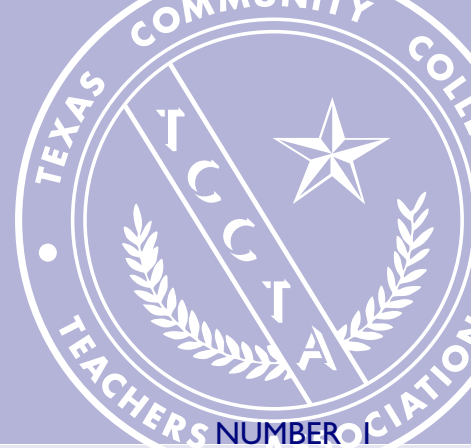


TCCTA MESSENGER

www.tccta.org

A Publication of the TEXAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

5113 Southwest Parkway, Suite 185 Austin, Texas 78735
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82nd Regular Session, RIP

Community and technical colleges across the state are contending with disastrous funding results from the 2011 Regular Session of the Texas Legislature, which adjourned on May 30. Although the appropriations will not take effect until the next biennium (2012-13), schools have already initiated policies designed to cope with historic losses in revenue.

Basically the Legislature adopted a no-growth budget for two-year schools, meaning there will be no revenue to accommodate significant gains in student enrollment.

"It won't do to say, 'It could have been worse,' or 'Public education suffered even deeper reductions,'" said Richard Moore, TCCTA Executive Director. "While these statements may be correct, this was a terrible Session for two-year colleges."

TCCTA responded early with an unprecedented

effort that involved more "grass roots" participation by the association's membership than ever before. Members responded with enthusiasm and discipline to the association's appeals.

(See more legislative news on pages seven and eight.)

What You Can Do

by Beaman Floyd
TCCTA Lobbyist

I want to take you back to a moment on April 1. We, along with the Texas Association of Community Colleges, supported a floor amendment by Rep. Jimmie Don Aycock that placed all impending cuts to community colleges (including those for health benefits) into a single line item—making the devastation more apparent to lawmakers. You may recall a flurry of e-mails. This "grass roots" effort paid off, and the amendment passed unanimously.

No, it didn't solve our problem. The cuts are still drastic, but in the world of the 82nd Regular Session, it demonstrated the potential of collective, coordinated action on our part. I was there and it was impressive.

I also genuinely believe in the social good of your profession, and promise to continue engaging lawmakers and their staffs urgently and constructively. Naturally, when visiting with clients, I am asked, "What can I do?"—especially in the "off-season."

First, you can join TCCTA. Your association is respected in Austin, and policy makers pay attention when your professional voices speak in unison, from every campus—and legislative district—in Texas.

Next, get informed. Pay attention to the information and commentary TCCTA provides. Read the *Messenger*. Visit the Web site and contribute to the discussion on the "Blog" feature of the site. Communication is indispensable.

Third, get to know your legislators now, while they are "at home." Invite your representative and senator to visit your campus, ideally in a joint meeting with faculty, administration, and board members. It's always impressive when all stakeholders are on the same page. As someone who represents clients in public education, I can tell you that such unity is very rare.

Finally, participate in TCCTA events—especially the Fall Conference for Faculty Leaders on October 7-8 in Austin and the Annual Convention on March 1-3 in Frisco. I hope to see you there! ☆



Beaman Floyd

Conference Planned for Faculty Leaders

The 32nd Annual TCCTA Fall Conference for Faculty Leaders will be held on October 7-8, at the Omni Southpark Hotel in Austin.

Registration will begin at 2:30 Friday.

At 3:30 p.m., two breakout sessions will commence,

(continued on page three)

Also In This Issue...

State President Annie Benifield reflects on the challenges and opportunities of the coming year Page 2

Read about the upcoming TCCTA Conference for Faculty Leaders to be held in Austin Page 3

Celebrate the 2011 Piper Award winners! Pages 4-5

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Review the details of the most recent Regular Session of the Texas Legislature Pages 8-9

Join us in Frisco! Page 10

The 2011 Annual Convention hotel registration form makes it easy to reserve your room early Page 11

Join TCCTA, using the handy enrollment form Page 12



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ANNIE J. BENIFIELD
President



RICHARD MOORE
Executive Director



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome!

I am honored to serve as your president for the coming year. Although the fall semester is just getting started, rest assured that your TCCTA leadership is working hard to make 2011-12 successful for you and your colleagues.

If you have not already done so, please join TCCTA. Participation in our association has been extremely rewarding for me over the years, and I know it will be for you, too.

You can learn about the tangible benefits of joining from our Web site or from the printed material provided by your campus representative. I guarantee that you will not find a better bargain anywhere on membership dues and professional liability insurance.

An enrollment form is found on the back cover of this issue of the *Messenger*. I also highly recommend the optional liability insurance coverage, no matter what or where you teach. Many community and technical college educators find it indispensable to their security and peace of mind in these contentious times.

But joining is just the beginning. In order to fully appreciate TCCTA, I urge you to attend our conferences. First up is the 32nd Annual Fall Conference for Faculty Leaders, to be held on October 7-8, at the beautiful Omni Southpark Hotel in Austin. Please read all about it in these pages and consult our site for details and updates. Those who attend this meeting always return to campus with a wealth of information to share with colleagues.

And make plans now to attend our annual convention, on March 1-3, at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Frisco. Whatever your teaching field or area of expertise, you'll find plenty of amazing opportunities for professional development. The meeting also features an outstanding exhibit area, with displays from all the major publishers and technology companies. I might also add that the conference is great fun, and provides you with a chance to mix and mingle with your peers across the entire state, from large colleges and small.

