

NICOLE CORNISH

Education/Certification

Ed.D—Educational Leadership, Baylor University, Waco, TX, *in progress*

M.Ed.—Education Leadership, Lamar University, Beaumont, TX, 2013

BA—Political Science and Philosophy, Baylor University, Waco, TX, 2010

Superintendent Certificate – Texas

Principal Certificate—Texas

Teacher Certificate—8-12 Speech and Social Studies: Texas

Leadership Experience

Owner/Director of Texas Speech and Debate Camp, 2011-Present

- Grew the camp attendance from 32 campers to 240+
- Oversee and organize a week-long, overnight camp of 240+ students and 35 staff.

Assistant Principal, Quitman High School – 2025-present

District UIL Academic Coordinator, Quitman Independent School District – 2025-present

Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Athens Independent School District – 2024-2025

Director of Secondary Curriculum, Athens Independent School District – 2023-2024

Principal, Athens High School – 2020-2023

Dean of the PINNACLE Early College High School – Athens High School, Athens, TX, 2017-2020

Dean of Accountability and Instruction – Athens High School, Athens, TX, 2016-2017

UIL Academic Coordinator, Athens High School, Athens, TX, 2011-2014, 2015-2023

- Direct all UIL academic activities of a 4A high school.
- Established requirements for sponsors to receive stipends in an effort to increase accountability.
- Supervise multiple overnight trips with over 20 students and 10 adults.
- Represent the school at district planning meetings regarding UIL academic activities.

District UIL Academic Coordinator, Athens ISD, Athens TX, 2018-2026

- Direct all UIL academic activities in the district, grade levels 2-12
- Represent the district at planning meetings regarding UIL academic activities

National Federation of High Schools Wording Committee Member, 2019-2022

National Speech and Debate Association District Committee Member, UIL NSDA District, 2011-present

- Coordinate the efforts of over 30 coaches from area high schools to support NFL member students.
- Assist in hosting and coordinating a debate tournament consisting of over 300 students.
- Ensuring that all requirements are met for participation in the NFL National Tournament.

Texas Forensic Association, Executive Council Member, 2020-present

NTDA Webmaster, North East Texas Debate Association, 2011-2014

- Responsible for creating and maintaining the NTDA website
- Assisted in developing a new Constitution and Tournament Manual
- Assist in running the NTDA Championship Tournament

UIL Regional Advisory Committee, University Interscholastic League, 2011-2012, 2017-present

- Assisted in organizing the UIL Regional Academic Tournament.
- Served as a liaison between coaches and tournament directors by mediating coach complaints and concerns with tournament interests.

Teaching Experience

High School Speech Teacher – Athens High School, Athens, TX, 2014-2016

High School Speech Teacher—Prosper High School, Prosper, TX, 2013-2014

- Created a curriculum for Professional Communication
- Began a new debate program

High School AP Social Studies Teacher—Athens High School, Athens, TX, 2010-2014

- Integrated high rigor instruction in a Title I school.
- Achieved AP test scores that met the national average.
- Instituted diverse teaching strategies to reach a diverse student body

Coaching Experience

Assistant CX Debate Coach—Salado High School, Salado, TX, 2009-2010

- Qualified one alternate team to state
- Placed second in district competition and qualified to the UIL state meet

Head Speech and Debate Coach—Athens High School, Athens, TX, 2010-2013, 2014-2023

- UIL CX Debate Champions for 4 consecutive years
- UIL CX Debate silver and bronze medals
- Qualified 12 CX teams to the state meet
- Qualified 4 LD teams to the state meet
- Qualified 4 Extemporaneous Speakers to the state meet
- Two state champions in poetry interpretation
- One state champion in extemporaneous speaking
- One state champion in congressional debate
- Qualified students to the NSDA national tournament 9 times
- State Champion Runner-up Speech Team

