

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER

**HUMAN RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT AND
ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE**

**PH.D. PROGRAM
AMBASSADORS**



UTTyler **SOULES**
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS



KELECHI MMUOBUIKE

2ND YEAR PHD STUDENT
TYLER, TX

Thinking about joining us?
I'm happy to answer your questions.

@ Kmmuobuike@patriots.uttyler.edu

PROFILE

I grew up in a home where lifelong learning was highly valued and instilled in members of my family. Even as a high school student, I knew I wanted to go into academia. I am passionate about teaching, conducting research, publishing, and contributing to the field of HRD. Getting accepted to the Ph.D. in Human Resource Development here at UT Tyler takes me closer to this goal. I am thankful for the opportunity to learn from incredibly talented faculty members, ready to share their wealth of experience and guide each student. It is a long road ahead, but with my spouse's support and my kids' motivation, I am committed to tackling whatever hurdle I face.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Education & Economics, University of Nigeria, NSUKKA

Master of Business Administration (MBA),
University of Texas at Tyler

Master of Science in Industrial Management,
University of Texas at Tyler

CURRENT POSITION

Graduate assistant

WHY I CHOSE UT TYLER?

The program is structured in a way that allows students to find a balance between academic work, career, and personal life without compromising the quality of information and knowledge delivered. Additionally, this program offers highly competitive tuition and scholarship opportunities.

FUN FACT

I love taking long walks and enjoy trying new baking and cooking recipes.



KELLY MOORE

2ND YEAR PHD STUDENT
LONGVIEW, TX

Thinking about joining us?
I'm happy to answer your questions.

@ kmoore59@patriots.uttyler.edu

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kellymoore6>

PROFILE

Throughout my HRD master's journey at UT Tyler, I discovered the remarkable level of support and dedication that the faculty exhibited toward ensuring students' success. I felt a deep sense of honor upon my acceptance into the HRD Ph.D. program. The Ph.D. cohort approach is phenomenal and really sets UT Tyler apart from other institutions.

During my free time, I enjoy bass fishing, SCUBA diving, or just spending time with my family and friends. My spouse of 30+ years, our 2 Pomeranians and I reside in Longview, Texas and I am a lifelong Texan.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Industrial
Technology, Southern Illinois University

Master of Science in Human Resource
Development, The University of Texas at
Tyler

CURRENT POSITION

I am a full-time student, caregiver to my mother-in-law, homemaker, and therapy dog mom.

WHY I CHOSE UT TYLER?

I chose the HRD PhD program at UT Tyler because of my experience with the professors in the HRD master's program. As an organizational development professional, I want to take the researching skills I am learning into my professional role, demonstrating how to make strategic decisions based on data.

FUN FACT

When I was younger and invincible, I loved to white-water raft in Colorado. On one of the Colorado vacations, I did a solo sky dive from 13,000 feet above the Colorado mountains.

I plan on being the first HRD Ph.D. graduate from UT Tyler that has a deep Southern drawl.



TIM MURPHY

2ND YEAR PHD STUDENT
DALLAS, TX

Thinking about joining us?
I'm happy to answer your questions.

@ tmurphy10@patriots.uttyler.edu

PROFILE

I am very proud to be a PhD student in the Human Resource Development program at UT Tyler. I am grateful to be a part of this rigorous hybrid program that allows me to continue working while earning my degree with the support of a cohesive cohort group!

When I'm not working or studying, I enjoy laughing with family and friends, developing my pottery throwing skills, piddling in the garden, and binging foreign dramas.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts, Elementary Education (Minor Medieval History), Whitworth University

Master of Business Administration, Human Resources, Louisiana State University-Shreveport

CURRENT POSITION

I am currently an Undergraduate Medical Education Program Administrator at Baylor, Scott & White Health in association with Texas A&M University Medical School. I oversee the coursework and clinical experiences in Family Medicine, the Intensive Care Units, and several Internal Medicine subspecialties.

WHY I CHOSE UT TYLER?

I chose the HRD PhD program at UT Tyler because of the program's reputation for being a leader in Human Resource Development. As a training and development practitioner, I want to transform research-based innovations and advancements into action in the hospital and university's medical education programs.