We have just completed a tumultuous Regular Session of the Texas Legislature, as a perusal of this issue of the *Messenger* can attest. But we must not get discouraged. TCCTA provides a host of ways to participate in the legislative process, beginning with an array of opportunities to stay informed on vital issues. TCCTA is always front and center, providing vital and timely information. Your membership dues this year include a subscription to the Blog, updated daily, covering all issues of concern to com-

munity and technical college educators.

In the coming months, there will be important matters arising in legislative interim committees, and from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. One of our most important resources is our outstanding lobbyist, Beaman Floyd. I hope you'll pay attention to his regular columns and get a chance to hear him speak at our conferences.

Since community and technical colleges are the foundation for success in Texas, please join us in our effort to move the state forward.

Obviously we have many challenges to face as educators. But I believe that, for each challenge, there is an opportunity for growth and progress. In order for this to happen, however, we must be united as a profession.

Please don't hesitate to contact any of our officers or the state office in Austin if we can be of any assistance.

TCCTA is there for you. Join us!

TCCTA COMMITTEES TO MEET BEFORE CONFERENCE

The TCCTA Legislative, Membership Services, and Publications Committees will meet at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, October 7, in conjunction with the Conference for Faculty Leaders, at the Omni Southpark Hotel, in Austin. The Professional Development Committee will meet at 1:00 p.m.

Members of these committees are also urged to stay for the conference.

Agendas and other information will be distributed by the chairs of the four committees.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKS RECOMMENDATIONS

Paula A. Wilhite, Northeast Texas Community College, chair of the TCCTA Nominating Committee, has announced that the committee is inviting recommendations of individuals for consideration as nominees for officers for 2012-13.

Recommendations should be submitted soon in order to be considered by the Nominating Committee in its November meeting.

Recommendations should be sent to:

Paula Wilhite
Northeast Texas Community College
P.O. Box 1307
Mount Pleasant, Texas 75456
pwilhite@ntcc.edu



Fall Conference to Focus on Important Issues

(continued from page one)

offering attendees a choice of programs.

One program will feature a panel discussion on "Faculty Senate Best Practices." Leading the dialogue will be faculty leaders Lana Jackson, Amarillo College, and Chris Smith, Tyler Junior College. Previous meetings on this subject at TCCTA conferences have garnered much interest.

Also at 3:30, a program modeled after the Great Ideas for Teaching Students (GIFTS) will feature Great Ideas for TCCTA Campus Representatives, allowing those with the responsibility for recruiting members to share strategies, in a fast-paced participatory format. Leading the discussion will be Jane England and Pat Ledbetter, North Central Texas College, Jill Coe, Southwest Texas Junior College, and Gabriel Ume, Palo Alto College.

Registration will continue at 5:00 on Friday, followed at 5:30 with an informal social hour and appetizers.

The evening program, at 6:45, will feature "The Impact of the 2011 Regular Session of the Texas Legislature." Scheduled to speak is Beaman Floyd, a professional contract lobbyist who represents TCCTA.

Mr. Floyd specializes in legislative issues relating to insurance, including teachers' health insurance and retirement, workers' compensation, public education, and financial institutions. He has worked with the Texas Legislature since 1993, and will address the inner workings of the legislative process, including the challenges and opportunities for community and technical colleges in the months ahead.

Saturday morning, at 8:00, registration will continue and a sponsored breakfast will be served for all participants.

At 9:00, attendees will learn about "The Faculty Role in College Decision Making," from Richard Rhodes, president of Austin Community College.

Dr. Rhodes was previously president of El Paso Community College. During Dr. Rhodes' tenure at EPCC, enrollment increased 62 percent. Other significant accomplishments include the creation of the College Readiness Consortium (a partnership of EPCC, the University of Texas at El Paso, and 12 school districts), and the development of several Early College High Schools.

At 10:30 on Saturday, a panel discussion on "Faculty Perspectives on Student Success," will be presented, featuring Jane England, North Central Texas College, Jada Hill, Richland College, and Rickey McFadden, Paris Junior College.

During the luncheon session, longtime TCCTA attorney Frank Hill will discuss "Current Legal Issues in Higher Education." The speaker is often retained by the association, representing clients who find themselves in legal difficulty in connection with their employment as community college educators.

Mr. Hill received his law degree from Southern Methodist University. Founded in 1972, the firm of which he is the senior partner now includes 30 practicing attorneys, several of whom are recognized as specialists in legal matters involving rights of teachers. Time for questions and answers with Mr. Hill will also be allowed.

The conference will adjourn at 1:30 p.m.

While designed primarily for leaders of local faculty organizations, the conference is open to all interested TCCTA members and faculty leaders. College presidents and other administrators are also encouraged to attend and participate.

REGISTRATION FEE—\$75, payable on arrival (includes social hour Friday evening and Saturday's breakfast and lunch).

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION should be completed by October 6 through the TCCTA state office, 5113 Southwest Parkway, Suite 185, Austin, Texas 78735 (1-800-288-6850, ext. 11; in Austin 1-512-328-2044, ext. 11; Fax 1-512-328-1086; e-mail efricke@tccta.org).

HOTEL RESERVATIONS Reservations are available at \$104.00 for a single, \$124 for double occupancy, plus tax). The deadline for hotel registration at this rate is September 25. Self parking is complimentary for conference attendees. Please make reservations directly to the Omni Southpark Hotel, 4140 Governor's Row, Austin, Texas 78744. Phone: 1-888-444-6664; in Austin, 512-448-2222.

DIRECTIONS FROM AUSTIN-BERGSTROM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT Exit airport following Presidential Blvd. 1.8 miles to the intersection of Texas Route 71 (Ben White Blvd.). Turn left merging on to Route 71 West (Ben White Blvd. West) and continue for 5.3 miles to Woodward Street and turn left at the stop light. Follow for 0.2 miles and turn right onto Freidrich Lane. Continue for 0.2 miles and turn right onto Directors Blvd. and continue for 0.1 miles. Turn right onto Governor's Row and the Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark's entrance is 0.1 mile on the left.

