

THE TESA CONNECTION

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT STAFF ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOLUME LXVIII, NUMBER 4 – SUMMER 2018

From the President | Teena Hancock, CEOP, CEOE



TESA Members – what a memorable year of accomplishment! Together, we did it! It has been an honor and privilege to serve you, and so this – my final message as TESA President, is difficult to write. It is to each of you that I give thanks from the bottom of my heart: TESA Board members, committee members, a sea of wonderful TESA members, retirees – and to my family and my God, all who rode the waves with me throughout the year and back to Austin.

As you know, early in my term as your President there were many difficult changes to be made — but again, together we did it! The Summer Work Conference Committee also dealt with changes with it being our last year in Austin at the Omni. And it was all good, because again, the SWC Committee and all of us — we did it! And “how about that Friday night installation program!” Wow!! The entire conference was amazing, from the classes; the “coolest beach party” in Austin (*I predicted earlier in the year it would be!*); to the President’s Luncheon and Saturday morning brunch. Again, it was all YOU! Reflecting to my comments in the last TESA Connection, we again did it by making the SWC 2018 the “wave to remember!” With

heartfelt thanks, I am grateful to each one who helped, and to the many who attended and participated.

For the first and second timers to attend a Summer Work Conference, let me encourage you to continue your goals for professional development and a mission to help TESA grow and to continually succeed. I remind you of our reflection this year that will lead you to your “True Direction on your Waves of Change.” Remember, the tide does not end in Austin!

As you plan your personal goals, remember to include what you can do to keep TESA strong: renew memberships, volunteer, recruit new members, and don’t forget “Service.” It is through volunteering that we serve TESA, offering our dedication and commitment and I am proud of all that you do! As we move on to a new year and new TESA challenges, I have accepted my new role on the TESA Board, and I encourage each TESA member to join me in our support now to President Blackstock on her new TESA Board.

“May the Lord Bless you and protect you. May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord show you his favor and give you his peace.” Numbers 6:24-26

Have a wonderful and blessed year!



Dates to Remember

2018

September 10, 2018
Submission Deadline
TESA Connection
November 20, 2018
Submission Deadline
TESA Connection
January 30, 2019
Submission Deadline
TESA Connection

May 30, 2019
Submission Deadline
TESA Connection
April 22-26, 2019
Administrative Professionals Week
June 17-20, 2019
TESA Summer Work Conference
The Brazos Center/Hilton Garden Inn
Bryan/College Station TX



Commissioner Mike Morath

1701 North Congress Avenue • Austin, Texas 78701-1494 • 512 463-9734 • 512 463-9838 FAX • tea.texas.gov

June 20, 2018

To All Conference Attendees:

As Commissioner of Education, I want to extend a warm welcome to each of you attending the 2018 Texas Educational Support Staff Association Summer Work Conference.

I commend each of you for continuously seeking professional growth that will help meet the needs of over 5 million students in Texas. Your commitment to fostering a safe and positive learning environment empowers educators to create and meet new challenges on every campus.

The Texas Education Agency provides support to more than 8,700 campuses in preparing our students for a successful future. As you gather here in Austin for this conference, please know that your experience, knowledge and shared best practices will have an impact and be a tremendous benefit to the students back home.

I commend TESA for its leadership in a vital area of public education. May the 2018 Summer Work Conference bring ongoing success to all attending and lead to strengthening education Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Morath", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mike Morath
Commissioner of Education

From the Editor | Felipe Campos, CEOP



Greetings TESA Members – and welcome to the summer issue of the TESA Connection!

The **Waves of Change** were truly felt this past year. We started off by figuring out how to convert our award winning magazine (with guidance from a hidden mentor, Linda Sockwell) to a Newsletter format that

we hoped you would enjoy. After three successful editions we know we found our **True Direction**. NAEOP recognized us by awarding our publication the **RACHEL MAYNARD AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNICATION** in the State Newsletter category for 2018.

