



“I would tell anyone interested in teaching that it is a field that requires patience and an incredible amount of time, but **it’s a really worthwhile profession**. I have so many memories of kids being inspired through learning opportunities, and **that really keeps me going and keeps me pushing.**”

Kenji Mori | UTEP Cohort 7
5th and 6th Grade Math Teacher
Namaste Charter School

What made you decide to pursue teaching?

I actually started off thinking I wanted to be a lawyer and majored in poli-sci. I worked as a paralegal after college and while I learned a lot, I realized I wasn't really interested in serving major corporations. I looked back on my life and thought about what I had gotten the most out of and what I wanted to leave behind and realized it all came down to education.

Why did you choose UChicago UTEP?

I had an education class in college that I loved, so I actually called the professor and she recommended UTEP to me. I knew I wanted to work in an underserved community, and I was really impressed with the amount of preparation UTEP gave its students and how it had this specific focus on the Chicago Public Schools.

What have you carried from UTEP throughout your career?

Being a reflective practitioner is probably one of the biggest things I've taken with me from UTEP. We were taught to constantly analyze our practice and think about what we were doing and what we could change. It's something I find essential to the profession. By consistently looking at ourselves and our behaviors, we create the strongest learning environment for our students.

- Kenji Mori, UTEP 2011

**Come with a passion.
Leave prepared.**