SHUTTLE SERVICE Complimentary airport shuttle to and from Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. Shuttle service available from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. For pick up, please call from the courtesy phone in the baggage claim area or call the hotel directly at 512-448-2222. Pickup will not occur without a phone request.

DIRECTIONS FROM THE NORTH – VIA I-35 SOUTH Traveling on I-35 South, follow past Austin center city to Exit 231 Woodward. Take the parallel frontage road to the third stop light (Ben White Blvd.) Turn left at the stop light and follow for 0.1 miles and turn right on Governor's Row. The Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark's entrance will be on the right.

DIRECTIONS FROM THE SOUTH – VIA I-35 NORTH Traveling on I-35 North, follow to exit 230 toward (290W / TX 71/ Johnson City/ Bastrop.) Take the parallel frontage road for 0.3 miles and turn right onto Director's Blvd. Continue for 0.1 of a mile, then turn left onto Governor's Row. The Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark's entrance is located on the left.

DIRECTIONS FROM THE EAST – VIA HWY 71 WEST Traveling West on Texas route-71 proceed past Austin- Bergstrom International Airport for approximately 5.3 miles. Follow to Woodward Street intersection and turn left at the stop light. Follow for 0.2 miles and turn right onto Freidrich Lane. Continue for 0.2 miles then turn right onto Directors Blvd. Continue for 0.1 of a mile and turn right onto Governor's Row. The Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark's entrance will be on the left. ☆



Beaman Floyd



Frank Hill



Richard Rhodes

For the latest information on any changes or program updates, please visit www.tccta.org.

Piper Professors Named for 2011



Gerald Busald



Joan Mathis

Two Texas community college educators have been selected as 2010-11 Piper Professors. San Antonio College math professor Gerald Busald and Paris Junior College English instructor Joan Mathis were among the ten outstanding teachers picked from public and private colleges and universities in Texas. Since 1958, the San Antonio-based awards have been given annually to Texas professors for outstanding academic, scientific, and scholarly achievement and for dedication to the teaching profession. Each two- and four-year college and university in the state may submit one nominee annually. Piper Professors receive a certificate of merit, a gold pin, and a \$5,000 honorarium.

A selection committee from the academic community reviews the nominations to choose the professors to be honored. More information about the program is available at the TCCTA Web site (www.tccta.org) under "Links."

Gerald Busald earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Southwest Texas University (now Texas State University). A native of St. Louis, Mo., he has worked at SAC since 1979. He previously taught in both public and private schools, and he initially joined SAC's data processing department. He currently teaches statistics and other math courses.

Nationally known for his knowledge of state lotteries, Mr. Busald has been quoted in a number of newspapers and Web sites, including the *Wall Street Journal*. In 1997 his statistics classes began an examination of the Texas State Lottery that revealed errors in the way the state advertised the lottery—specifically in the odds of winning and the exact amounts of the prizes. Mr. Busald's work has led to a number of changes implemented by the Texas Lottery Commission.

"The Lottery has been lucky for me. It has given a lot of really positive experiences for my students," he says.

"I love teaching, I love being in the classroom and I enjoy the relationship with students," he adds. "I am very honored to receive this award. In a way, I represent the entire SAC faculty. It is also a recognition of my students' work, a validation of them as well as me."

"We are very proud of Professor Busald's contributions to the college and to the math department. He represents the high caliber of faculty at San Antonio College," said Dr. Robert E. Zeigler, SAC president.

Joan Mathis was the oldest of five siblings born to a family of sharecroppers. She attended segregated schools, when not released to help harvest cotton. She graduated from Wiley College in Marshall.

"I was the only student of color in my English class, and we were to give a presentation, and I was scared," Mathis remembers. "I went to my teacher, Miss Goolsby, and she told me, 'We will work on it until you are perfect,' and we did."

Of her calling, Ms. Mathis said, "I believe that one of the greatest ways to affect people's lives is to educate the mind, because an educated mind opens the mind for freedom—freedom for thought, freedom to make wise decisions. I truly enjoy making a positive difference in students' lives."

"She is at once both an inspiration to everyone who knows her and one of the most humble people I have ever met," said PJC president, Pam Anglin. "Joan cares about each and every one of her students and no matter how late the hour or how tired she is, she won't leave work until everyone has been helped. She is a truly inspirational person to this college president, who can only look on in awe at the lives she touches, the activities she is involved in, and the causes she champions. Joan has left a legacy on multiple generations of students in Northeast Texas."

Prior community college Piper Professors are listed below:

- 1958 R. W. Lee, St. Philip's College
Henry B. Webb, San Antonio College
- 1960 Katharine Evans, Del Mar College
Inez Grant, South Plains College
Bertie Warren, Amarillo College
- 1961 Marjorie Morris, Odessa College
*Margaret Pannill, Navarro College
*Marjorie Walthall, San Antonio College
- 1962 *Paul McFerran, Texarkana College
- 1963 Mazella Arnold, Temple College
B. E. Schulze, Del Mar College
- 1964 S. L. Canterbury, Kilgore College
- 1965 Arthur Chesley Bowman, San Antonio College
- 1966 P. Eugene Smith, Del Mar College
- 1968 Jack R. Harvey, Weatherford College
Robert E. Hoffman, Amarillo College
- 1970 Clarence W. Norris, St. Philip's College
Barbara Warburton, Texas Southmost College
- 1971 Lucille M. Boyd, Navarro College
Aileen Creighton, Del Mar College
- 1972 *Joe F. Taylor, Amarillo College
- 1973 Hoyt J. Burnette, McLennan Community College
- 1974 Frances P. Dushek, Del Mar College
John N. Igo, Jr., San Antonio College
Duane Chad Morrison, Grayson County College
- 1975 James A. Hankerson, El Centro College
- 1976 Theron Wilford Kirk, San Antonio College
- 1977 Annie Lou Winton Ballard, Kilgore College
David Lloyd Petrash, Grayson County College
Gary Alan Smith, Tarrant County Junior College—Northwest Campus
- 1978 Geraldine Johnston, Navarro College
Carolyn Oliver Perry, San Jacinto College
Helen Starr Roberts, South Plains College
- 1979 Dolores C. Villarreal, St. Philip's College
Mary Cecilia Wyllie, Alvin Community College
- 1980 Harley Davis, Paris Junior College
- 1981 Betty Jo Graber, Weatherford College
Anne Dean Turk, Kilgore College
- 1982 William Samelson, San Antonio College
- 1983 Rosemary Valladolid, El Paso Community College
- 1984 *David J. Clinkscale, Tarrant County Junior College—Northwest Campus