In this edition, we are offering a feature article that will help you think about service. We also have updates from our many affiliates the Affiliates in Action section. We hope you have enjoyed our products this past year and hope Wanda Honeycutt and I have met your needs. We were honored and humbled to serve our great TESA members. Please continue to provide outstanding support to our new editor, Ofelia Barron, during her 2018-2019 term. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you do.

Purpose Statement

We the members of the Texas Educational Support Staff Association, Inc., hold that the primary purpose of the educational support staff association is to assist, as a team member, in developing citizens who will safeguard, strengthen and improve America. The TESA Connection is published four times a year – fall, winter, spring and summer. Member fees include four online issues of the association newsletter. If you wish to receive all four issues in print, you will need to sign up for an annual newsletter subscription in addition to your annual membership. Newsletter Annual Subscription is \$10. Send request for subscriptions to: TESA Central Office, P.O. Box 11825, Killeen, TX 76547

Please send information for the Fall edition to:
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Just a reminder that **your voice** is and will continue to be an important part of this publication. You can be heard by sending in articles, information about events, and what you and/or your association are doing (include pictures if you can). Only with your input can Ofelia and her team provide you an informative product. I'm sure they look forward to hearing from you!

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**Don't forget our website at <https://www.tesatexas.org>
Also, Follow us on twitter and facebook.**

TESA @tesatexas

Texas Educational Support Staff Association

AFFILIATE SERVICES



CALLING ALL TESA AFFILIATES And Potential Affiliates

Become a **TESA** Affiliate (or renew your status), join us and be part of
“In The Waves of Change, We Find True Direction” in 2017-18.
JOIN NOW

What's in it for YOU?

- Assistance and/or guidance available from **TESA** (some onsite consulting services are available for a fee)
- A discount (up to 25%) when hosting STEM Training
- The opportunity to have a **TESA** representative available to conduct your leadership installation
- **TESA** web site at www.tesatexas.org for up-to-date information

TESA Thanks the following groups for joining/renewing their Affiliation:

- Brazos Valley Educational Support Staff Association (BVESA)
 - Garland Educational Support Staff Association (GESSA)
 - Harlingen Educational Support Association (HESA)
- Irving Association of Educational Office Professionals (IAEOP)
 - Killeen Educational Support Staff Association
- Lamar Consolidated Educational Support-Staff Association (LCESA)
 - Mesquite Educational Paraprofessionals Association (MEPA)
 - Odessa Association of Educational Support Staff (OAEOP)
- Pasadena Association of Educational Office Personnel (PAEOP)
 - Richardson Educational Support Staff Association (RESSA)
- Rio Grande Valley Educational Support Staff Association (VESA)
- San Jacinto College Association of Educational Office Personnel (SJCAEOP)
 - Spring Branch Educational Support Association (SBESA)
 - TESA Past Presidents Association
 - Tomball Educational Support Staff Association (TESA)
- University of Houston Clear Lake/Educational Support Association (ESA)
 - Weatherford Educational Support Association (WESA)



Lisa Acosta

Membership/Affiliate Services Chairman, Comal ISD
lisa.acosta@comalisd.org

Donna Sears, Cedar Hill ISD – donna.sears@chisd.net
Beth Hindman, Irving ISD – bhindman@irvingisd.net

Service Before Self The Path to Volunteerism

Felipe Campos

What is volunteerism? According to Dictionary.com, it is the policy or practice of volunteering one's time or talents for charitable, educational, or other worthwhile activities, especially in one's community. One of the core principles of the United States Air Force is "Service before Self." After serving 30 years, service has become second nature to me. But how did I get there? That is easy in the military — because beginning day one, you are taught to stop thinking about yourself and think of everyone around you; their life may depend on you! What a humbling thought.

Not everyone is fortunate to serve in the military or get guidance from mentors or loved ones on the benefits of serving others. Those of us who had this opportunity learned quickly that it doesn't take much to open a door for someone. With this small step you learned that lending a hand in times of need, or even just be willing to listen, can make a great impact in someone's life. Everyone can do these simple things and over time, as you add more service actions into your life, you can become a full-fledged

volunteer. Therefore, "Service before Self" can also become second nature to you in your life, in your workplace.

