“I love doing inquiry work with my students. Really trying to be aware of what it is they are interested in learning about, then teaching them how to learn more.”
What made you decide to pursue teaching?
I went to the University of Chicago with the intention of becoming a doctor; I was pre-med. But when it came time to start focusing on the MCAT, and applying to medical school, I really started to step back and think about what I actually love and what motivates me. I had wanted to become a pediatrician because I loved working with kids, so I started to think about teaching and how that might be something I really enjoyed more.

Why did you choose UChicago UTEP?
UTEP was actually brand new when I was in undergrad, so they were just figuring things out. I was part of the first cohort. But it just seemed like a really great opportunity to become a teacher and to enter the classroom truly prepared for a career in teaching.

What have you carried from UTEP throughout your career?
Well, I obviously never went back to medical school, so UTEP prepared me to be a lifelong teacher. I couldn't imagine doing anything else anymore. By the end of my residency year, I was so ready to start my own classroom, and eleven years later, here I still am.

- Erica Emmendorfer, UTEP 2005