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Texas Speech Communication Association

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing this letter to express my intention to run for the position of Vice President-Elect of the Texas Speech Communication Association. It is with great enthusiasm that I submit my candidacy for this esteemed position, and I look forward to the opportunity to serve TSCA and its members.

My journey in the field of communication and speech education started very early in life. From wandering the halls of Texas State University's Communication Studies Department as a child to sitting in my mother's Intro to Speech Comm courses on my days off from school, I have been surrounded my entire life by amazing educators, coaches, and professionals. My mother's love for this profession was where my journey started, but my appreciation has only grown over the years.

In high school, I competed in forensics for Charlotte Brown at Gregory-Portland High School--- having the opportunity to compete for state and national titles. I continued competitive forensics in college, working closely with Wayne Kraemer and learning what college forensics was like. I graduated with my Bachelor's in Communication Studies in 2010 from Texas State University and then my Master's in 2012. Immediately after, I moved into full-time teaching and coaching at Tarrant County College for three years, before finally accepting a position at San Antonio College in 2015, where I continue to teach today. In my time as an instructor, I've served on many campus-wide and district-wide committees such as Learning and Assessment Validation Committee and our Academic Assessment Committees.

As a Director of Forensics, I've had the privilege of coaching multiple national finalists over the years— always with the hope of making sure they successfully transfer to 4-year institutions to complete their degrees in higher ed. I've also served as the VP and Director of Tournaments for the Texas Intercollegiate Forensics Association from 2016-2021 (and President 2022-Present). And since 2016, I have been a member of TSCA, presenting on multiple panels and serving on several committees each year. I have served as the TSCA Chair of the Instructional Development, College & University Interest Group, and as of this year I am chairing the Colleges and Universities Committee as well as serving as District 20's chair. In 2019, I was named TSCA's Educator of the Year for Colleges and Universities, and in 2021 was named TIFA Educator of the Year. It is my hope that my experience across high school and college speech education will give me insight into how to best support our amazing community.

If elected as Vice President-Elect, I am committed to:

1. **Promoting Excellence:** I will work tirelessly to uphold and enhance the standards of excellence within our association, fostering an environment where members can continuously learn, grow, and thrive.

2. **Enhancing Collaboration:** I will encourage collaboration among TSCA members, educational institutions, and industry partners to create meaningful opportunities for networking, sharing ideas, and promoting the importance of speech communication.
3. **Advocating for Education:** I will advocate for the importance of speech communication education in schools and colleges across Texas, emphasizing its crucial role in personal and professional development.
4. **Inclusivity and Diversity:** I will champion inclusivity and diversity within our association, ensuring that all voices are heard and valued.
5. **Innovation:** I will actively seek out and support innovative approaches and technologies that can benefit our members and the broader field of speech communication.

I am committed to the values and goals of the Texas Speech Communication Association and believe that my experience, dedication, and vision align with the needs of our dynamic and ever-evolving community. If elected, I will work diligently to support the TSCA's mission and serve as a dedicated advocate for its members.

Thank you for considering my candidacy. I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to TSCA's continued success and growth. I look forward to the chance to connect with our members, listen to their needs, and work collaboratively to shape the future of speech communication in Texas.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact me at [jblacklock@alamo.edu](mailto:jblacklock@alamo.edu). I eagerly await the opportunity to discuss my candidacy and vision for TSCA with you and other members of the association.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Justin Blacklock*



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