On the surface, however, those three words indicate you must always give up who you are in order to serve. That is not true, as you must remember who you are and what your capabilities are in order to serve others without feeling guilty if you cannot. To truly embrace volunteerism in your life, you must learn to balance your willingness and your capabilities every time you are presented with volunteer opportunities. The last five years of my military career I was reminding others that sometime you need to serve yourself in order to serve others. If you are suffering from an illness or you lack talents, you must take care of your needs first (serve yourself). This in no way diminishes our capacity to serve/volunteer, on the contrary, it rejuvenates and/or enhances it. In situations like these...remember to offer doing the small things (open doors/listen) while you recover and develop your talents until "Service before Self" can once again become second nature to you.



TESA needs you!!!

TESA has opportunities for you that include:

- Serving on a committee
- Serving as a committee chair, election or appointed
- Placing your name on the ballot; run for office

Complete the Volunteer form at: www.tesatexas.org

For more information, contact one of the Nominating Committee:

Sharon Mena, Chair, smena@vpsa.tamu.edu
Marie Enax, President-Elect, enax@lcisd.org
Sue Hand, Past President, lhand@lcisd.org
Irma Ford, Past President, Irma610@hotmail.com

Officer, Committee Chairman, and Committee Member Qualification Requirements for TESA

President-Elect Qualifications

All officers shall be active members in good standing.

- a) three (3) years membership in the Association;
- b) two (2) years of service as an elected member of the Executive Board of the Association. (Only one year as an elected member-at-large will qualify as one of the two (2) years of service);
- c) hold the CEOP certification and
- d) membership in the National Association of Educational Office Professionals.

The chairman and committee members of STEM or Summer Work Conference may be allowed to count that service as one year of election to the Executive Board as a member-at-large. This is a one-year credit regardless of the times served on these committees. [A working knowledge regarding: STEM, the TESA Connection, Summer Work Conference, etc.]

Vice-President Qualifications

All officers shall be active members in good standing.

- a) two (2) years membership in the Association;
- b) one (1) year of service on the Executive Board of the Association;
- c) hold the CEOP certification and
- d) membership in the National Association of Educational Office Professionals.

The chairman and committee members of STEM or Summer Work Conference may be allowed to count that service as one year of election to the Executive Board as a member-at-large. This is a one-year credit regardless of the times served on these committees.

Secretary/Treasurer Qualifications

All officers shall be active members in good standing.

- a) one (1) year of membership in the Association;
- b) hold the CEOP certification and
- c) membership in the National Association of Educational Office Professionals.

The chairman and committee members of STEM or Summer Work Conference may be allowed to count that service as one year of election to the Executive Board as a member-at-large. This is a one-year credit regardless of the times served on these committees.

Other Elected Officer Qualifications

All officers shall be active members in good standing.

- a) one (1) year of membership in the Association;
- b) hold the CEOP certification or be currently pursuing (within the last 12 months) the CEOP certification and
- c) membership in the National Association of Educational Office Professionals.

The chairman and committee members of STEM or Summer Work Conference may be allowed to count that service as one year of election to the Executive Board as a member-at-large. This is a one-year credit regardless of the times served on these committees.

Committee Chairman

All committee chairmen shall be active members in good standing and should have previously served as a committee member.

Committee Member

All committee members shall be active members in good standing. No experience necessary.

The Summer Work Conference Committee would like to thank all the TESA members who participated in the 2018 Summer Work Conference! We hope your conference exceeded all your expectations.

