

Summer 2024

TAFE Newsletter

Texas Association of Future Educators

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From Our President:

JAYDEN PETTY, ALIEF TAYLOR HS



Hello fellow TAFE members, I hope your summer was as enjoyable as mine! Over the break, I had the opportunity to bond closely with this year's officer team. We shared a lot of fun and laughter, including the memorable experience of conquering a very challenging escape room together.

The highlight of my summer was definitely the national EdRising conference which was in Washington D.C. this time around. Getting to see all my fellow TAFE members share a laugh and create connections and memories that will last a lifetime was truly a heartwarming experience for me. For all who didn't get the competition results they wanted, in the words of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar "You can't win until you learn how to lose". Use this year's results as motivation for your future goals, whether it is for a TAFE competition or preparing for any upcoming event in your life. Let this experience drive you forward and fuel your determination to succeed.

Alongside the excitement of nationals, we also hosted the Teacher Leader Workshop in Dallas this July. It was a pleasure meeting so many dedicated teachers who are eager to make a difference by starting a TAFE chapter. We really enjoyed presenting to them and showing them the transformative impact, they're going to make in their schools.

As school is starting back up, I encourage all of you to first off, recruit! recruit! recruit! Encourage all of your fellow classmates to join TAFE, show them just how much fun it actually is. Make sure you get your chapter a cactus so that you can participate in the local cactus challenge that could possibly earn you the area cactus challenge and maybe even the state cactus challenge of the year award. For you to be able to participate in the area and state levels, you must post these local winners monthly on social media. Make sure to tag @tafestate so that you are being recognized.

As summer comes to a swift close, I want all of you to remember this journey you are going through is not only for you. It is also for those who wish for you to succeed. And for those who are not with us anymore. So, push through your obstacles with all of your heart.

Feel free to contact me anytime at notjythrr@gmail.com or [presidentepetty](https://www.instagram.com/presidentepetty) on instagram.



www.tafeonline.org

College Connections:

JACQUE ROE - LOCKHART HIGH SCHOOL
TAFE VICE-PRESIDENT



Howdy everyone! As summer winds down and the new school year begins, I hope you're all enjoying the first few weeks. With area conferences just around the corner, now is the time to start preparing. I'm excited to see our wonderful members at their respective area conferences. I hope you had an amazing summer, and here's to an even better school year ahead!

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-KINGSVILLE

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN PERFORMANCE

The Department of Teacher and Bilingual Education empowers students with the knowledge and instructional strategies needed to enter the field of education as PK-12 certified teachers. With eleven tailored undergraduate degree plans, students can specialize in their preferred subject area and grade level, preparing them for the classrooms they are passionate to teach in. Programs emphasize hands-on learning through field-based experiences. Students are assigned to classrooms in local schools, gaining practical experience while completing their coursework. The Innovative Teaching and Learning Lab serves as a space for students to practice using various teaching strategies for subjects such as mathematics, reading, and science.



We offer opportunities for students to extend their leadership and social skills in organizations such as Kappa Delta Pi, the International Honor Society in Education (KDP), Texas Association of Future Educators (TAFE), and Texas Student Association of Students for Bilingual Education (TASBE).

◀ “It is really cool to be able to represent the campus that is helping me achieve my dreams. TAMUK is allowing me to not only further my education but open opportunities that will greatly benefit me in the future.”

- Kylie Valenta, 2nd Place – Public Speaking, National Conference
Sophomore, Special Education

▼ “The College of Education & Human Performance provides a unique opportunity for freshman students. As an adjunct professor teaching UNIV 1201 (a required freshman student success course), I also have the privilege of being the chapter advisor for TAFE in addition to my full-time position as the college’s Asst.



Director for Student Recruitment & Outreach. Being able to combine all three roles allows me to connect with our students and support them from the time they decide to come to TAMUK as a senior in high school, during that first-year transition in college as a freshman, and through their academic journey to crossing that stage! Our college prides itself on student relationships and ensuring that we meet each student where they are to help them reach their academic goals. I LOVE my Javelina Nation family, J’s Up!!”