Additional Training/Professional Development

Ratliff Academy for School Executives, Mt Pleasant, TX, 2015

Schlecty Conference, Schlecty Institute, Dallas, TX, 2011

AP Summer Institute, College Board, Dallas, TX, 2010

Professional Achievements

Author of 2018-2019 national policy debate topic

One diamond coach with the NSDA

National Federation of High Schools Outstanding Educator Award

Presentations

- Cornish, N. (2025, October). *Charting the Course: How Forensics Shapes Campus Culture and Success*. Presentation at Texas Speech Communicators Association Convention, Allen, TX
- Cornish, N. (2024, October). *Empowering Success: Leveraging Your Speech Classroom for Career, College, and Military Readiness Standards*. Presentation at Texas Speech Communicators Association Convention, Amarillo, TX
- Cornish, N. (2021, October). *Leading When Others Are Lost*. Presentation at Texas Speech Communicators Association Convention, San Antonio, TX
- Cornish, N. (2021, October). *Topic Writing – How to GET INVOLVED*. Presentation at Texas Speech Communicators Association Convention, San Antonio, TX
- Cornish, N. (2020, October). *Differentiation: Meeting the Needs and Instilling Kindness in Our Special Populations Students in the Speech and Debate Classroom*. Presentation at Texas Speech Communicators Association Convention, virtual
- Cornish, N. (2020, October). *Setting Strong Student Learning Objectives*. Presentation at Texas Speech Communicators Association Convention, virtual
- Cornish, N. (2019, November). *Using Data to Monitor Outcomes Based Measures*. Presentation at Educate Texas CCRSM Regional Convening, Tyler TX
- Cornish, N. (2019, October). *Running Your Own Tournament on Joy of Tournaments and Tabroom*. Presentation at Texas Speech Communicators Association Convention, Lubbock, TX
- Cornish, N. (2019, October). *Instructional Strategies for Students with Differing Socioeconomic Backgrounds*. Presentation at Texas Speech Communicators Association Convention, Lubbock, TX
- Cornish, N. (2019, September) *Policy Debate Topic Lecture*. Presentation at the UIL Super Conference, Tyler, TX.
- Cornish, N. (2019, July). *Introduction to CCRSM*. Presentation at the College Career Readiness School Models New Leader Forum, Dallas, TX
- Cornish, N. (2018, September) *Policy Debate Topic Lecture*. Presentation at the UIL Super Conference, Arlington, TX.

Cornish, N. (2017, September) *Policy Debate Basics*. Presentation at the UIL Super Conference, Tyler, TX.

Cornish, N. (2015, October) *How our Speech/Debate Classes Function under the New HB5 and Advocating for Your Program*. Presentation at Texas Speech Communicators Association Convention, Dallas, TX

Cornish, N. (2015, October). *Great Ideas for Teaching Speech – G.I.F.T.S.* Presentation at Texas Speech Communicators Association Convention, Dallas, TX

Cornish, N. (2015, October). *Teaching Interview Skills in the Professional Communication Classroom*. Presentation at Texas Speech Communicators Association Convention, Dallas, TX

Cornish, N. (2014, October) *UIL Prose Category B*. Presentation at Texas Speech Communicators Association Convention, Lubbock, TX

Yeakley, N. (2013, October) *Ethics in Interp.* Presentation at Texas Speech Communicators Association Convention, Corpus Christi, TX

Yeakley, N. (2012, July) *Hosting a UIL Tournament*. Presentation at the UIL Capitol Conference, Austin, TX

Yeakley, N. (2012, October) *Paperless Debate and Extemp, AP Classes and Debate*. Presentation at the Texas Speech Communicators Association Convention, San Antonio, TX

Professional Affiliations

National Speech and Debate Association, 2010-present

- National PFD tab room, 2018-2021

Texas Forensic Association, 2010-present

- State tournament tab room, 2016-present
- Executive Committee Member – 2020-present

Trinity Valley Community College Education Foundation Board of Directors, 2023-2025

Northeast Texas Debate Association, 2010-2014 (Webmaster)

Association of Texas Professional Educators, 2010-present

Texas Speech Communicators Association

- Region 7 Chairperson, 2010-2013
- Speech and Theatre in Public Schools Chair, 2010-2015
- Governmental Affairs Committee, 2011-2013, 2016-2017, 2024-present
- Instructional Development High School Interest Group Chair, 2015
- Instructional Development High School Interest Group Vice-Chair, 2019
- Curriculum Committee member, 2015-2016
- Nominating Committee, 2018
- UIL Advisory Committee, 2019-2021