



# THE TESA CONNECTION

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

VOLUME LXIX, NUMBER 3 - SPRING 2019

## From the President | Darcy Blackstock, CEOP



### Greetings, TESA Members!

Wow! The year is flying by and it is hard to believe we are already publishing our spring issue of the TESA Connection and busily preparing for more events. To list a few of your accomplishments:

STEM courses are finishing with new CEOP Graduates and Re-Certifications...

Two outstanding Area Workshops completed to strengthen our knowledge and abilities... Membership is increasing; the Awards/Scholarship/ Journalist Committee is full throttle ahead with awards and scholarships to present at the Summer Work Conference (SWC) in June.... and The 2019 SWC registration is open...and plans are continuing for a “fin-tastic” SWC!

So make your reservations to attend the conference now by visiting the TESA website at [www.tesatexas.org/Events/Workshops](http://www.tesatexas.org/Events/Workshops) to find out all of the exciting details.

The theme for this issue of the TESA Connection is “**Become** the best you can be personally and professionally,” which takes me back to my message when being installed as the 2018-2019 TESA President – and it still remains strong in my mind today.

When we set and achieve goals, volunteer, and invest

in educating ourselves, i.e. “Become the best you can be personally and professionally,” we are teaching the students around us that they too can be life-long learners, enthusiastic volunteers, and leaders in their community. TESA provides many opportunities to become our best – such as STEM classes where you can achieve the Certified Educational Office Professional (CEOP) distinction and other professional development at the Summer Work Conference and Area Workshops hosted by TESA Affiliates. Also through TESA, you may take advantage of local training provided by our Affiliate Services program – and can receive a scholarship from the Awards/Scholarship/ Journalist Committee.

This mindset holds true each day for each of us – our phenomenal TESA members, and myself, as we continue to serve students, our future leaders, in our respective educational setting. I cannot think of a better way to lead by example than investing in oneself and demonstrating this investment to those around you. Not to say, “Look at me” but selflessly, be that role model for those who may need a little encouragement or a gentle nudge to step out of their comfort zone to achieve a goal or dream.

As we prepare for the remaining events of this academic year, I trust you will “Become” all that you want to be both personally and professionally and that you will continue your journey with TESA.

## Dates to Remember

2019

May 27, 2019  
TESA Office Closed - Memorial Day

May 30, 2019  
TESA Connection Deadline - Summer issue  
Last Day to Submit Input to Editor

June 17-20, 2019  
TESA Summer Work Conference  
Bryan, Texas

July 15-20, 2019  
NAEOP Conference  
Boise, Ohio

# From the Editor | Ofelia Barrón, CEOP - Donna ISD



TESA Members, Greetings from the **TESA Connection** staff for a “Happy Spring,” and welcome to the Spring Issue of your newsletter.

The theme for this issue is “Become the Best that we Can Be - Personally and Professionally.” How can we do this? Start by attending the 2019 TESA Summer Work Conference

(SWC), at The Brazos Center (Bryan, TX), June 17-20, 2019. Register now by going to the TESA website ([tesatexas.org/Events/SWC](http://tesatexas.org/Events/SWC)) and choose from the many classes, breakout sessions and events planned just for you. Also within the SWC page is a hotel link (Hilton Garden Inn, College Station), where you can easily reserve your room – check quickly as rooms may be going fast! With the

many great sessions scheduled, “**I Believe that You Will Be Blessed by Growing Personally and Professionally**” at the 2019 SWC!

Please take time to read the many instructive and helpful articles in this issue of the **TESA Connection** – as well as more helpful information recapping the Conference.

We look forward to seeing you in Bryan-College Station in June!



## 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 subscription to: TESA Central Office, PO Box 11825, Killeen, TX 76547.

Please send information for the Summer edition to :  
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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



*Casting a Wide Net for Award Winners!*

*at Summer Work Shop*

# Theme Baskets!

Awards presented to the Theme Basket:

*\*Best Representing Texas*

*\*Most Original & Creative*

*\*Best Representing Conference Theme*

\*Design a shirt, hat, visor, scarf, vest, bandana, etc.  
(Must be something that can be worn.) Item should represent  
Summer Work Conference (SWC) theme. Get Creative!

\*Each entry article should be the same as the theme article worn by  
the Affiliate while at SWC.

\*Entries must be from current TESA members or affiliates (August 1-  
July 31)!

\*Entries must be at the TESA booth by Tuesday at 5:00 p.m.  
with a completed entry form. No exceptions!

\*Members are encouraged to wear their  
"Spirit" item to the General Session on Wednesday.

\*The Affiliate will also be judged by their attendance  
and participation at all events.

