

Texas Speech Communication Association Convention 2026

**COMMUNICATING
FOR
COLLABORATION:**

**COLLABORATING
FOR CHANGE**

CHANGE LOADING...



October 8-10, 2026

Hilton Dallas/Rockwall Lakefront

Affiliated organizations meeting in conjunction with TSCA:

Texas Forensic Association

Texas Community College Forensics Association

Texas Intercollegiate Forensic Association



Communicating for Collaboration: Collaborating for Change

**Texas Speech Communication Association
Convention 2026**

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www.etsca.com

Hilton Dallas/Rockwall Lakefront

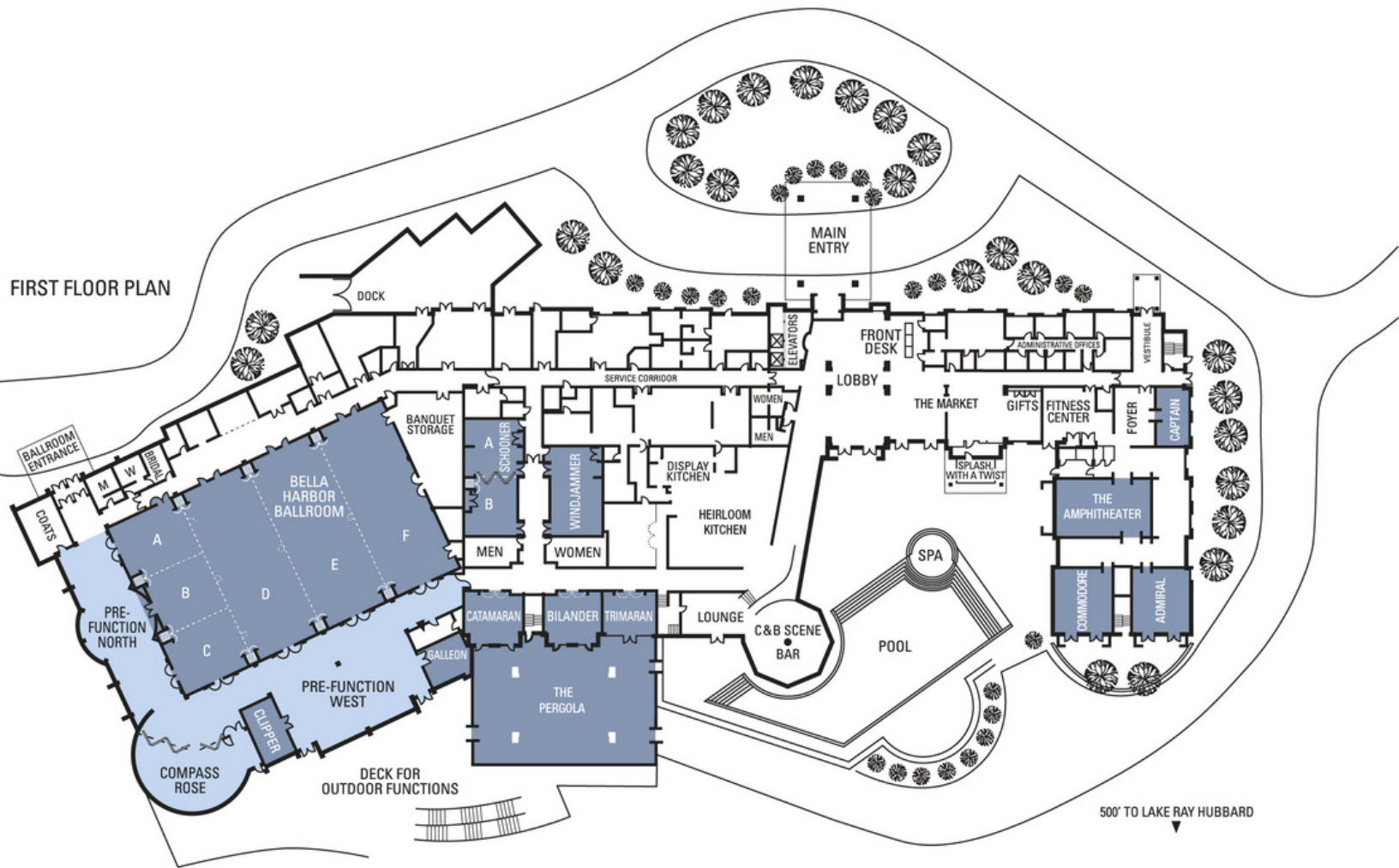
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Texas Community College Forensics Association

Texas Intercollegiate Forensic Association

HOTEL MAP



Hello! And welcome to Rockwall!

