

ALLISON T. O'BRIEN

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Oakland, CA

[LinkedIn](#) · [instagram](#)

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Allison is a bilingual science, math, literacy, and outdoor educator and program director committed to joyful, rigorous, relevant, and inquiry-based learning. She is motivated by the collaborative learning community, expanding access to art, literacy and the sciences, and a love of the “aha” moment.

EXPERIENCE

Academic Coach, Bay Area, CA

2022 - current

- Boost academic confidence and performance for students in science, math, writing, history, and Spanish subjects. Celebrate successes and encourage continued growth.
- Collaborate with family and parents to report on progress, successes, and areas of growth.
- Coach students through mental health struggles related to test-taking anxiety, social pressures, college applications, low self-esteem, and transitions between schools and grades.
- Train students in effective executive functioning skills like time-management, goal-setting, project management, college application pacing, and positive self-regard.

Growing Together Projects, Bay Area, CA

Program Director, Outdoor Equity Programs

2022 - current

- Coordinate Druids Internship program; mentor and lead 18 paid high-school interns in conservation, land stewardship, native plants, nursery maintenance, and environmental design
- Collaborate with community partners and organizations to deliver content-specific student workshops and facilitate youth input in community projects like new park installations
- Plan and lead nature field trips for eleven 9th grade science classes (300 students total) and two overnight weekend camping trips for up to 20 youth
- Organize with School Site Council to develop new Environmental Justice Small Learning Community to feature CTE courses, environmental and green engineering, and gardening programming
- Coordinate with MOT, site and district administrators to plan lawn conversion events that engage students and community in creating native plant gardens at district schools

San Lorenzo Unified, San Lorenzo High School, San Lorenzo, CA

Teacher, AP Biology (12th), Living Earth (9th), Chemistry in the Earth Systems (10th)

2017 - 2022

- Create, modify and execute Standards-aligned (NGSS) curriculum and lessons with modifications for specific needs and interests of my class and differentiation for students with different abilities, and burgeoning bilingual students
- Build courageous classroom culture and learning experiences that value cooperation, respect, risk-taking, and academic rigor; implement Tier I & II restorative practices to build positive culture and repair harm
- Teach 2-3 sections of integrated push-in classes with newcomer students and students with 504 plans and IEPs. Participate in IEP meetings and regular communication with case managers and parents

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- Advise the PRIDE club; advocated and changed systems to eliminate deadnaming of trans students on school technology platforms; Won \$1000 CTA Guy De Rosa LGBTQ Safety in Schools grant for 30 students and 3 teachers to attend the Oakland Pride festival in 2021

Chair, Science Department

2019-2021

- Led science department in transition to and implementation of standards-aligned curriculum, analyzing student assessment data for trends in achievement by sub-group and content area
- Mentored first-year teachers in inquiry-based teaching, discussion and socratic methods, Standards-Based Grading, classroom management, curriculum design, relationship building, and communicating with families
- Designed and led professional development workshops for counselors, administration, and other staff in transitioning to and implementing Standards-Based Grading and standards-aligned lessons
- Maintained and planned science department budget, executed orders, organized and delivered curricular materials

Exploratorium Teacher Induction Program, San Francisco, CA

Early Career Teacher

2018 - 2020

- Participate in weekend workshops and a 3-week Summer Institute led by Exploratorium staff scientists and educators designed to build teaching repertoire using an NGSS inquiry-driven approach
- Experience, plan, and teach phenomena-based inquiry-driven lessons and units
- Collaborate in mentor support-group meetings and work with experienced teacher-coaches through classroom observation and feedback/planning meetings

EDUCATION

Stanford University, Stanford Teacher Education Program (STEP)

May 2018

MA in Education

Single Subject Teaching Credential in Biological Sciences, Secondary Authorization in English

English Learner Authorization

University of California, Berkeley

May 2014

BA with High Honors in Integrative Biology and Creative Writing

SKILLS

Languages: English (native), Spanish (fluent)

CPR/Wilderness First-Aid Certified

Microsoft Suite

Canvas Learning Management System

Google Classroom + Google Suite

PC and Mac literate

INTERESTS

Woodworking and Construction

Abolition and Restorative Justice

Writing: Poetry and Fiction

Gardening, Farming, Mycology

Drawing and Painting (watercolor, acrylic)

Dance and Dance Composition