

## **Longview Resident Teaching Kids Throughout Texas**

*iUniversity Prep, online public school based in Grapevine-Colleyville, pulls in educators/students across state*

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Longview – The official first day of school is still weeks away, but a Longview resident is already looking forward to teaching Texas students 19<sup>th</sup> century literature with a 21<sup>st</sup> century twist. Nikki Harbison teaches high school English and Journalism at Grapevine-Colleyville ISD's iUniversity Prep, a tuition-free, state-accredited virtual learning school. Her syllabus includes a section on Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest." The British author wrote the classic tale in the late 1800s, and Harbison will discuss his writing style with students later this year via an online chat platform. "I came to iUniversity Prep because I wanted to stay on the leading edge of education," said Harbison.

All Texas students in fourth through 12<sup>th</sup> grade are eligible to enroll in iUniversity Prep, and administrators say enrollment continues to increase. Approximately 400 students will begin classes in August, about 150 more than the previous school year. iUniversity Prep opened in 2013, and the 2015-2016 school year marks the school's inaugural fourth grade class. "Expanding our curriculum to include fourth grade was part of our strategic plan. We anticipate our enrollment will continue to increase throughout the school year. Our growth stems from the value iUniversity Prep brings families who desire a rigorous choice, and want a college prep education from a recognized school district," said Kaye Rogers, Ph.D., Grapevine-Colleyville ISD Director of Virtual Education. In 2014, the Texas Education Agency rated iUniversity Prep as one of the highest performing public virtual schools in the state.

iUniversity Prep students can attend class, take tests and complete work from any location as long as they have access to a mobile device and an internet connection. Those interested in enrolling a student for fall 2015 can call 855-779-7357 or visit [www.iuniversityprep.org](http://www.iuniversityprep.org).

### *About iUniversity Prep*

*iUniversity Prep opened in August 2013. The academy is a tuition-free, state-accredited online public school operated by Grapevine-Colleyville ISD and is one of only a handful of public virtual education solutions in the state offering elementary, middle and high school programs. It provides rigorous academics under the guidance of engaging instructors all within a collaborative school community. iUniversity Prep offers an inspiring, flexible learning environment that encourages and prepares students to be college and career ready by supporting learning through technology, fostering citizenship, and teaching the importance of mutual respect in a virtual environment. Visit [iuniversityprep.org](http://iuniversityprep.org) for more details.*