virginia.

Teaching Assistants *(Continued)*

Caden Wright
University of Virginia

Caden Wright is a rising senior at the University of Virginia studying Mathematics and Computer Science. This will be Caden's second year working with the Global Teaching Project as a Teaching Assistant for AP Computer Science Principles. Apart from tutoring, Caden enjoys playing both video and board games and is a member of the board game club and magic the gathering club. Additionally, He also enjoys hiking and swimming and is a member of the University's outdoors club. Caden is originally from Williamsburg, VA.

Matthew Zhou
Vanderbilt University

Matthew Zhou is a rising third-year student at Vanderbilt University studying chemistry and computer science. This is his second year working with the Global Teaching Project as a Teaching Assistant for AP Computer Science Principles. At Vanderbilt, he is a part of several student organizations like Engineers Without Borders, Change++, and the running club. Matthew is from River Edge, New Jersey.

Shan Akiraj
University of Virginia

Shan Akiraj is a rising senior at UVA studying Computer Science. This is Shan's second year working with the Global Teaching Project as a Teaching Assistant for AP Computer Science Principles. Apart from tutoring, Shan has worked as a student instructor teaching Taekwondo. Additionally, Shan enjoys playing soccer and chess and is a member of the Barbell Club at his school. Shan is originally from Richmond, Virginia.

Christian Dunne
University of Notre Dame

Christian Dunne is a rising second-year student at the University of Notre Dame studying Computer Science. This is his second year working with the Global Teaching Project as a Teaching Assistant for AP Computer Science Principles. Apart from tutoring, Christian participates in school and community-wide music and theater programs. Additionally, Christian enjoys programming and playing soccer. Christian is originally from Starkville, Mississippi.

Rahul Kumar
Mississippi State University

Rahul Kumar is a sophomore at Mississippi State University studying computer science. This is his first year working with the Global Teaching Project as a teaching assistant for computer science. Apart from the Global Teaching Project, Rahul also coaches tennis and enjoys programming and going to the gym in his free time. Rahul is originally from Greenville, Mississippi.

Ian Espy
Harvard

Ian Espy is a recent graduate of Harvard College where he majored in Human Developmental and Regenerative Biology. A Mississippi native and an accomplished student, Ian placed 2nd in the 2018 Mississippi State Science Fair in the Animal Science category. Ian also has extensive tutoring and volunteering experience through his work with the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science and the Jack and Jill Club.

Jake Flynn
University of Virginia

Jake Flynn is a 3rd year student at the University of Virginia studying Biology and Entrepreneurship and is originally from Fredericksburg, Virginia. Outside of class, Jake serves as the Social Chair for the Phi Society fraternity in which he plans events for alumni and students at the University. Jake is also a member of the University of Virginia Cheer team as well as a member of the Cans To Cans fraternity run recycling club at the University. Along with his commitments, Jake enjoys promoting a progressive lifestyle by working out everyday and staying active when not in class or a fraternity meeting.

Adam Stanfield
Teacher, Alcorn Central High School

Adam Stanfield is a teacher at Alcorn Central High School, where he has just completed his second year of teaching Biology. He is from Belmont, Mississippi, where he graduated from Belmont High School. Adam graduated from the University of Mississippi with a degree in Biology. In his free time, Adam is an avid film buff and football fan.

Teaching Assistants *(Continued)*

Kevin Lin
Harvard University

Kevin Lin is a recent graduate of Harvard College where he studied Neuroscience. This is his second year working with the Global Teaching Project as a Teaching Assistant for AP Biology. In addition to tutoring, Kevin acts as the editor-at-large for the college's long-form magazine, tutors organic chemistry, and makes wheel-thrown pottery. Additionally, Kevin enjoys cooking, thrifting, and working out. Kevin is originally from New York, NY.

Makaila Huish
University of Virginia

Makaila Huish is a fourth year at the University of Virginia studying Psychology and Statistics. This is her first year working with the Global Teaching Project as a Teaching Assistant for AP Statistics. In her free time, she enjoys crocheting, hiking, being with animals, and baking. In the future, she hopes to become a professor and continue teaching. Makaila is originally from Scottsdale, Arizona.

Conner Caldwell
Teacher, Seaman High School

Conner Caldwell is a graduate of the University of Mississippi. He is currently working as a 2nd year teacher for Seaman High School in Topeka, KS. This will be his first year working with the Global Teaching Project. Conner is originally from Belmont, MS, where he graduated valedictorian of his class at Belmont High School.

Kendal Toy
Yale University

Kendal Toy is a 2022 graduate of Yale University where she majored in Biomedical Engineering. This is her fourth year working with the Global Teaching Project as a Teaching Assistant for AP Physics 1, AP Statistics and AP Biology. Kendal is also a research assistant in Dr. Wiznia's lab and was a member of the varsity gymnastics team. Additionally, she loves spending time with friends and finding new places to explore. Kendal is originally from Coppell, Texas.

Seger McGuire
Mississippi State University

Seger McGuire is a second-year Educational Psychology PhD student at Mississippi State University. This is Seger's first time working with the Global Teaching Project as a teaching assistant for AP Statistics and as an Assistant Counselor. She has prior experience as a Resident Advisor at Mississippi State University. Her graduate research focuses on creativity in the educational setting. Seger is originally from Union, Mississippi.

Assistants Counselors

Demeria Moore
Holmes County Community College

Demeria Moore is a sophomore at Holmes Community College majoring in Computer Science. This is her first year working with the Global Teaching Project. Apart from tutoring, she works in her school's STEM lab, is a Holmes Plus, Phi Theta Kappa member, and enjoys making different crafts in her free time. Demeria graduated from McAdams High School, where she participated in GTP's Physics and Computer Science programs.

Jalen Nixon
Mississippi State University

Jalen Nixon is a sophomore at Mississippi State University studying Computer Science. He graduated from Quitman High School, where he participated in GTP's Physics and Computer Science Programs. In his free time, he enjoys watching anime, playing video games and basketball, and spending time with his family and friends.