FUN FACT

I am a registered yoga teacher and certified meditation teacher that loves guiding regular practices for a very dedicated group of senior citizens that know how to laugh and have fun!



JOANNA NORMAN

PHD CANDIDATE

HOUSTON, TX

Thinking about joining us?

I'm happy to answer your questions.

@ JNorman8@patriots.uttyler.edu

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/joannanorman08>

PROFILE

I am proud to be a part of the UT Tyler Human Resource Development PhD program. Earning a doctoral degree has been a long-time personal goal, but as a wife, mom to a teenager, and professional, finding the right program to fit my busy life was a challenge. The UT Tyler program is the perfect fit for me and allows me the flexibility I need to balance work and home life, along with the academic rigor of a doctoral program. While it is a challenge, the experience has been immeasurable!

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, College of Charleston

Master of Business Administration, University of Georgia

CURRENT POSITION

Adjunct instructor

WHY I CHOSE UT TYLER?

I was impressed that the UT Tyler program was housed in the Soules College of Business because I felt this connection would link the concepts studied in the classroom to real problems in practice. In addition, the hybrid program format offers the flexibility I need. Being on campus select weekends provides the opportunity for face to face interaction with faculty and peers, while the asynchronous off-campus components help me to balance earning a doctoral degree along with managing my life.

FUN FACT

I have run 4 half marathons. My favorite was the Rock 'n Roll Marathon in Las Vegas, which was run at night.



UT Tyler SOULES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS



CYRIL OBAZUAYE

1ST YEAR PHD STUDENT
HOUSTON, TX

Thinking about joining us?
I'm happy to answer your questions.

@ cobazuaye@patriots.uttyler.edu

PROFILE

I am very proud to be a PhD student in the Human Resource Development program at UT Tyler because I believe that completing this program will open more doors and opportunities for me. I was born in Nigeria, and I grew up in a family that values education more than almost everything else. I came to the United States a little over ten years ago, and I love it here.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science, Business Administration, Abraham Lincoln University

Master of Business Administration, Southern New Hampshire University

CURRENT POSITION

Founder & CEO, Best or Nothing Autosales, Inc.
Founder & CEO, Discount Inc.

WHY I CHOSE UT TYLER?

I chose UT Tyler because it allows me to get a high-quality education without disrupting my life in a major way because of the work-school balance it offers.

FUN FACT

I love watching true-crime documentaries.



ALMA ROBLES

PHD CANDIDATE

HOUSTON, TX

Thinking about joining us?
I'm happy to answer your questions.

@ arobles6@patriots.uttyler.edu

[linkedin.com/in/almacrobles/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/almacrobles/)

PROFILE

This PhD program holds immense significance for me as I've personally observed the critical role Human Resource Development plays in every workplace. My objective is to make a meaningful contribution to this field by conducting research, publishing findings, teaching, and collaborating with organizations to elucidate the advantages of fostering growth through employee development.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy, University of Houston-Downtown

Master of Business Administration, University of Houston-Downtown

CURRENT POSITION

I work as a specialist in change management and communication within the IT department of the oil and gas industry.

WHY I CHOSE UT TYLER?

As I explored my passion for transforming employees within the workplace, I stumbled upon UT Tyler's PhD program in HR Development within the Soules College of Business. I was determined to become a part of this exceptional and distinctive curriculum. The program's affiliation with the College of Business beautifully complements my previous graduate degree in business and enables me to merge the realms of business and HRD from a unique business-oriented perspective.

FUN FACT

My family has a strong artistic background, with talents including singing, dancing, acting, and playing instruments. I, myself, practiced ballet for two years and have a passion for singing.



GINGER KOTO VAUGHN

2ND YEAR PHD STUDENT

HOUSTON, TX

Thinking about joining us?

I'm happy to answer your questions.

@ gvaughn@patriots.uttyler.edu

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/gingervaughn/>

PROFILE

I'm a second-year PhD student, and I'm thrilled to be on this incredible journey. With nearly two decades of experience as a journalist, consultant, and instructor, I've eagerly awaited the opportunity to join a PhD program in HRD. I'm currently a lecturer in communications within higher-education and pursuing a terminal degree is the next step towards personal and professional growth.