I am excited to meet with you again and participate in what are sure to be robust and rewarding conversations. I am especially interested in hearing your insights on how we can use communication to facilitate collaboration and change. This year's convention theme was intended as a salutary response to what I perceive to be a uniquely polarized and contentious public sphere. Your presentations and panels will remind us of the power of effective communication to negotiate shared meanings, build and sustain coalitions, and solve seemingly intractable problems. Not long ago, it occurred to me that the call for this year's convention mostly emphasized consideration of communication and collaboration in external contexts. When I wrote that call, I was interested in understanding how developing relationships across disciplines and with other organizations might help us all better navigate social and political happenings that continue to impact our personal and professional lives. With another year of hindsight and experience, I'm convinced I should have encouraged more reflection about how more effective communication and collaboration within our organization is critical to our sustained success. We are an association, after all, and despite our geographic differences, our varied interests and subdisciplines, and our unique organizational structure, we are united by TSCA's fundamental mission. We "envision a better world enhanced by effective communicators." This is what I'll be thinking about when I'm in your audience. I'll be listening for ways I can support our common interests, build stronger relationships, and strengthen intradisciplinary cooperation. I know you have much to teach, and I certainly have a lot left to learn.

I am so grateful to everyone who has contributed to this year's convention. Whether you are a district chair or committee member or interest group participant, your efforts are indispensable to the organization. Special thanks go out to Vice President Heather Soltero who has worked diligently to bring you an enriching program of events and to M'Liss Hindman, Convention Coordinator, and the other members of District 7 who served as the Local Arrangements committee. I also want to thank the TSCA leadership team for helping me through the last three years. Any successes are theirs. The mistakes belong to me. TSCA is lucky to have such amazing members. Your expertise, character, and commitment bode well for the future of our organization. I look forward to seeing you, and I hope your convention is full of communication that facilitates collaboration!

With sincere appreciation,
Jeremy Hutchins
TSCA President



FROM THE PRESIDENT

FROM THE HOSTS

Welcome (back!) to Rockwall!

When we stayed here in 2022, it seemed like a perfect place to come back to and District 7 is pleased to host you for the 2026 convention. Although Rockwall is a little bit out of our district geographically, we are so proud to have the opportunity to serve the organization in this way. Rockwall is a great town, conveniently located right off I-30 northeast of Dallas.

The immediate Rockwall area offers several enticing amenities for our attendees, including easy access to dining and shopping options. Some of our favorite local spots include Rodeo Goat, Gloria's, Deviled Egg Co, Dodie's, Huckabee's Coffee, Tiff's Treats, and more. There's even a movie theater nearby. For those wanting to venture out into Rockwall, the downtown area has some really cute restaurants and shops, perfect for a quick getaway from the conference or as a pit stop on your way out.

This year's convention theme, "Communicating for Collaboration: Collaborating for Change", truly exemplifies our local arrangements committee's approach this year. District 7 collaborated to provide as many details as we could. I certainly appreciate the work of my local arrangements committee, who, despite not living near Rockwall, collaborated to put together an outstanding convention.

Thank you for making the journey to Rockwall to advance speech communication education. This is going to be an awesome convention. Enjoy the gorgeous lake views and relax! ***Let's just pray for no fire alarms this time.***

M'Liss Hindman
Local Arrangements Chair



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In Loving Memory of

Jana Riggins

Jana Riggins led the Texas Speech Communication Association as President in 1998, and she was our beloved Archivist from 2005 to 2026. Jana was a champion for speech and debate education, a friend to many, a role model to students and educators past and present, and a LEGEND to all.



Jana Riggins

July 15, 1955 - August 25, 2026

Sic 'em, Bears!



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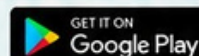
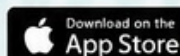
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SCAN TO GET STARTED!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2026

9:00 - 10:30	TSCA Executive Officers Meeting	<i>Bilander</i>
10:30 - 11:30	TFA Executive Council Meeting	<i>Clipper</i>
11:00 - 3:00	Convention Registration	<i>Compass Rose</i>
12:30 - 1:20	TFA Committee Meetings	
Congressional Debate		<i>Schooner A</i>
Constitution		<i>Schooner B</i>
Accessibility and Engagement		<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom A</i>
Finance		<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom A</i>
Hall of Fame Membership		<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom B</i>
Impeachment		<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom B</i>
Professional Relations		<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom C</i>
Public Relations		<i>Catamaran</i>
Scholarship		<i>Schooner B</i>
Coach Retention		<i>Windjammer</i>
TSCA Panel		<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom C</i>
Social		<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom F</i>
Reimagining TFA State		<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom F</i>
World Schools		<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom F</i>
1:30 - 2:00	TFA EC & Amendment Discussion	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom F</i>
2:15 - 3:00	TFA Regional Meetings	
Region 1	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom A</i>	
Region 2	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom F</i>	
Region 3	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom B</i>	
Region 4	<i>Windjammer</i>	
Region 5	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom C</i>	