\*Spirit Awards will be presented at the banquet.

# Spirit Award

Awards, Scholarship, Journalist Committee

Sharon Mena ~ sharonm@tamu.edu

Terri Marfisi ~ terrimarfisi@tomballisd.net

Diana Rodriguez ~ darodrig@garlandisd.net

Melissa Rodriguez ~ mrodriguez@lcisd.org



**"TESA, Hooked on Professional Growth"****Conference Schedule Overview****O'FISHALLY GONE FISHIN' !****Monday, June 17, 2019****STEM Sessions - Brazos Center**

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

2018-2019 TESA Board Meeting - HGI

5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**CATCH OF THE DAY !****Tuesday, June 18, 2019**

Vendor Set Up - Brazos Center - Assembly 1

6:30 a.m.

**STEM Sessions - Brazos Center**

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Registration

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Exhibit Hall - Brazos Center - Assembly 1

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Extended Sessions - Brazos Center**

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

2019-2020 Exec Board &amp; Comm Orientation - HGI

4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

2019-2020 Executive Board - HGI

6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

**Relaxin' at the Fish Camp- Hilton Garden Inn**

7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

**HOOK, LINE, AND SINKER !****Wednesday, June 19, 2019**

Registration

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Exhibit Hall - Brazos Center - Assembly 1

7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

1st Timers Session - Assembly 2

7:00 a.m. to 7:50 a.m.

**Breakout Sessions - Brazos Center**

8:00 a.m. to 9:20 a.m.

Flag Ceremony Line Up

9:35 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

General Session/ Flag Ceremony/ Keynote/ Business Meeting/ Awards Presentations: Scholarships/ Administrator of the Year Award/ Nelda Van Dyke Award - **Brazos Center**

9:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**"Believe in Your Fish Story" President's Luncheon - BC**

11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

TESA Past President's Meeting - HGI Hotel Ballroom

1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**STEM Sessions - Brazos Center**

1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Extended Sessions - Brazos Center**

1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Breakout Sessions - Brazos Center**

1:30 p.m. to 2:50 p.m.

3:00 p.m. to 4:20 p.m.

4:45 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

**CEOP Practice - Brazos Center****REEL GOOD TIMES !****Thursday, June 20, 2019**

Exhibit Hall - Brazos Center - Assembly 1

7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Breakout Sessions - Brazos Center**

8:00 a.m. to 9:20 a.m.

**Awards Celebration - Brazos Center**

9:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

CEOP Graduation Celebration/ Newsletter Award/

Yearbook Award

2020 SWC Invitation and Skit

Theme Basket Drawings

Immediately following the 2020 SWC Invitation

TRESA Luncheon - offsite

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**STEM Sessions - Brazos Center**

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Extended Sessions - Brazos Center**

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Breakout Sessions - Brazos Center**

1:00 p.m. to 2:20 p.m.

2:30 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.

**"REEL GOOD TIMES" Banquet and Installation - HGI**

6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Installation of 2019-2020 TESA Board

Incoming President's Reception for Marie Enax

Dance

Spirit Award

Vendor Door Prizes



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# How Can YOU become the Best YOU Can Be?

Debbie Wade, CEOP, CEOE

*TESA Past President, Retired from San Jacinto College And  
5th Grade Students from Bayshore Elementary, La Porte ISD*



When I received the request to provide an article for the TESA Connection, I was subbing in 5th grade at Bayshore Elementary in La Porte ISD. So I decided to ask the awesome 5th graders for their input on this subject. When I asked them this question, How Can YOU Become the Best YOU Can Be?, without hesitation, every student gave me at least one amazing response, some gave more. So basically, the Bayshore Elementary 5th graders of 2018-19 wrote the outline for this article for me and I just provided the filler! What great kids they are! Working with them definitely restores my faith in the future of our world!!

## How Can YOU become the Best YOU Can Be?

- **Don't give up!** (This was by far the response given the most times.) – The only way you can get better at whatever you are pursuing or reach whatever goal you are working toward is to never give up. Period.
- **Do your best** – Why would you want to do less than your best?