EDUCATION

Bachelors, Asian Studies/
Japanese/Library Science, University of
North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

MBA, Entrepreneurship and Venture
Capital, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan

MA, Mass Communication and Public
Relations, University of Houston,
Houston, Texas

CURRENT POSITION

I'm a full-time lecturer in strategic communications at Rice University, Jones Graduate School of Business where I teach executive and professional MBA classes. I also consult for the Texas Medical Center's Innovation program to help medical entrepreneurs bring ideas to market.

WHY I CHOSE UT TYLER?

I selected UT Tyler due to its flexible executive format, which enabled me to maintain my professional commitments while attending PhD classes. Furthermore, the esteemed faculty and their exceptional research areas solidified my choice, affirming that UT Tyler is the ideal institution for my academic pursuits.

FUN FACT

I lived in Japan for nearly 20 years. I'm the first American woman to climb Japan's 100 great mountains. I enjoy both mountain sports like snowboarding and ocean sports such as scuba diving. I'm always looking for a place where I can do both!



SHANESE WILLIAMS

PHD CANDIDATE

TYLER, TX

Thinking about joining us?
I'm happy to answer your questions.

@ swilliams74@patriots.uttyler.edu

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/shanese-williams/>

PROFILE

I am a second year PhD student and Higher Education professional. I have a passion for helping staff grow within themselves as leaders and increasing initiatives that cultivate an environment of belonging and inclusion. I knew I wanted to get a PhD since I was in high school after I saw my amazing principal wear her graduation regalia. At the time, I didn't know the hard work and dedication it took to pursue a terminal degree however, over the years I saw the literary giants I look up to make a difference and change within their research fields and I knew I wanted to be a change agent too. Now that I am here, I am so excited to be on this journey and look forward to the future!

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice with a minor in Information Technology, Stephen F. Austin State University

Master of Science in Human Resource Development, The University of Texas at Tyler

CURRENT POSITION

I am currently an Assistant Director of Residence Life at The University of Texas at Tyler where I support the overall management of residential life programming and our residential curriculum. I work closely with a team and oversee staff where our common goal is to create a safe, inclusive, and engaging living environment for students.

WHY I CHOSE UT TYLER?

I chose the HRD program at UT Tyler because of its research opportunities and curriculum learning outcomes. I also chose this program for its accomplished faculty in the HRD field, its hybrid format, and work flexibility.

FUN FACT

I love documentaries and, in another lifetime, would have been a historian.

I am a certified True Colors Workshop Facilitator



WESLEY B. WILSON

2ND YEAR PHD STUDENT

HOUSTON, TX

Thinking about joining us?

I'm happy to answer your questions.

@ wwilson13@patriots.uttyler.edu

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/wesleybwilson/>

PROFILE

I am excited to pursue my PhD in HR Development at UT Tyler. I am grateful for the opportunity to capitalize on my industry experience while learning from highly respected faculty in the academic field of HRD. My transition to scholar from practitioner is already noticeably underway. Since the first semester of my first year, I have been gaining advanced knowledge of statistics, notable skills in scholarly writing, and a stronger academic appreciation for the field of HRD. Balancing professional work, coursework, and personal/family time is certainly not without its challenges, but I find with proper planning and commitment the balance is achievable. With a home in Houston and a working cattle ranch outside Lufkin, I'm just as at home in the theatre as in the pasture.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science, Business
(Accounting Concentration), Penn State
University

Master of Business Administration, Texas
A&M University – Corpus Christi

CURRENT POSITION

Founder and leader of a real estate sales and investment firm. Independent management consultant in customer operations and customer success for business-to-business technology firms.

WHY I CHOSE UT TYLER?

I chose the the PhD program in HR Development at UT Tyler because of the prominence and regard of the faculty within the field. While the non-traditional schedule of the program is convenient, I have a greater appreciation for the fact that rigor and discipline of the program produces recognizable, quality degrees.

FUN FACT

I attended nearly 20 schools before graduating high-school (and no, my family wasn't military).