- Costas Katsigris, El Centro College
 Ronald J. Williams, Del Mar College
- 1985 M. Duane Gage, Tarrant County Junior College–
 Northeast Campus
 Joseph J. Granata, San Jacinto College–South
 Campus
 Katherine E. Staples, Austin Community College
 Robert W. Wylie, Amarillo College
- 1986 H. McAfee Daniel, Navarro College
 Lewis M. Fox, San Antonio College
 Ray Kenneth Robbins, Western Texas College
- 1987 Ann Cartwright, San Jacinto College–Central
 Campus
- 1988 Diane Martin, Eastfield College
- 1989 Ida M. Blanchette, Alvin Community College
 Elwyn Jeanette Bone, Kilgore College
 Hazelyn D. Lewis, St. Philip’s College
 Wayne Hartman McAlister, The Victoria College
 Richard E. Miller, Navarro College
 Robert H. Schlieker, Temple College
 Jerry D. Thompson, Laredo Community College
 Joan Laveson Weston, Brookhaven College
- 1990 Beatrice M. Burke, Howard College (Southwest
 Collegiate Institute for the Deaf)
 Mark D. Hettle, Mountain View College
 Marylin Sue Kelly, McLennan Community Col-
 lege
 *Marilyn J. Lancaster, Western Texas College
 Renate True, College of the Mainland
- 1991 Jane Aycock Bouterse, Texarkana College
 Brian David Earle, Cedar Valley College
 Gary Bruce Hodge, Collin County Community
 College
 Tommy Kaye Kinney, Brazosport College
 Ronald R. Roberts, Grayson County College
 Lucy A. Scarbrough, El Paso Community Col-
 lege
 Olive Jensen Theisen, Northeast Texas Community
 College
- 1992 Sam W. Hawkins, San Jacinto College–Central
 Campus
 Thomas M. Hobbs, North Harris College
- 1993 Michael N. Donahue, Temple College
 Barbara R. McGregor, Weatherford College
 Claudia E. Neeley-Plog, El Centro College
 Robert K. Peters III, Tyler Junior College
 Charles E. P. Simmons, Midland College
 Mary Seals Thorpe, Del Mar College
- 1994 Tommy W. Stringer, Navarro College
- 1995 Dennis J. Cravens, Vernon Regional Junior Col-
 lege
 Sandra S. Shumate, San Antonio College
- 1996 Vivian Ruby Brown, Laredo Community Col-
 lege
 Norman C. Delaney, Del Mar College
 Shelley Denise Lane, Collin County Community
 College
 Elroy Smith, Palo Alto College
 Charles Dennis Spurlin, The Victoria College
- 1998 *Emmeline Dodd, College of the Mainland
 Bettye Craddock, Kilgore College
- 1999 Mattie J. Collins, Angelina College
 Gary D. Swaim, North Lake College
 Warren Taylor, Midland College
- 2000 Luke Barber, Richland College
 Hanhphouc (Happy) Vu Buu, North Harris Col-
 lege
 *Patsy W. Goss, San Jacinto College–Central
 Campus
 Vivian Dennis-Monzingo, Eastfield College
 Bill O’Neal, Panola College
- 2001 J. Paul Matney, Amarillo College
 Laura Matysek Wood, Tarrant County Commu-
 nity College–Northwest Campus
 Randal Scott Yarbrough, Collin County Com-
 munity College– Spring Creek Campus
- 2002 Peggy Lambert, Kingwood College
 Andrew Preslar, Lamar State College–Orange
 Linda Ridgway, Cedar Valley College
- 2003 Elizabeth Dollie Hudspeth, St. Philip’s College
 Kenneth Lee Weatherbie, Del Mar College
- 2004 Eduardo Enrique Aguilar, Tarrant County Col-
 lege–Northwest Campus
 L. Alan Barnes, Tyler Junior College
 Mary Jean Osentowski, Richland College
 Lincoln C. Rolling, Jr., Cedar Valley College
- 2005 Kenneth Gerald Alfors, Mountain View College
 Jennifer Annette Black, McLennan Community
 College
 *Susan H. Edwards, Cy-Fair College
 Jacqueline Ann Ganschow, Del Mar College
 Sycily Ann Gregory, South Plains College
 O. Rufus Lovett, Kilgore College
 Rebecca Lynn Tate, Tomball College
 Doris Phillips Wilson, El Centro College
- 2006 Ray F. Attner, Brookhaven College
 Dalton C. DeHart, San Jacinto College–Central
 Campus
- 2007 Jeff D. Edwards, Cy-Fair College
 Samuel R. Germany, Cedar Valley College
 Donald R. Lucas, Northwest Vista College
 Joel D. Price, Tarrant County College–Southeast
 Campus
 Kathryn C. Wetzel, Amarillo College
- 2008 Rosemary Karr, Collin College
 Ruth Pitts, McLennan Community College
- 2009 Peggy Chittenden Brown, Collin County Com-
 munity College District
 Nancy Ellen Cole-Masterson, Southwest Texas
 Junior College
 Julia De Foor Jay, San Jacinto College–Central
 Campus
 Richard Lee Pullen, Jr., Amarillo College
 Susan Skinner Wyatt, Eastfield College
- 2010 Randy Conine, Richland College
 Manoucher Khosrowshahi, Tyler Junior College
 Elise Price, Tarrant County College–Southeast
 Campus
- 2011 Gerald Busald, San Antonio College
 Joan Mathis, Paris Junior College