- Kim London, Asst. Director for Student Recruitment & Outreach, Adjunct Professor, TAFE Chapter Advisor

Kylie Valenta, Kim London, and Natalie Pittman





KUDOS

IZI CROSSETT - KINGWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
TAFE SECRETARY

I hope everyone had a fantastic summer! Mine has been amazing. I kicked it off by attending the annual TAFE board meeting in Austin, Texas, and then had the incredible opportunity to go to nationals for the second time, where I got to meet many of you—and even sing karaoke together!

In July, I spent the entire month as a camp counselor, chasing after fourteen energetic 4-year-olds, and I loved every moment of it. Now, I'm excited to return to school as a senior at Kingwood High School and kick off the TAFE season with my chapter and all of you!

As the new school year and the TAFE season begins, please remember to send me all your TRAFLES activities so I can include you in our TAFE CONNECTIONS. Email me at izicrossett@icloud.com with your TAFE pictures and a description of the activity. Until then, I can't wait to see what the new school year brings.

KUDOS: I want to extend a heartfelt thanks to Highland Lakes Camp for hosting our most recent and largest officer training camp yet, with 180 in attendance, including 48 state and area officers! The State officers and I had an incredible time and were thrilled to meet so many area officers, local officers, and teacher leaders.

A special thank you goes out to all the teachers, students, and area coordinators who made this camp unforgettable by helping to strengthen bonds, develop leadership skills, refine communication styles, and grow as a team. Thank you to everyone for making this the best officer training camp yet!

We would also like to congratulate all of our National competitors and winners. We had a total of 3,600 attendees at the nationals conference, and Texas was represented in the best way with 36 first-place wins, 32 second-place finishes, and 20 third-place spots. So again, thank you and congratulations to everyone who attended and competed, and showed that Texas spirit.

Finally, the State officer team would like to extend our thanks to all the teachers who attended this year's Teacher Leader Workshop and to those who presented breakout sessions, such as Connie Thornell, Journey Harris, Emily Buchtien, and Karen Viator. We also want to give big congratulations to the door prize and bingo winners, and especially to the teachers who were awarded one of the four Cactus Challenges from the State officer team—thank you for standing tall, looking sharp, and thriving in any environment.





PICTURE THIS: Virtual TAFE Scrapbook

AUBREY FISHER – CLEBURNE HIGH SCHOOL: TAFE HISTORIAN

Hello everyone!! My name is Aubrey Fisher, and I am honored to serve as this year's State Historian! This year, I am going to be a junior at Cleburne High School. I have been spending my summer swimming and enjoying hot band camp playing the clarinet. This year will be my 3rd year in TAFE! I am also an Area 10 Historian. I have competed in interactive bulletin board elementary and chapter yearbook! I am looking forward to connecting with all of you this year! Just know I'm always here if you need me!

▶ Excellent job, Allen HS TAFE, for representing and introducing TAFE to everyone to show how unique this organization is!



▲ Cleburne High TAFE chapter volunteered at their local Cleburne Education Foundation's annual Goat Neck Bike Race!

▶ Kingwood TAFE chapter, great job welcoming and encouraging people to join TAFE!



◀ Shout out to Bay City High School TAFE for helping your school's staff prepare for this coming school year! Keep it up!





► Our State President, Jayden Petty, brought greetings to our Sponsoring Organization, TASSP at the Summer Workshop in Austin.



▲ Cactus Challenge Winners at the Teacher Leader Workshop.