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2026

3:15 - 4:00 New Member Orientation *Bella Harbor Ballroom F*

3:15 - 4:00 TSCA Standing Committees

Bylaws	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom A</i>
College & University	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom D&E</i>
Comm. to Nom. the Nominating Comm.	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom C</i>
Educator of the Year	<i>Clipper</i>
Educator Training	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom B</i>
Fiscal Review	<i>Catamaran</i>
Government Affairs	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom D&E</i>
Local Arrangements	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom D&E</i>
Nominating	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom D&E</i>
Public Relations	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom D&E</i>
Resolutions	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom D&E</i>
Special Awards	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom D&E</i>
Speech & Theatre in Public Schools	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom D&E</i>
UIL Advisory	<i>Windjammer</i>

4:15 - 5:10 Panel A Programs

5:00 - 6:00 TSCA District Meetings

<i>District 1 Ballroom F</i>	<i>District 11 Ballroom B</i>
<i>District 2 Ballroom F</i>	<i>District 12 Schooner B</i>
<i>District 3 Ballroom F</i>	<i>District 13 Schooner A</i>
<i>District 4 Windjammer</i>	<i>District 14 Ballroom C</i>
<i>District 5 Ballroom F</i>	<i>District 15 Ballroom C</i>
<i>District 6 Ballroom F</i>	<i>District 16 Ballroom C</i>
<i>District 7 Trimaran</i>	<i>District 17 Ballroom C</i>
<i>District 8 Trimaran</i>	<i>District 18 Ballroom C</i>
<i>District 9 Ballroom F</i>	<i>District 19 Catamaran</i>
<i>District 10 Ballroom A</i>	<i>District 20 Schooner A</i>

6:00 - 10:00 TFA Business Meeting #1

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2026

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

8:00 - 9:00	TSCA Executive Council Meeting	<i>Bilander</i>
8:30 - 9:00	Late Registration	<i>Compass Rose</i>
9:00 - 9:50	TSCA General Session	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom D&E</i>
10:00 - 10:50	Panel B Programs	
11:00 - 11:50	Panel C Programs	
12:00 - 1:00	Convention Luncheon	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom D&E</i> (Tickets available at registration)
1:00 - 1:50	Panel D Programs	
2:00 - 3:20	Interest Group Session 1	
	Instructional Development Middle School	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom A</i>
	Instructional Development in High School	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom F</i>
	Instructional Development in Colleges & Univ.	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom C</i>
3:30 - 4:40	Interest Group Session 2	
	Argumentation & Debate	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom F</i>
	Oral Interp. & Performance Studies	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom B</i>
	Rhetoric & Communication Theory	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom C</i>
6:00 - 7:00	President's Reception	<i>The Pergola</i>
7:30 - 10:00	Don Streeter Past Presidents Dinner	<i>Clipper</i>
7:30	TFA Business Meeting #2	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom D&E</i>

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2026

7:30 - 8:00	Late Registration (Last Chance)	<i>Compass Rose</i>
8:00 - 8:50	TSCA New Executive Council Meeting	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom D&E</i>
9:00 - 9:50	Panel E Programs	
10:00 - 10:50	Panel F Programs	
11:00 - 12:00	Interest Group Session 3	
	Interpersonal & Organizational Comm	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom A</i>
	TIFA/TCCFA	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom C</i>
	Diversity & Inclusion	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom B</i>
	UIL	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom D</i>
12:00 - 1:00	TSCA 2nd General Session	<i>Bella Harbor Ballroom D&E</i>
1:00 - 2:30	TSCA Officer Planning Meeting	<i>Bilander</i>

New Member Meeting

We invite all first-time TSCA members to POP in for popcorn and information on Thursday at 4:00 in *Bella Harbor Ballroom F*. Meet the TSCA Officers, learn more about the convention, and ask any questions that you might have!

General Session - 9:00 am Friday, October 9

Join us as we hear from 2026 Communicator of the Year, G. David Smith. We will also discuss any proposed changes over the year.

Convention Luncheon

Join the body for lunch while we hear from President Jeremy Hutchins. Purchase tickets at Registration in the Compass Rose.