We would like to thank the following persons and businesses for their donations and expertise

Omni Southpark Hotel and Staff • Gateway • Comal ISD
Herff Jones • Office Depot • Garland ISD
Channelview ISD • Ferris Orthodontics • Lamar Consolidated ISD
Denny Haus, Chalk's Bus Parts • Steve Furtick, The Payton Group
Alfredo Morales, AMG & DM Construction • Keri Askew, Diversified Realty Consultants
Killeen Educational Support Staff Association • Garland Educational Support Staff Association
Lamar Consolidated Educational Support-Staff Association
TESA Board, Committee Members, Past Presidents and Retirees
SWC Advisory Board Members and Supervisors
Extended and Breakout Presenters • STEM Consultants
Generous Vendors • Those who donated their time, door prizes and supplies
And our families

To our President, Teena Hancock and our President-Elect, Darcy Blackstock, thank you for having the faith in our committee to present this year's theme, "In The Waves of Change...We Find True Direction".

When planning this year's conference we took last year's survey very seriously and made a few waves of change. We hope your conference experience was as satisfying as the committee's intent and desire to achieve your best conference ever. See you next year at the SWC 2019, June 17-20 in Bryan-College Station, TX.

Marie Enax
Lamar CISD
Conference Chair

Sue Hand
Lamar CISD
Registration Chair

Diana Rodriguez
Garland ISD
Social Chair

Dorinda Bustamante
Comal ISD
Exhibits Chair

STEM Committee Update – Summer 2018

The STEM committee has completed its new direction with Consultant in Training (CIT) this year. We hope to see more new CITs at our future trainings. Please keep checking TESA website for information.

Our tidal wave celebration graduation ceremony for our CEOP recipients at our 2018 Summer Work Conference (SWC) was a success. Congratulations to the following attendees:

Lisa Acosta, Comal ISD; Sharon Mena, Texas A&M; Erica Avarado, Lamar CISD; Monica Moody, Lamar CISD; Rosario Calderon, Garland ISD; Jaqueline Ortega, Lamar CISD; Thelma Chapa, Ector County ISD; Emilia Perez, Mesquite ISD; Thelma Cordova, Ector County ISD; Ann Pham, Garland ISD; Dora Eldor, Harlingen ISD; Nsikak Scranton, Spring Branch ISD; Wendy Fitch, Lamar ISD; Yvette Toro, Spring Branch ISD; Corina Hernandez, Ector County ISD; Vickie Whitt, Mesquite ISD; Beth Hindman, Irving ISD; Jelena Winnicki, Lamar CISD; Margie Lara, Ector County ISD; Lesia Young, Ector County ISD; Crystal Ly, Garland ISD.



TESA Awards/Scholarship Update

2017-2018

Scholarship/Awards/Journalist Committee

Congratulates all of TESA's Awards and Scholarship Winners!!!



Admininstrator of the Year:

Dr. David W. Vroonland
Superintendent – Mesquite ISD



Nelda Van Dyke:
Kendra Ramirez – Lamar CISD

Spirit Awards:

1st Place – Harlingen ESA
2nd Place – Lamar CESA
3rd Place – San Jacinto College AEOP

Founder's Scholarship

Awarded to:

Celestino D'Tre Gallegos – Harlingen CISD
Dezarae Olivo – Donna ISD



Yearbook Winners:

1st Place – Richardson ESSA
2nd Place – Weatherford ESA
3rd Place – Spring Branch ESA



Newsletter Winners:

1st Place – Rio Grande Valley ESA
2nd Place – Richardson ESSA
3rd Place – Garland ESSA &
Spring Branch ESA

Theme Basket Winners:

Theme Basket representing Texas – Killeen ESSA
Most Original & Creative Basket – Harlingen ESA
Theme Basket Best Representing Conference –
Tomball ESA

We, the Awards, Scholarships, Journalist committee
would like to thank all affiliates and individuals for
their donations of money, theme baskets, purchase of

tickets for baskets and 50/50 raffle. Our total collected
for theme baskets was \$1,674 and for the 50/50 raffles
was \$1,229.50 with all proceeds going into the 3
different scholarship funds!

Sincerely, Ofelia Barron, Chair
Sharon Mena, Kay Riggs, Monica Allen

University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL) UHCL Educational Support Association (ESA)



Article contributions by Margaret Garcia, Wanda Honeycutt, and Caye Trahan

Greetings to UHCL-ESA and TESA readers!