*Nominations for
 awards are requested
 annually from all
 accredited public and
 private institutions
 of higher education
 in the state.*

* Asterisk denotes past president of the Texas Community
 College Teachers Association

Community College Week—NISOD Student Essay Contest

In honor of Scott Wright



The National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) announces the fourth annual Community College Week—NISOD Student Essay Contest in honor of Scott Wright, past editor of Community College Week (1995-2000), recipient of the 1998 Award for Excellence in Higher Education Journalism, and the reporter who brought national attention to developmental education and the unique mission community colleges possess in providing an accessible education.

Essay Topic

Describe a professor, staff member, or administrator who encouraged you to complete a course, finish a semester, or graduate from college, and describe how they encouraged you.

\$3,000 in Prizes

- \$1,000 Scholarship to the Student Author
- \$1,000 to the Faculty/Staff/Administrator Featured in the Essay
- Complimentary 2012-2013 NISOD Membership to the Student's Community College (\$1,000 value)

Accepting Submissions Beginning: September 30, 2011

Deadline: Midnight (CST) • November 8, 2011

For a complete list of prizes, contest details, and to submit an essay, visit www.nisod.org/student_essay.

Sponsored by



Community College Week

THE INDEPENDENT VOICE COVERING COMMUNITY, TECHNICAL AND JUNIOR COLLEGES



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The NISOD Webinar Series is free to NISOD members.

TCCTA Responds to Budget Crisis

The 2011 Regular Session was historic in its consequences for community and technical college educators—the results of which will be felt for many years.

“We’ve never seen anything like this before,” said TCCTA Executive Director Richard Moore. “The state economy is improving, but not in time to avoid a bleak financial situation for two-year schools. Also, it can’t help but endanger the Closing the Gaps initiative.”

In anticipation, TCCTA responded early on a variety of fronts. The following is a partial list of strategies used before and during this Regular Session.

TCCTA works closely with the Texas Association of Community Colleges and other vital stakeholders in two-year schools.

- **First Responders.** During the summer of 2010 the association began recruiting campus volunteers to make a special effort to stay informed and respond quickly to the latest information from the state office on legislative developments. These individuals have become indispensable to the TCCTA communications structure.
- **Professional Lobbying.** TCCTA Lobbyist Beaman Floyd meets with lawmakers daily, urging them to support the objectives of our association.
- **Lobbying by educators.** In addition to participating in TCCTA Capitol Day, which involved faculty members at an assortment of two-year schools, the association arranged for small groups of teachers to meet with lawmakers directly.
- **Bill Tracking.** TCCTA maintained an ongoing list on our Web site, updated daily, of bills potentially affecting two-year college professionals.
- **Legislative Resources.** A convenient link on the TCCTA Web site provides all the information needed to communicate effectively with lawmakers.
- **Talking Points.** In order to avoid ineffective digital petitions and “automatic” responses, TCCTA provides bullet points stressing the most effective case for various issues of concern.
- **E-mail Alerts.** In urgent situations, TCCTA distributes messages to all current members.
- **The Blog.** Available each day, the Blog provides timely updates and crucial information on events in Texas and around the nation.
- **Testimony.** TCCTA leaders frequently offer oral and written testimony before House and Senate committees of the Legislature.

News Briefs

Doctorates Offered in Developmental Education

Texas State University at San Marcos recently received approval from the Coordinating Board for two doctoral programs in developmental education.

Many commentators have pointed out a paucity of graduate programs to train talented individuals who are enthusiastic to make a career in developmental education as teachers or administrators. Such programs do exist in Texas, but not nearly enough, especially at the doctoral level.

Regardless of impending changes in the field, developmental education is undoubtedly here to stay. Additional doctoral programs could lead the way in research as well. Solid empirical data is increasingly demanded by policy makers. There will always be room to disagree on methodology and results, but the more valid research the better in terms of what pedagogy works best.

Cuts in Student Aid Looming

It’s about to get tougher for many low-income Texans to go to college, because of budget cuts to the TEXAS Grant program enacted by the Regular Session of the Legislature. Most student aid comes from federal programs, but TEXAS Grant revenue will be scaled back for the first time since 1999 when the program was created. Commissioner of Higher Education Raymund Paredes informed the Coordinating Board of this prospect at its recent quarterly meeting.

Lawmakers cut the program by about nine percent for the next two years despite surging enrollment. As a result, only about 30 percent, or 33,100, of the 110,000 incoming students who meet academic and financial eligibility requirements are expected to receive the grant during the 2012-13 biennium, according to the Coordinating Board.

The Legislature endorsed an approach that gives preference to needy students who have demonstrated academic accomplishment in high school. The cuts could complicate the challenges to Closing the Gaps, denying opportunity to students the program is designed to help. Then there is the issue of whether grant money should go primarily to new students, taking revenue away from those already in the program.

LSU Cited on Grading Issue

Louisiana State University has been cited by an investigating committee of the American Association of University Professors for violations of academic freedom. A dispute arose when a tenured professor of biology was removed from a class for awarding poor mid-term grades to students in an undergraduate course. She remains on the faculty.

The case has attracted nationwide attention. Of particular concern was the reported changing of an examination grade by a dean at the university.