- **Challenge yourself** – Think about ways you can do a little more each day to make good use of your hidden talents. Never settle for just enough to get by.
- **Don't change yourself** – Do not ever change your values and beliefs just to fit in. Just change to become the best version of yourself.
- **Try your hardest** – What more could anyone ask of you other than to just try your hardest.
- **Keep going even though you think you can't** – Just when you think you have nothing left to give, make just one more small push while keeping your eye on your goal and you might just make it!
- **Believe in yourself** – How do you expect anyone else to believe in you if you don't believe in yourself? My dad always told me, "If you don't vote for yourself, how can you expect anyone else to vote for you?" Hmmm.
- **Go far and beyond** – Why not amaze yourself with how far you can go with a project, reading a book, trying new things? And then take it one step farther ►

- ▶ and go beyond your own expectations!
- **Work smarter, not harder** – (How many times have we said this?) Figure out ways to be smart when doing work or a project (combine tasks, ask for help, prioritize) rather than continually working harder and possibly stressing yourself out.
  - **Do whatever you can do to get good** – Learn one more thing, stretch your imagination, make an extra effort, accomplish one more task but always be moving in a forward direction.
  - **Work hard** – but not so hard that you don't have fun in life.
  - **Practice whatever you want to do every day** - You cannot become better at anything if you don't practice. A professional in any field (athlete, musician, teacher, lawyer, scientist, medical person, support staff) cannot win the grand prize if he or she doesn't practice every day!
  - **Try and try again because failure leads to success** – Think of all the inventors who tried unsuccessfully for many years before one of their inventions finally worked. If they had given up the first time they failed at something, we would not enjoy most of the incredible inventions that we use today.
  - **Give it your all** – You cannot become the best you can be if you give only half an effort. Be all in with your thoughts and your efforts.
  - **Pursue your dreams and achieve your goals** – What are your dreams, your goals, things you want to accomplish in life? It's important to always have at least one dream, one goal that you are working toward and when you successfully achieve that one, celebrate your accomplishment move on to the next one.
  - **Do it right the first time so you don't have to do it again** – Sometimes we get so busy and so distracted in life that we tend to hurry through our work or our tasks to get on to the next thing on our agenda. And we don't always do a good job and then sometimes have to re-do our work – thereby wasting valuable time and effort.
  - **Listen to and respect others (teachers, elders, family)** – Listening is an important tool to becoming the best we can be. Others have valuable information and experience that we might find useful to becoming better. Showing respect for others goes hand-in-hand with listening. We may not always agree with everything someone says but we can at least respect them enough to hear them out. And when we respect others, there's a really good chance that they will respect us too.
  - **Love yourself** – You have unique talents, abilities, skills, and character traits that only you possess. These

make you different and special. How wonderful it is to embrace our uniqueness and love ourselves for who we are!

- **Don't go down the wrong path** – We are influenced by so many people and circumstances in our lives but in order to be the best we can be, we must choose the right path for ourselves. Be strong and stick with it!
- **Be nice, be helpful, don't hurt others, and be a good person** – The best way we can be the best we can be is to help others to be the best they can be. It costs nothing to be nice and it feels pretty good, too. It's definitely a nice thing to do to be helpful. Let your best self shine by doing good things for other people and making their day. And, of course, there's no reason to hurt others, in word or deed, even if they hurt you. Remember, two wrongs don't make a right! So just be a good person!
- **Be a leader not a follower** – Great leaders are needed in the world, your community, your school, your family, your organizations. Be the best you can be in whatever leadership role you have and remember that others are always looking up to you or looking to you for good examples.
- **Don't start drama** – and don't participate in gossip and spreading rumors. Drama only leads to more drama and the truth usually lies somewhere far away from the drama. Besides, drama just doesn't look good on you! It causes stress and heartache, distracts us from being the best we can be, and, in the long run, only wastes time and causes hard feelings.
- **Have fun every once in a while!** – Why not? Life is way too short to not have some fun. Being the best we can be also means having a balanced life which includes just the right amount of work and play. So let your hair down and take time to do something that is fun for you!
- **Just do it!** – Yes, finally, the words you've been waiting for – just do it! What else is there to say regarding being the best you can be? You are the only one who can help you become your best so no more excuses. You know what to do. Just do it! The world is waiting for you to Be the Best You Can Be!