► Brinley Dog, made a guest appearance during the Teacher Leader Workshop



▲ Networking with FCCLA Officers



▲ Educators Rising State and Regional Coordinators

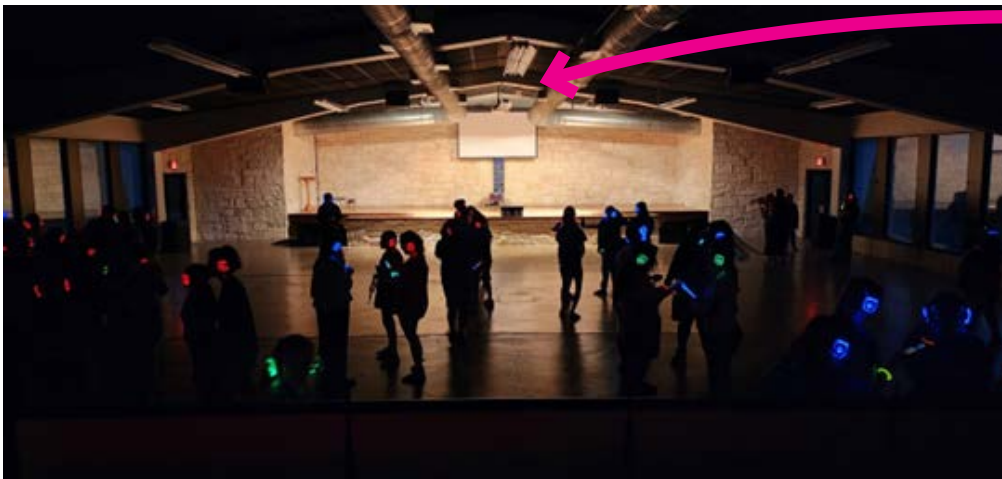


TRAFLES CONNECTIONS



APPRECIATION

The Alief Taylor TAFE chapter organized an amazing two-and-a-half weeks of teacher appreciation. They went all out to provide lunches, breakfasts, and snacks for the faculty. Highlights included a fresh salad bar for the “freshest” teachers and some delicious ice cream treats for the “coolest” staff at ATHS.



RECREATION

At this year’s TAFE officer training camp, state, area, and local officers got to hang out and have a blast with some awesome activities. The big hit was the silent disco, where everyone danced to their favorite songs and just had a great time.



From the National EdRising President:

**JOURNEY HARRIS, TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY
STEPHENVILLE, TEXAS**

Howdy TAFE!! It is time to dust off your cowboy boots and saddle up as the new school year is beginning. As your *Educators Rising National President*, I am thrilled to help kick off the year under this year's theme: “Rounding Up Future Educators.”

This year, I encourage you to compete in all the things, attend all the breakout sessions, and meet as many people as you can! I look forward to seeing your projects, competitions, and dreams come to life as the year goes on. The biggest piece of advice I have for you is this: A cowboy once said, “Success is not a destination, but a journey.” With this, take in the time that you have at chapter meetings, service projects, and competitions. Do not allow the nerves of competition or a to-do list take away from the great things that are happening. Cherish this year and take it all in.

Once again, I am so excited to serve you this year. I look forward to seeing all that you do! I hope to see you around! Never hesitate to reach out to me or say hi if you see me around!

journeyharris28@gmail.com



From the Director

Monica Oliver | monica@tassp.org or 512-443-2100 ext 8512



Wow, summer just flew by. Before we know it, area conferences will be around the corner!

We had a record turnout at the Educators Rising Conference, with being 1/3 of the delegation present. Texas Represented big with 1110 in attendance.

Overall Texas won big with:

- 36 First Places
- 32 Second Places
- 20 Third Places
- 32 White Ribbons
- 48 Red Ribbons
- 24 Blue Ribbons
- Placing in the Top 10 198 times



It was amazing to see everyone and hear of all the success we had as a State. The state officer team and I have had time to discuss and plan a great start to the year and we are looking forward to the opportunities we are planning for you.

- To catch all the updates and changes for the upcoming school year or to get your questions answered, register to attend the **TAFE Webinar on Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at 6pm via zoom.** [REGISTER »](#)
- The State Officer team will continue to challenge each area with the **Cactus Challenge: “Look Sharp, Stand Tall & Thrive”** At every area conference, the area officers will select a chapter they see has embraced the Cactus Challenge this TAFE season. At the Teach Tomorrow Summit, the State Officers will select 1 of the 11 chapters to be the Cactus of the Year. Use #cactuschallenge to show us you are standing tall, looking sharp, and thriving in any environment. Please continue to tag us on social media @ tafestate on Instagram or [submit your photos here](#) to be included in future newsletters or on the website.

NEW TEACHER LEADERS AND MENTORS:

If you are a new chapter leader and would like some help getting started, please email me at: monica@tassp.org and I will connect you with someone in your area who can give you help and support.