TESA SWC 2018 — UHCL-ESA has hosted our last 2017-18 TESA STEM class at University of Houston-Clear Lake, and we are quickly transitioning into final preparations for Summer Work Conference 2018! **But wait...** by the time you read this issue, the 2018 SWC will be history (but we will show you proof — UHCL ESA was there)!

TESA readers — a huge thank you for again helping to make our 2017-2018 STEM classes possible. It has been our pleasure to continually bring the STEM classes to you... those of you who most often filled more than half the seats in our classes! We also appreciate our current UHCL-ESA members who are getting their CEOP credits (or annual recertification credits), and together — we made it happen. **But there's more** — we will need your help in *deciding and planning* UHCL-STEM classes for the fall: (a) Will we continue to host STEM classes at UHCL ... (and if so) — (b) Which classes (fall 2018) are most urgent for you?

Comments from our ESA Events and Fundraising Chair, Laura Wilder. UHCL ESA members have been fantastic this year in raising funds for training stipends,

raffle sales and preparations were absolutely awesome by our ESA Events team! Tickets were sold in the Copy Center for several days — then moved where the “baskets” were on display and more tickets were sold. Many thanks to Laura Wilder, ESA Events and Fundraising Chair!



with profits totaling over \$1,000. We are excited because funds raised help several ESA members to attend STEM classes at UHCL, and others will be able to attend the TESA Summer Work Conference 2018! Those fundraisers were: **Feb 2018, Valentines Candy Grams** (not pictured); pictured above and to the left — **our Spring benefit (March 2018), with stuffed bunny or kitty and a package of Peeps!** Pictures below — **our May 23-24 “Summer Baskets” Raffle....** Which also benefits ESA members with stipends for SWC and other funding into fall 2018. The

Pictured above (top) — ESA members Wanda Honeycutt and Rosemary Bubb “working the raffle sales table.” Not pictured — ESA Events Chair, Laura Wilder, Caye Trahan, Marlene Thomas, and other ESA members who helped! Thanks everyone!! **Winning tickets were drawn on Thursday before Memorial Day, and lucky tickets drawn: winner of the two Summer “camping” Summer fun-filled cooler ‘baskets’ (L) Ruben Sanchez, first “basket” and (R) Sherry Stinson, winner of the second cooler basket!** Congratulations to both — and many thanks to you and all who bought tickets, and to all who worked and contributed to the baskets. **Again, it was “Team ESA!”**

ESA at TESA SWC — Our ESA group was small, but we ►

► were ESA-Five Strong! Attending (alphabetically): Wanda Honeycutt, Sandy Jennings, Shelly Ann Matejka, Debbie McFadden, and Liz Seidel – and all are pictured in the collage below (and most wearing our UHCL-ESA t-shirts, designed and made by Caye Trahan... thank you, Caye! Attention is called to other pictures, such as our group with “Sem from Harlingen!” And thanks to our Harlingen friends –Sem and the HESA ladies provided their special touch to our welcome that first day, and later at the banquet! Four of us (UHCL-ESA members) stayed the full week...and next year, we hope all five plus five more will register for the full SWC at Bryan-College Station! Professional development is paramount for those staying the week: The TESA STEM Committee provided many required credit classes for the CEOP, plus a new class or two. The SWC Committee provided many great speakers at all our events and made available many non-STEM classes. Again, it was the very best in professional development! Events were terrific, including the President’s Luncheon, The Game Night, and the Installation Ceremony, banquet, and “celebrating on the dance floor!” In all, we enjoyed plenty of great food and fun activities (many depicted in collage below). In one of my favorite events — TESA includes an **impressive and beautifully touching flag ceremony** (in a General Business meeting). UHCL-ESA again proudly participated in the flag ceremony. It is complete with pledge of allegiance and presentation of our own United States and Texas flags... then TESA Past Presidents, each carry their flag, then all

