

Margaret Leigh Avera

ETA

Leigh Avera completed her Bachelor of Arts in Economics and History from Vanderbilt University in 2016. After graduation, she accepted a position as a high school math teacher at a charter school in Dallas, Texas through Teach for America where she worked for three years. She completed her Master's in Education with a focus in STEM from Southern Methodist University in 2018. Finishing her 5th year of teaching, Leigh has taught all levels of high school math, AP Government, and AP Macroeconomics. She is currently finishing her second year at CityLab High School, a project-based learning school of choice within Dallas Independent School District. She has served as a math content chair, a sponsor for a local chapter of Girl Up, a mentor for Urban Teaching residents, and a Hollyhock Fellow through Stanford's Graduate School of Education.



Since beginning her teaching career, Leigh has always had a passion for promoting women in STEM. Fulbright provided a unique opportunity to see how initiatives around increasing women's representation in STEM careers looked internationally. A study out of the University of Białystok and the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw regarding women's self-perception in STEM careers immediately caught her eye and caused her to pursue a Fulbright in Poland.

After completing the Fulbright grant, Leigh plans to either pursue a dual Juris Doctorate and Master of Public Affairs degrees or return to the classroom. Her long term goal is to affect systemic change in women's access to STEM education and careers both from within and outside of the classroom.