“When I feel like I have learned everything as an educator, I should quit education. When I feel like I’ve learned everything, then there’s no place for me here because there are constantly things that I’m learning.”
What made you want to pursue teaching?
As an undergrad, I was working in an urban 6th grade classroom and the lack of learning experiences that students were receiving was a shocker for me. Because I grew up just outside the city, I think that disparity was eye-opening and it made me really think through what I wanted to learn and how I wanted to apply my learning in a way that was bigger than my own self. The notion of educating young people so that they can be more empowered to make choices for themselves felt really important to me.

What made you choose UChicago UTEP?
I looked into programs where I could really learn what it means to be successful in meeting, seeing, and being with students and empowering them in ways they deserve. UTEP captured everything.

What have you carried from UTEP throughout your career?
UTEP informs my decision-making and what I prioritize. The notion of holistic and comprehensive learning is something that I valued as a teacher and something I ask my teachers to participate and partner in alongside of me.

-Sonia Wang, UTEP Cohort 3