the TESA local affiliates’ flags are presented. Sandy Jennings carried our UHCL-ESA flag and Debbie McFadden, her 2014-15 Past Presidents flag. This is a wonderful “showing of the colors!” **More about our pictures, and specifically the “birthday pictures”** — it is important that we explain this special treat for us and our very own “First Timer” Shelly Matejka (‘Birthday Girl’)! For a personal touch, the TESA STEM committee learned it was Shelly’s birthday and responded awesomely! They saw that she had a birthday card and refreshments in her room that night... then the following evening some of us from UHCL-ESA surprised her with a birthday cake, which TESA invited us to serve at their “Beach party” (which looked like **one huge birthday party for our UHCL-ESA Shelley**. This is true “TESA comradery!” Now to all, we hope you enjoy our other picture of an awesome TESA Summer Work Conference in Austin, TX as a reminiscence! Now to the TESA Board and SWC Committee, and so many TESA affiliate friends — “Thanks for the Memories!” ...you were awesome!! (Hey, “Play it again, Sem” — as we hope to see you also next year!) **And thanks to UHCL ESA...**we were but a few, but it was our privilege to represent us all!

UHCL-ESA Members: Watch for an announcement soon from President Garcia about our UHCL-ESA Summer 2018 Transition meeting. This will be a time to let your voices be heard for “your UHCL-ESA” in FY 2019! (W. Honeycutt)



Above and throughout collage, UHCL-ESA members attending SWC; top row, Debbie McFadden, Sandy Jennings, Wanda Honeycutt, Shelly Ann Matejka, Caye Trahan; and riding wave in on front, Liz Seidel (plus Sem Vargas from Harlingen CISD)!



Harlingen Education Support Association (HESA) Harlingen CISD

Dora Elder, 2017-2019 HESA President

On behalf of the Harlingen Educational Support Association (HESA), we are excited to announce a **total of \$1,750 scholarship awards for this year** to graduating seniors from our district, Harlingen CISD (HCISD). Our Chalupa fundraisers have grown quite popular and their high community presence has resulted in greater sales and more money raised for our organization. This could not be possible without the volunteer efforts of every HESA member who are also dedicated HCISD support staff. Our goal is to raise at least \$2,500 in scholarships for the 2018-2019 school year.

I would also like to thank the TESA Officers and countless volunteers that organize the Annual TESA Summer Work Conference. This conference allows our HESA members to learn from several STEM classes, network with other members from several districts throughout the state of Texas, and share the knowledge gained from attending with our district's support staff. I highly believe that any information not shared..... is lost!

Learning opportunities like the TESA Summer Conference and CEOP certification training provide valuable information and skill development in professional, clerical and interpersonal fields. We appreciate TESA for giving our members great pride to represent HCISD, and to "Ignite the Fire" within!



HESA OFFICERS 2017 - 2018

President: Dora Elder
Secretary: Julie Fonseca
Parliamentarian: Gaby Borquez

Vice President: Sem Vargas
Treasurer: Benny Perez
Historian: Nely Elizarraraz

Mesquite Education Paraprofessional Association (MEPA)

Yvonne Smeltzer, CEOP, CTSBS – MEPA President, 2017-2018

Greetings from MEPA. We are excited that we have had a great year! It is my honor to announce that we have **more than doubled our membership**, going from 550 to more than 1200 members!

Contributing greatly to this growth is the help of our amazing Superintendent, Dr. David Vroonland, who allowed MEPA to begin a program of recognizing a “Para of the Month” and “Para of the Year.”

Congratulations to the following 2018 STAR PARA's of the month –

- January – Elaine Gibbins, Poteet High School
- February – Myriam Cavazos, Galloway Elementary
- March – Alice Lehnis, Range Elementary
- April – Coletha Hall, Learning Center ...and to our 2017-2018 STAR PARA of the YEAR!
- Melissa Tolliver from Cannaday Elementary!

Dr. Vroonland will celebrate with these paras by taking them to a lunch at the Dallas Athletic Club. He continues

to show how much he values each of us with his complete backing of our organization.