AAUP did not declare censure for LSU—the group’s harshest criticism.

Those in the field of developmental education are urged to pay close attention to some potential shifts in policy over the next few years.

TCCTA Sponsors Capitol Day



TCCTA Capitol Day, conducted on May 18, focused on a number of key issues, as members visited with local delegations during the closing days of the Regular Session. Association lobbyist Beaman Floyd provided suggestions for constructive dialogue with lawmakers and staff members during the entire event.

In addition, early in the day, TCCTA Immediate Past President Fred Newbury, Richland College, and Executive Director Richard Moore testified in opposition to HB 9 (see article on this page of the *Messenger*).

Members from campuses all over Texas participated in the event, focusing on their own representatives and senators, as well as important committee members. The state office supplied material for distribution in lawmakers' offices, including concise Talking Points on HB 9 and other issues related to community and technical colleges in Texas.

The TCCTA Legislative Committee is chaired by Suzanne Morales-Vale, Central Texas College.

“Guns on Campus” Bill Defeated

The so-called Guns on Campus bill introduced during the Regular Session failed due to a parliamentary objection in the final days before adjournment.

The bill would have allowed licensed carriers of concealed firearms to bring their weapons into campus buildings. Sponsors of this and similar measures testified that recent tragedies involving shooters on U.S. campuses (including UT-Austin) could have been prevented, or at least mitigated, by trained individuals nearby who could respond as needed. In Texas, licensed carriers must be 21 years old (or with military experience) and must receive training in the use of handguns.

When the original bill failed to garner enough votes for passage, its sponsor, Sen. Jeff Wentworth (R-San Antonio), attempted to attach it to another bill. Such a strategy is common practice as the adjournment deadline approaches.

The measure was inserted into a fiscal matters bill in the Senate. But, when the bill was taken up in the House, Rep. Mike Villarreal (D-San Antonio) made a parliamentary objection, pointing out that the Texas Constitution prohibits any bill from taking up two different subjects. The governing rule involves whether all components are “germane” to the subject of the bill.

The House parliamentarian concurred with the objection, so the bill went back to the Senate, where the gun language was taken out.

TCCTA President Fred Newbury, Richland College, testified in opposition to the measure, pointing out that colleges wished to make their own decisions based on geographic and physical distinctions. Local discretion was not allowed under the bill as filed. Dr. Newbury also pointed out that TCCTA conducted a survey of its membership, which revealed that eighty percent of respondents opposed allowing licensed carriers to bring guns on campus.

HB 9 Creates Process for “Outcomes-Based” Funding

The national movement toward “outcomes-based” funding of higher education took a step forward in Texas with the passage of HB 9.

TCCTA opposed the bill in House and Senate committee testimony.

The measure was supported by a plethora of business-oriented organizations, including the Texas Association of Business, the Governor’s Business Council, the Texas Public Policy Foundation, and Texans for Prosperity. Its sponsor was Rep. Dan Branch (R-Dallas), who chairs the House Committee on Higher Education. Its sponsor in the Senate was Sen. Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo), who chairs the Committee on Higher Education. Gov. Perry made it a major priority for the Session.

Some of the TCCTA’s concerns were addressed in the final version. In general the resultant language is more flexible in scope than in the bill as originally filed. For instance, the final statute uses “may” instead of “must” regarding proposed key measures of student success.

The new law will likely spur abundant questions regarding its interpretation and impact.

Basically HB 9 sets up a regimen for recommendations to be developed by the Coordinating Board, and presented to the newly-formed Joint Oversight Committee on Higher Education Governance, Excellence, and Transparency.

These recommendations will be considered subsequently by the next Regular Session of the Legislature. HB 9 does not directly affect appropriations for the forthcoming (2012-13) biennium.

Many lawmakers voiced concerns about such a funding mechanism. When the Session ended, Sen. Zaffirini told the *Texas Tribune* (on June 6) that the question was still “if, not when,” Texas might adopt such a system.

The bill states that “not more than ten percent of the total amount of general revenue appropriations of base funds for undergraduate education” would be used for incentive funding.

Several states have recently implemented outcomes-based funding formulas, which are designed to improve low rates of student success.

For two-year college faculty, the heart (and principal controversy) of HB 9 involves its proposed outcomes measures. In the wording of the bill, “The success measures considered by the [Coordinating] board under this subsection may include” achievement in

- developmental education in mathematics
- developmental education in English
- the first college-level mathematics course with a grade of “C” or higher
- the first college-level English course with a grade of “C” or higher
- the first 30 semester credit hours
- transfer to a four-year college or university after successful completion of at least 15 semester credit hours at the institution
- the total number of degrees and certificates

TCCTA will follow the implementation process carefully and work to achieve a result that is consistent with academic integrity.

For two-year college educators, the heart (and principal controversy) of HB 9 involves its proposed outcomes measures.

Changes in Store for Developmental Education

A bill to significantly change developmental education in Texas has become law.

The measure, HB 1244, was authored by Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-San Antonio). The Senate sponsor was Sen. Royce West (D-Dallas). The final version was supported by the Texas Association of Community Colleges and an assortment of business-oriented organizations.

The bill requires the Coordinating Board to prescribe a “single standard or set of standards for each assessment instrument designated by the agency to effectively measure student readiness as demonstrated by current research.” Under current law, schools use a variety of assessment tools and exams.

The bill also requires schools to offer any developmental education student a range of coursework “or instructional support that includes the integration of technology to efficiently address the particular developmental needs of the student.” An earlier version of the bill mandated an option for students to enroll in online developmental programs on their own, but college leaders informed lawmakers that students who choose online study unilaterally tend to be less successful, according to recent studies.