- **Area conference registration is coming September 30th - October 14th**, with Area Conferences following soon after in November and December. Area conference dates and locations have been posted under each area tab on the www.tafeonline.org website. If there is not a date or location listed, please know we are working fast to secure a date and location.
- **2024-2025 membership renewal is now open!** Your state and national affiliation must happen BEFORE your students are allowed to compete at Area Conferences in the Fall. **This is not optional.** *Educators Rising dues need to be paid for by December 1st.* As a reminder all dues for Educators Rising students will be invoiced by our office to teacher leaders. [Please review the How to EdRising page](#) for more details.



- **41st Annual Teach Tomorrow Summit** planning is underway, and we are excited to be at Moody Gardens in Galveston February 17-19, 2025. As details are finalized, they will be posted on the [Teach Tomorrow Summit events page](#), so check back periodically for information.



2024-2025 Mark Your Calendar!

- August 31** **DEADLINE FOR TAFE STATE AFFILIATION**
Chapters must pay an \$80.00 state chapter affiliation fee
- September 30** **REGISTRATION FOR AREA CONFERENCES AND COMPETITIVE EVENTS: OPENS**
- October 14** **REGISTRATION FOR AREA CONFERENCES AND COMPETITIVE EVENTS: CLOSES @5:00 PM CST**
- November 1** **DEADLINE FOR EDUCATORS RISING AFFILIATION** - \$15.00 individual dues for all TAFE members prior to competing at Area Conferences, this must be paid through our office.
- December 1** **DEADLINE TO PAY FOR EDUCATORS RISING AFFILIATION FEES THROUGH TAFE OFFICE** - \$15.00 individual dues for all TAFE members prior to competing at Area Conferences.

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER AREA CONFERENCES

- | | |
|---|---|
| Area 1 – Nov. 2 @ Texas A&M Kingsville | Area 7 – TBD @ Hartford Learning Center |
| Area 2 – Nov. 16 @ UTSA | Area 8 – Nov. 9 @ South Plains College |
| Area 3 – Dec. 3 @ Mary Hardin Baylor | Area 9 – Nov. 15 @ Center for Career and Tech Education |
| Area 4 – Nov. 15 @ University of Houston Dwtn | Area 10 – Dec. 7 @ Texas Women’s University |
| Area 5 – Nov. 11 @ Sam Houston | Area 11 – Nov. 16 @ Dallas Baptist University |
| Area 6 – Dec. 6 @ Texas A&M Texarkana | |

- October 29-31** **ELF TESTING FOR AREA 1**
- November 5-7** **ELF TESTING FOR AREA 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11**
- November 19-21** **ELF TESTING FOR AREA 3, 6, 10**
- December 9** **TEACH TOMORROW SUMMIT REGISTRATION OPENS**
- January 13** **APPLICATION TO RUN FOR STATE OFFICER POSTED BY 5:00 PM CST**
- January 13** **APPLICATIONS FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS BY 5:00 PM CST**
- January 17** **DEADLINE FOR REGISTERING ONLINE FOR TAFE TEACH TOMORROW SUMMIT**
- January 17** **DEADLINE UPLOADING LESSON PLANS, POSITION PAPERS, AND VIDEO LINKS FOR COMPETITIVE EVENTS BY 5:00 PM CST**
- January 20** **REGISTERING FOR COMPETITIVE EVENTS TIMES: OPENS**
- January 24** **REGISTERING FOR COMPETITIVE EVENT TIMES: CLOSES @ 5:00 PM CST**
- February 1** **EDUCATORS RISING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPENS**
- Late January** **CAPITOL LEADERSHIP: Austin, TX**
- January 31** **TEACH TOMORROW SUMMIT EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FEES DUE**
Checks must be postmarked by January 31, 2025, to receive the discounted rate. Postmarked February 1, 2025, or after the rate is \$100 per person
- February 17-19** **TAFE TEACH TOMORROW SUMMIT: Moody Gardens, Galveston**
- April 7** **EDUCATORS RISING COMPETITION APPLICATION AND EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION CLOSES**
- April 24-26** **LOCAL, AREA & STATE OFFICER TRAINING WORKSHOP:**
Highland Lakes Camp and Conference Center
- May 1** **2025-2026 CHAPTER AFFILIATION OPENS**
- June 26-29** **EDUCATORS RISING NATIONAL CONFERENCE: Rosen Shingle Creek, Orlando, FL**



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