We also take this opportunity to announce our newest MEPA – NAEOP members!

Congratulations to these new members, listed below along with their NAEOP certification achievement.

January 15:

Jackie Graham-Chapman - CEOE

Cheryl Rogers - CEOE

Susan Goodson – PSP Advanced II Option I

Rosa Owens - CEOE

Megan Staley – CEOE

May 15:

Dorthie Thompson – CEOE

Annette Gilbert – CEOE

MEPA – Making a World of Difference! www.mesquiteisd.org

Spring Branch Educational Support Association (SBESA) Man in the Mirror

“Self-reflection is a humbling process. It’s essential to find out why you think, say, and do certain things... then better yourself.” – Sonya Teclai

The theme for the Spring Branch Educational Support Association (SBESA) this year is self-reflection, revealing your inner self. As we have installed our Board for the 2018-2019 school year it is evident that the theme resonated with our fabulous members; we have all new Board members. These amazing individuals are dedicated to making sure all the functions and events during the 2018-2019 school year are executed in a fashion no less than perfect. A Board of fresh faces translates to new and innovative ideas. These leaders will also be humbled as they learn things about themselves that they may not currently know.

Our new Board welcomes the opportunity to recruit new and returning members. It is pleasing to know that, as SBESA members, we support and encourage each other to do the best we can by “Each one teaching one.” While the current Board members are transitioning out they by no means will be retiring from all duties. The Collaborative Spirit of SBESA members creates “Ohana”, a bond of family. As it is said in the movie, Lilo and Stitch, “Ohana means family, family means nobody get left behind or forgotten.” No one person has the answer to every problem or situation but together we learn from each other. As our new Board begin their journey of leadership may they, through self-reflection, become better as a group and individuals.

Tomball ISD - TESSA (Tomball Educational Support Staff Association)

Terri Marfisi, TESSA President

On April 28, 2018, TESSA participated in a district-wide Fine Arts Festival, complete with a concession stand and “Silent Auction.” Along with many TESSA members and National Honor Society students from our high schools, we worked at this all-day event raising money for our scholarship and TESSA general funds.

We featured the most popular concession foods, including our “famous fried Oreos!” These fried Oreos are such a big hit that administrators, faculty and families start asking us about them weeks before the event. We are happy to report record proceeds from these sales, adding to our TESSA General fund.

The Silent Auction featured 19 themed baskets, all donated by our district campuses and community vendors. Themes included everything from Family Game Night, Tamale Fiesta, an Autographed Dynamo jersey... and many others in between! The Silent Auction income is entirely dedicated to our TESSA scholarship fund.

These scholarships are awarded yearly to qualifying graduating seniors within Tomball Independent School



TESSA members Alan Webb and Sherry Namken; with Treasurer Trisa Richard and President Terri Marfisi.



Mari Delgado, Media Specialist.

District (ISD), as well as to qualifying paraprofessionals who are currently enrolled in continuing education classes. Judges for the scholarships are outsourced or recruited from outstanding members within our community.

I am happy to announce that this year we will be awarding five “Senior Scholarships” totaling \$3,250! The Paraprofessional Scholarship process is currently accepting applications.

Rio Grande Valley Educational Support Staff Association (VESA)

Lisa E. Gonzalez

On April 27, 2018, VESA held its 51st Annual Bosses Banquet at the La Villa Theatre and Event Center in Alamo, Texas. This grand event culminated from a full year’s worth-of-work by VESA members to honor our bosses, install our President Elect, and announce the winner of our VESA Outstanding Support Staff of the Year award.

More than 100 VESA members, bosses and guests were in attendance. The theme this year was Mardi Gras, with tables elegantly decorated with masks, beads and other items. TESSA Past-President Debbie Wade was present to install our incoming President-Elect, Mary Ann Gallegos, Harlingen CISD. Mary Ann will be serving along with Patty Garcia, President (Weslaco ISD); Belia Solis, 1st

Vice-President (Weslaco ISD); Linda Chimely, 2nd Vice-President (Mercedes ISD); Ofelia Barrón, Treasurer (Donna ISD); and Bonnie Saucedo, Parliamentarian (South Texas ISD). Now fully installed, our new board is ready to get to work and promote VESA throughout the Valley.

