

Acceptance of Nomination for Vice President of the Texas Speech Communication Association

Dear Members of the Texas Speech Communication Association,

It is with great appreciation and excitement that I accept the nomination for Vice President of the Texas Speech Communication Association. Speech and debate has been an important part of my life for many years, first as a student and now as a coach. Having experienced this activity from both sides of the classroom and competition space has given me an even greater appreciation for the impact that communication education can have on students.

One of the most rewarding parts of being a speech and debate coach is watching students discover their voices. I have had the privilege of watching students who may initially be hesitant to speak in front of others develop the confidence to stand before an audience and share something about which they are passionate. Whether they are advocating for an idea, telling a story, researching an issue, or simply learning to express themselves with greater confidence, those moments remind me why this activity matters. We are not simply preparing students for competition; we are helping prepare them to participate meaningfully in their communities, their careers, and our democracy.

My years coaching in Princeton ISD have also given me a unique perspective on the challenges facing speech and debate programs of different sizes. During my time in the district, I have watched our school grow from a small 3A program into a 6A school. That growth has allowed me to experience firsthand how the needs of a speech and debate program can change as a district expands. I understand the challenges that come with building and sustaining a program in a smaller school, as well as the opportunities and complexities that accompany growth into a larger classification. Those experiences have reinforced for me the importance of an organization that can represent and support programs across the full spectrum of Texas schools.

I am particularly excited about the work of the Texas Speech Communication Association to strengthen communication education throughout our state. The Association's efforts to support educators, grow strong communicators, and advocate for our students are vital to the future of our activity. I am especially encouraged by TSCA's close work with Texas legislators to ensure that the value of speech and communication education is understood and represented in the decisions that affect our students and programs. Strong advocacy is essential if we want future generations of students to have access to the opportunities that speech and debate provide.

If given the opportunity to serve as Vice President, I would be honored to contribute my experience, perspective, and passion to that work. I look forward to listening to coaches and educators from programs of all sizes, learning from the outstanding leaders already serving TSCA, and helping advance an organization that gives students across Texas the opportunity to find their voices and use them well.

Thank you for the confidence represented by this nomination. I am honored to accept and excited about the opportunity to serve the Texas Speech Communication Association and the students and educators who make this activity so meaningful.

Sincerely,

Heather Stringer