HB 1244 requires colleges to base developmental education coursework on “research-based best practices” that include the following components:

- assessment
- differentiated placement and instruction
- faculty development
- support services
- program evaluation, including effectiveness and cost-efficiency
- integration of technology
- non-course-based developmental education
- course pairing with credit-bearing courses

The Coordinating Board, “in consultation with institutions, would also be required to provide professional development programs, including instruction in differentiated instruction methods designed to address student’s diverse learning needs, for developmental education faculty and staff,” the law states.

Furthermore, the statute will “require institutions to determine when a student is ready to perform freshman-level coursework using learning outcomes” developed by the Coordinating Board.

Governor Vetoes Exemption for Drops

Gov. Rick Perry vetoed a bill that would have partially exempted community colleges from the so-called Six Drop Rule—a statutory limit on the number of courses a student may drop.

School officials have argued that the restriction is unfair to two-year college students, who often have economic and family situations that necessitate more class withdrawals than university students.

In the veto message, the governor stated the bill “would encourage students to waste time and money, along with taxpayer dollars, and would prevent students and community colleges from being held accountable for responsible academic planning and advising.”

The bill was authored by Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-San Antonio) and sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo).

Health and Retirement Benefits: It’s Complicated

The final budget retains two-year college educators as partners in the Group Benefits Program under the Employees Retirement System. This positive development, however, will not preclude more rate increases for individuals, as the agency contends with a lean revenue picture and severe medical inflation.

Moreover, community colleges will have to make up for lost revenue from a drastic reduction in state appropriations for the program. The missing revenue will undoubtedly affect the educational mission of each school.

According to the Legislative Budget Board, the level of funding for group health insurance for 2012-13 is 41.7 percent of cost. For the most recent biennium, the program for community colleges was appropriated at 83.5 percent. The rate has been as high as 97.5 percent in previous funding periods.

More information on the health benefits struggle is found in the article by TCCTA Lobbyist Beaman Floyd, on page one of this issue of the *Messenger*.

The landscape for participants in the Optional Retirement Program and members of the Teacher Retirement System is also fraught with a new difficulty.

To begin, the state’s contribution to both programs was reduced to six percent.

However, the TRS rate rises to 6.4 percent in the second year of the biennium, reflecting the Legislature’s concern to nudge the huge TRS pension fund toward “actuarial soundness,” which is necessary prior to any increases in benefits for current or prospective retirees. Also, local institutions are allowed to supplement their ORP contribution by 2.5 percent, regardless of when employees were hired. Previous statutes created tiers of “grandfathered” allowances by the state.

Most disturbingly, the 82nd Regular Session created a different sort of tier for community colleges, regarding the state’s retirement programs.

For both TRS and ORP, a rider to the appropriations bill places a limit on the total percentage of revenue in the state’s contribution to each school’s “unrestricted General Revenue appropriation.” In other words, the amount is pegged to the state’s overall support for each college. This, as longtime observers of Texas higher education policy will recognize, reflects an approach of “proportionality” in funding retirement benefits for the first time.

Previous debates over proportionality had resided in the domain of health insurance. Now, however, colleges must contend with major reductions in appropriations for retirement programs. Since schools are required to provide these benefits, they must make up the difference elsewhere in their budgets.

TCCTA Opposes Bill on TRS Transformation

On April 26, TCCTA lobbyist Beaman Floyd testified in opposition to HB 2506, a bill sponsored by Rep. Warren Chisum (R-Pampa), which would have transformed TRS from a “defined benefits” program to a “defined contribution” plan for newly hired employees. The latter is similar to so-called 401(k) plans under federal law.

The bill was left pending in the House Committee on Pensions, Investments, and Financial Services. The sponsor stated in testimony that he was mainly interested in starting a discussion.

The missing revenue will undoubtedly affect the educational mission of each school.

Join Us in Frisco!

If you have never been to Frisco, Texas, you are in for a treat!

65th Annual TCCTA Convention March 1-3, 2012

“Don’t get me
started!

The TCCTA

Annual
Convention

provides

the **best**

professional
development,

the **best**

information on

legislative issues,

the **best**

fellowship with

peers, and the

best updates

on the latest

technology and

educational

trends.”

—Annie J.

Benifield

TCCTA President

Convention headquarters is the Embassy Suites Dallas-Frisco Hotel, Convention Center, and Spa.

Just North of Dallas, and convenient to Love Field and DFW airports, the convention site attracts national conferences and is a perfect fit for the TCCTA convention.

Whether you stay there or elsewhere in the area, you will find an abundance of free parking, reasonable prices, and wonderful shopping, dining, and entertainment opportunities.

All TCCTA meetings will be held at the headquarters venue. So never mind uncertain weather: Unless you wish, you’ll never have to go outside!

But if you choose...

Area Restaurants:

Ruth’s Chris Steak House
Texas Land and Cattle
Blue Mesa Grill
Buca di Beppo
Dave and Buster’s
La Hacienda Ranch
Ill Forks
Randy’s Steak House



Shopping and Entertainment Sites Nearby:

Stonebriar Mall
Allen Premium Outlets
The Shops at Willow Bend
Historic Downtown McKinney
Texas Sculpture Garden
Dr. Pepper Ballpark
Dr. Pepper StarCenter
Plantation Golf Club

Visit www.tccta.org/convention for
maps and program updates.

Make Hotel Reservations Now!

TCCTA members planning to attend the 2012 annual convention are encouraged to reserve hotel accommodations early. A block of rooms has been reserved, but it is likely that members who wait to make reservations will be disappointed. With the exception of a few special functions, all convention activities will be held at the headquarters hotel.

In addition to secure online reservations on the TCCTA Web site, accommodations may be reserved by completing the form below and mailing it to the hotel, by fax, at 1-972-712-7221, or by phone, at 1-972-712-7200. Reservations will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations must be received by February 7 to insure group rates.

Forms and inquiries regarding reservations should not be directed to the TCCTA state office, as all housing arrangements are under the control of the Embassy Suites Hotel.