Of the two deserving individuals nominated for the Outstanding Staff Member of the Year Award, this year’s winner was Maricela Cavazos (Donna ISD). Maricela has been employed by Donna ISD for 33 years, is a current VESA and TESSA member, and has held many positions within the district. She is currently working as the Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources. Maricela is a well-respected employee in the

► school district, and her co-workers testify that she is always willing to help anyone. Prior to coming to work for Donna ISD, she worked approximately 10 years as a Secretary and Legal Secretary for various attorneys.

After her husband passed away in 1993, Maricela was left as a single parent to raise their children. However, that never deterred her from wanting and doing her very best for them. After they became adults, she took on the responsibility of raising three of her grandchildren. One is currently in college; one graduated from high school this year (to continue her education at the University of Texas at Austin); and one has just finished his first year of high school at the Science Academy at South Texas ISD. Maricela ensures that her grandchildren continue their education, including encouragement that they get a college education.

VESA at the 2018 TESA Summer Work Conference (SWC)!

Nine VESA members were in attendance at this year's TESA SWC. Due to the unexpected flooding in the Rio

Grande Valley four other VESA members were unable to attend. VESA members enjoyed numerous breakout sessions as well as STEM sessions. A wonderful time was had by all who attended. VESA members learned and shared new ideas, and rekindled long lasting friendships. They also assisted Ofelia Barron, TESA Awards/Scholarships/Journalist Chairman, by working at the Theme Basket table and selling 50/50 tickets at the various events.

VESA will continue to have representation at the state level. Ofelia Barrón (Donna ISD) was elected as TESA Vice President/Editor of the TESA Connection; Dora Elder (Harlingen CISD) will be serving on the Area Workshop Committee; Martin Saenz (South Texas ISD) will serve on the Membership Committee; and Lisa E. Gonzalez is both the TESA Parliamentarian and will serve as the Co-Web Advisor.

VESA submitted their Newsletter for competition this year and we are proud to say that we took first place! What a way to end the year!!!



VESA Members in attendance at the 51st Annual VESA Bosses Banquet.



VESA Bosses in attendance at the 51st Annual VESA Bosses Banquet.



Maricela Cavazos, Donna ISD – 2018 VESA Outstanding Support Staff Member of the Year.



Debbie Wade, TESA Past President and Installing Officer pictured with VESA Officers (Not pictured: Linda Chimely, 2nd Vice President).



Debbie Wade, TESA Past President and Installing Officer pictured with incoming VESA President Elect, Mary Ann Gallegos, Harlingen CISD.



TESA Past Presidents: Debbie Wade and Lisa E. Gonzalez.



Outstanding Newsletter Plaque awards to VESA

Weatherford ISD's WESA in Action

WESA Spring Project Success!

WESA members collected 753 jars of peanut butter and jelly for our Spring Project. The donations will go to the Parker County Senior Center and Center of Hope Camp Hope Summer program.

A big Thank You to all WESA members and the Project Committee members Sharon Geisler, Nicole Goddard, Wendy Farrell, Kim Crickman, and Michelle Lindsey for all your hard work.



WESA Members showing off their Spring Project collection.



Center of Hope Representatives picking up peanut butter and jelly donation.

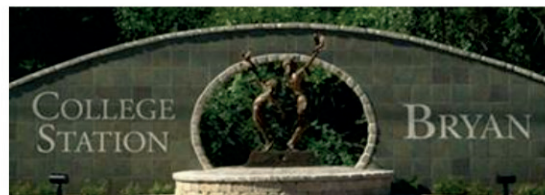
TESA
PO Box 11825
Killeen, Texas 76547

SAVE THE DATE!

JUNE 17-20

2019 SUMMER

WORK CONFERENCE



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