# Texas Educational Support Staff Association, Inc.

## PROFIT AND LOSS August 2018 - April 2019

	TOTAL
Income	
40125 SWC-Registrations	4,414.20
40325 SWC-Exhibits	325.00
40725 SWC-President's Lunch	1,280.00
40925 SWC-Banquet	1,870.00
41925 SWC-Other Income	3,025.00
42030 STEM-Billings	8,370.58
42230 SWC STEM Sessions	875.00
42530 STEM-Consultant Training	150.00
42630 STEM-CEOP Application	180.00
46010 Membership Dues	20,513.00
46210 Affiliation Dues	1,499.50
46300 Newsletter Subscriptions	90.00
47110 Contributions-LRR Scholarship	150.00
47710 Contributions-Founders Scholarship	257.00
48110 Area Workshop-Registrations	270.00
48310 Sales-TESA Novelties	25.00
48710 Interest Income	37.80
49000 Donations	600.00
49999 Credit Card Surcharge	947.50
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$44,879.58</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$44,879.58</b>
Expenses	
50525 SWC-Facility/Equipment Rental	80.00
50925 SWC-Committee Expenses	402.08
51325 SWC-Meal Functions	500.00
54925 SWC-MISC	2,120.00
60230 STEM-Consultant Honorarium	5,295.08
60430 STEM-Committee Expenses	123.85
60830 STEM-Workbook/Publications	750.00
61230 STEM-SWC-Consultant Expenses	300.00
81110 Salaries & Wages	4,495.13
81310 Payroll Tax Expenses	3,053.31
81910 Insurance	842.00
83310 NAEOP Conference	690.00
83510 NAEOP Office/Marion Wood	50.00
84510 Founders Scholarship Expenses	600.00
84610 Magazine/Newsletter Expenses	1,167.62
84910 Content/Bond Insurance	100.00
85511 NAEOP Affiliate Dues	97.80
85810 Central Office Expenses	529.31
86110 Rent-Office	4,500.00
86410 Rent-Equipment	857.36
86710 Bank/Credit Card Fees	1,189.68

	TOTAL
87310 Audit & Accounting	2,548.58
87910 Website Maintenance	3,756.67
88110 Telephone/Internet	1,228.17
88410 Postage	151.39
88710 Property/Sales Tax	118.01
89910 MISC/Awards/Legislative	365.59
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$35,911.63</b>
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>\$8,967.95</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$8,967.95</b>



The water is ready, the conditions are right for  
Extended Sessions, Breakout Sessions and STEM  
classes in Bryan College Station.



Hook the best classes and reel in the fun!

## 2019 TESA Summer Work Conference

Registration is open March 15, 2019 through June 1, 2019.

*(Late registration no later than June 6, 2019)*

All Inclusive (Member).....	\$225.00
All Inclusive (Non-Member).....	\$300.00
Registration Only (Member).....	\$175.00
Registration Only (Non-Member).....	\$225.00
STEM Registration Only.....	\$35.00
Late Registration.....	\$30.00





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# Membership



Membership is year round.... however, membership dues are current only for the membership year of August 1 to July 31.

Joining in June to attend Summer Work Conference is fine, but know your membership expires on July 31 making your membership cost \$22.50 per month! Not very economical! If you join in August your membership cost is lowered to \$3.75 per month! That is less than one Starbucks coffee a month! Sounds much more affordable to me when you join for the whole membership year and not just for Summer Work Conference! It is always nice to get the “bigger bang for your buck” these days!

To join or renew, go to the TESA website, [tesatexas.org](http://tesatexas.org), under the Join TESA/Benefits tab. The membership form is available to fill out online or print. Either mail in a check – or for \$5 more, you can use your debit/credit card to pay online. While on the website, look around and discover all TESA has to offer. You will even find information about our national organization, NAEOP (National Association of Educational Office Professionals). When you do become a member of TESA, you will be able to login to the Members Only portion of the website for more information to keep you informed and aware. Members receive email blasts during the year to keep informed and up to date with TESA happenings.



Being a member of TESA keeps you “in the know” and up-to-date with what everyone in TESA is talking about...be the one who starts the conversation and not the one who is trying to catch-up!

Juliana Holmes, CEO  
TESA Membership Chairman 2018-2019  
[jholmes@garlandisd.net](mailto:jholmes@garlandisd.net)

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## What is a Volunteer?

A volunteer is a person who is **Willing** to give of their time, talents and resources to a cause or community.

A volunteer must make the effort to make themselves **Available** to help.

A volunteer needs to be **Sincere** in their efforts to give

A volunteer should be **Knowledgeable** in the organization or community in which they give their services.

A volunteer should be **Flexible** as the needs change for the organization.

A volunteer should be **Punctual** when giving of their time.

A volunteer needs to be **Faithful** with their time and services. (If you say you will do this or that, be sure to follow through.)

A volunteer should be **Resourceful** in order to give the most out of their efforts.

Volunteers are Needed in every organization...so be a TESA volunteer today!

Where will **you** Volunteer today?

Yvonne Smeltzer, CEO  
SWC 2019 Registration Chair



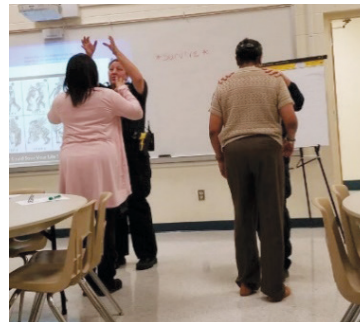


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# Killeen Education Support Association (KESA)



KESA held its first Woman's Self Defense Class for the March Meeting that was sponsored by KISD Police. Four of our finest KISD Police officers gave the demonstration. Class consisted of a demo by the Officers along with volunteers, a question and answer period along with a hand out and a Power Point presentation. This was a first for KESA to have and we had a good turnout and requests for additional classes.