Tentative Convention Schedule Released

(Program details will be posted as they become available under at www.tccta.org/convention.)

THURSDAY—MARCH 1

7:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Special Meetings (to be announced)
 12:00 Noon–6:30 p.m. Convention Registration
 1:30– 3:30 p.m. Committee Meetings, as called by Chairs
 4:00– 5:00 p.m. Meeting of Executive Committee and Chairs
 6:30 p.m. Banquet
 7:15 p.m. General Session

8:00– 9:15 a.m.

9:30– 11:00 a.m.
 11:15–12:45 p.m.
 1:00– 2:15 p.m.

2:30– 5:15 p.m.
 5:30 p.m.

Great Ideas For Teaching Students (GIFTS)
 Section Meetings
 Section Meetings
 Professional Development Seminar
 Technology Seminars
 Refreshments, Entertainment, and Raffle

SATURDAY—MARCH 3

FRIDAY—MARCH 2

8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Convention Registration
 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. Exhibits Open
 8:00– 9:15 p.m. Financial Planning Seminar
 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Election of Officers
 8:00– 9:15 a.m. “Lightning Talks” Session

8:00–11:30 a.m.

8:00–11:30 a.m.

8:00–9:00

9:00–10:15 a.m.

10:30–11:45 a.m.

11:45 a.m.

12:00 Noon–3:00 p.m.

Convention Registration
 Exhibits Open
 Financial Planning Seminar
 Section Meetings
 Section Meetings
 Adjournment
 Special Meetings (to be announced)

Use the form below or make secure hotel reservations online.
www.tccta.org/convention.

TEXAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

65th Annual Convention

The Embassy Suites Dallas-Frisco — Frisco, Texas — March 1-3, 2012

MAIL TO: The Embassy Suites Dallas-Frisco

7600 John Q. Hammons Drive—Frisco, Texas 75034

OR PHONE: 1-972-712-7200 OR FAX: 1-972-712-7221

RESERVATION CUT-OFF DATE: February 7, 2012

Please reserve _____ room(s) of the type(s) checked below:

Check accommodations desired:	Rate
___ Single Room (One person)	\$129
___ Double Room (Two persons)	\$129
___ Triple Room (Three persons)	\$129
___ Quad Room (Four persons)	\$129

Arrival Date: March ____, 2012

Departure Date: March ____, 2012

(Hotel check-in time is 3:00 p.m.; check-out time is 12:00 Noon.)

Reservations must be guaranteed by approved credit card or advance payment of one day's lodging. Guaranteed reservations not cancelled by 3:00 p.m. on the day prior to arrival will be subject to deposit forfeiture or first night's charge to credit card.

Hold room on a guaranteed basis with the following credit card:

Credit Card _____ Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: The Embassy Suites Hotel is unable to grant individuals direct billing for room or incidental accounts. The hotel accepts all major credit cards. In the absence of an approved credit card, the hotel requests payment by cash, money order, cashier's, institutional, or traveler's checks. All checks should be made out to The Embassy Suites Hotel. Credit information will be required at time of check-in.

Confirm reservations to: Name _____ Phone A/C _____ – _____

School or Company _____ E-Mail _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

ROOM(S) WILL BE OCCUPIED BY:

Name (please print)

Address

City/State/ZIP Code



TCCTA

TEXAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

5113 Southwest Parkway, Suite 185
Austin, Texas 78735

PERIODICAL



A Special Invitation

Please send in the completed form below, or give to your Campus Representative.
You may also join online securely at www.tccta.org.

TEXAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION Membership Enrollment Form

Dr.
 Mr.
 Mrs.
 Miss
 Ms.

First Name Middle Name or Initial Last Name

College _____
(If more than one campus, indicate your campus.)

Preferred Mailing Address: _____

Street Address or Post Office Box

City State ZIP Code

Instructional
 (Subject taught: _____)

Administrative/Library/Media
 (Position: _____)

Classified/Retired/Adjunct
 (Specify: _____)

Unaffiliated/Student
 (Specify: _____)

E-MAIL (IMPORTANT!): _____

CHECK HERE TO PURCHASE THE OPTIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE PROGRAM, AND ADD \$50 TO THE AMOUNT OF YOUR PAYMENT. MEMBERS MUST PURCHASE INSURANCE TO RECEIVE TCCTA LEGAL ASSISTANCE. Insurance rate: \$26. State surplus lines tax @ 4.85%: \$1.26; State stamping fee @0.06%: \$0.02; Association administrative fee: \$22.72.

CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FOUR CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP:

- PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP (Full-time educator at a Texas community or technical college)—Dues \$45
- ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP (Classified employee, retired, or adjunct (part-time) educator at a Texas community or technical college)—Dues \$35 (Retiree may join as Professional or Associate Member.)
- STUDENT MEMBERSHIP (Graduate student in community college education)—Dues \$30
- UNAFFILIATED MEMBERSHIP (Friend of the Association not eligible for one of the foregoing types of membership)—Dues \$35
- CHECK HERE** to receive the TCCTA *Messenger* and subscribe to the TCCTA Blog at **no additional charge.**

Membership Period: September 1, 2011–August 31, 2012.

If you wish to make a tax-deductible contribution to TCCTA's foundation, please send separate check, payable to the Foundation for Professional Excellence in the Community College.

ENROLL ONLINE SECURELY at www.tccta.org.

IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD USING THIS FORM: Visa MasterCard

Name on Credit Card _____

Billing Address _____

Account Number _____

Expires ____ / ____ CVV (3 digit code) _____ Amount \$ _____

IF PAYING BY CHECK: Give enrollment form and check (payable to TCCTA) to your campus representative or mail to: TCCTA, 5113 Southwest Parkway, Suite 185, Austin, Texas 78735.