

# The iBEARS Buzz

Inclusive Biologists Exploring Active Research with Students



## iBEARS: Creating Inclusive STEM Experiences One Classroom at a Time

If this is your first introduction to iBEARS, welcome to the family! First, let's discuss what we do at iBEARS. We are a community of researchers who bring active research experiences into 4th-8th grade classrooms by using technology. Our community includes our undergraduate students majoring in STEM fields, our instructors and researchers at the university level, our classroom teachers, and the students in the classrooms participating in our program. The undergraduate students enroll in two-course sequence in biology: in the first course, they complete a course-based research project, and in the second course, they teach a classroom of students how to conduct research. Classroom teachers choose to participate in this program because it brings high-quality STEM education into their classrooms and serves as an active professional development opportunity. The classroom students, under the guidance of our undergraduates, design, implement, and publish the findings from their research project in the form of a research poster, which is presented at the iBEARS conference! Talk about seeing themselves as scientists – each classroom student participates in the work presented and they see their names appearing on their actual research poster!

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Coffee Chats

- Wednesday, August 18th at 5pm CST
- Join Tracey Sulak and Penny Thompson to discuss 21st century skills and current publications of iBEARS

### Presentations

- NSF INCLUDES National Network, August 11-12th, virtual
- School Science and Mathematics Association, October 28-30th, virtual
- National Association of Biology Teachers, November 11-14th in Atlanta, GA



## MEET THE TEAM

**Tracey Sulak, Ph.D.** is a Clinical Associate Professor in Educational Psychology at Baylor University. Her research interests include broadening participation in STEM.

**Marty Harvill, Ph.D.** directs the undergraduate mentors in the iBEARS program and coordinates the annual conference. He is a Senior Lecturer in the Biology department at Baylor.

**Michael Moore, Ph.D.** is the lead for the QUBES hub iBEARS site. He is the learning assistant program coordinator at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock where he conducts research on STEM inclusion.

**Penny Thompson, Ph.D.** is an associate professor of educational technology at Oklahoma State University. Her research interests include the 21st-century skills required for success in a technology-rich society.

**Bradley Christian, Ph.D.** is the Division Chair of Math and Science at McLennan Community College, where he oversees eight academic departments and serves as the school's Institutional Review Board Chair.

**Alex T. St. Louis (@AcademicAlexT)** is the iBEARS at TCU Liaison/Lead Researcher. She is a Ph.D. candidate researching how mentorship within iBEARS supports the development of scientific inquiry practice.

**Maryann R. Hebda** is currently a doctoral student in Educational Psychology at Baylor University. Maryann formerly taught for 13 years in STEM, special education, and gifted education.

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Our overarching goal for iBEARS is to broaden access to high-quality STEM education that helps students in the middle grades retain interest in science. Active research experiences, mentoring relationships, and activities that increase science identity all predict greater interest in pursuing science careers and we want to do our part to ensure students have access to experiences that help them say, "Yes, I can be a scientist!" Our monthly newsletters will introduce you to members of our iBEARS family, highlight opportunities for you to participate in our activities, and share news related to our projects!

## Recent Highlights

- iBEARS recently participated in the 2021 STEM for All Video Showcase. We enjoyed the dialogue with site visitors and sharing the goals of iBEARS with a wider audience! Our video is still available at: <https://stemforall2021.videohall.com/presentations/2242>
- iBEARS team members Alex St. Louis and Marty Harvill kicked off the new Coffee Chats series in July. We encourage all to join us in this new, interactive iBEARS program with different team members each month!



*learn more*

### Keep in touch!



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