*Michelle Gerard and  
Donna Milton*

The information was very useful and can save lives! Which was the purpose for the class; safety and awareness of your surroundings at all times.

This was a very good presentation and we had excellent participation in the demonstration part of the class. Overall it was very educational and something everybody should learn. Thank you Officer Buber for organizing and presenting the class.



*Left to right Officer Longwell, Officer Rogers and Officer Sellers*

KESA President Elect Michelle Gerard had this to say, "I truly enjoyed the KISD Defense Class. The officers were very informative and explained everything in great detail.



*Mary Flores and Officer Longwell*



# Rio Grande Valley Education Support Staff Association (VESA)

Lisa E. Gonzalez, CEOP

VESA brought their year to an end by hosting their 52nd Annual Bosses Banquet on Friday, April 26, 2019 at the Weslaco ISD Professional Learning Center. The theme for the banquet was Rock 'N Roll. All in attendance had a great time! Bosses were individually recognized and presented with a goodie basket, gift card and a Gold Record Award for their contribution and support to VESA.

Officers for the 2019-2021 school years were installed.



*Bosses in Attendance.*



*VESA members in attendance.*



*2019-2021 Officers (left to right): Mary Ann Gallegos, Harlingen CISD, President; Martin Saenz, South Texas ISD, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President; Linda Chimely, Mercedes ISD, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President; Maricela Cavazos, Donna ISD, Secretary; Ofelia Barrón, Donna ISD, Treasurer.*

The Outstanding Support Staff Member of the Year was also named. This year's winner is Bonnie Saucedo from South Texas ISD.



*Bonnie Saucedo, South Texas ISD 2019 Outstanding Support Staff Member of the Year.*

Last but not least, some VESA members are planning on attending the TESA Summer Work Conference in Bryan, TX and then we will take a short break for the summer and then start the new year in September under the direction of our new president.





67<sup>th</sup> Annual  
TESA Summer Work Conference  
June 17-20, 2019

**The Brazos Center • Bryan, Texas/ Hilton Garden Inn • College Station, TX**

It will not be long now before we will all be back together – but this year in a ***new fish camp and fishing hole!*** Summer Work Conference (SWC) registration information is posted on your TESA website at [www.tesatexas.org](http://www.tesatexas.org).

SWC information on the website also includes the **hotel link** and a Conference Schedule Overview, to help you plan your arrival and departure dates and times. Hurry and get your conference registration and hotel reservation in before the deadline. Your fishing expedition awaits you...

**A small overview of the conference to lure you in –**

*June 17 and June 18 <>< O'fishally Gone Fishin'! and Catch of the Day!*

STEM classes will be offered all day Monday and Tuesday; and on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. To "lure" you in further, you may choose from many Breakout Sessions – plus several Extended Sessions which you can use towards your CEOP self-directed or 6-hour Re-certification hours. On Tuesday evening there will be a game night at the hotel called "*Relaxin' at the Fish Camp.*" You do not want to miss this fun at the new fish camp!

*June 19 <>< Hook, Line, and Sinker!*

On Wednesday, there will be a special morning reception/session just for First Timers – those who have never attended a TESA conference. Here you will have TESA Past Presidents sharing information about TESA and much more. Later that morning, we will have our General session with an inspiring TESA flag ceremony from Past Presidents or representatives of the many associations represented. The General Session/Business Meeting will have a special Keynote speaker, and will include several Award presentations, such as Scholarships, Nelda Van Dyke, and the Administrator of the Year! Following the General session, we will make our way to the President's Luncheon where we will enjoy a scrumptious lunch as you "*Believe in Your Fish Story.*" Wednesday evening you can go with your friends to your favorite fishing hole and enjoy a "free night of the fisherman's life!"

*June 20 <>< Reel Good Times!*

Thursday morning will offer more exciting Awards beginning with our CEOP Celebration. The winners of our Newsletter and Yearbook awards will be announced. The 2020 SWC Invitation and Skit will be performed and finally...just before lunch, the "Everybody loves a Theme Basket drawing!" Thursday evening brings the always anticipated "*Reel Good Times*" Banquet and Dance; Installation; Spirit Award and the Reception for the 2019-2020 President, Marie Enax – ***an evening for telling another great fish story!***

***See you in June!***