Don Streeter Past Presidents Dinner

A dinner hosted on Friday at 7:30 specifically for TSCA Past Presidents to honor their service and dedication to our organization.

The Publishing Playbook

Join us as we welcome four TSCA Members who have published a book. Learn how to help your students do the same thing! Featured Friday!

TFA & TSCA Collaboration

Learn from Jenn Baese from Lakeville North High School in Minnesota as she dives deep into Informative Speaking.

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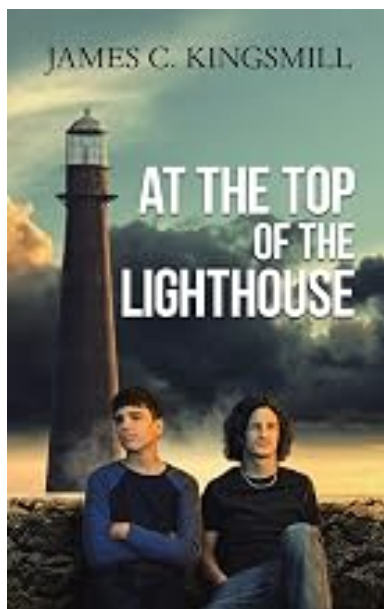
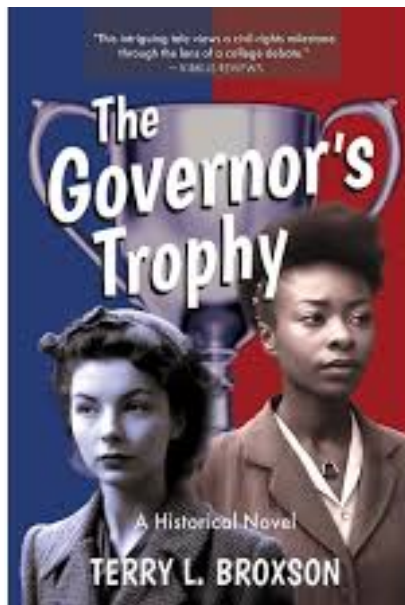
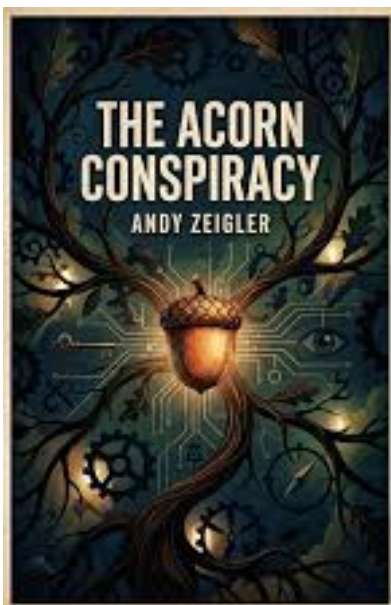
Contact Us
806.651.2800
communication@wtamu.edu
wtamu.edu/communication



The Publishing Playbook

Friday, October 9, 2026

11:00 - 11:50 am in “Catalyst”



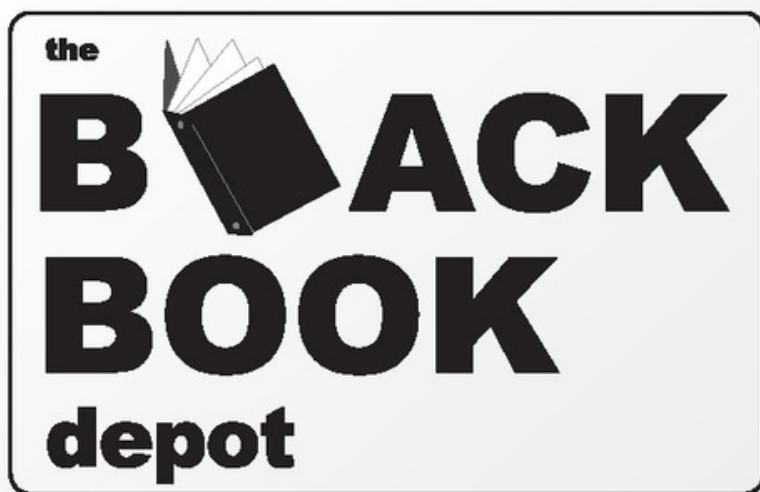
Join an engaging panel of TSCA member-authors as they share the real world strategies behind writing and publishing their own books. Discover practical insights, hidden shortcuts, and creative exercises designed to guide you in helping your own students become published authors.

Texas Forensic Association & Texas Speech Communication Association Presents:

Jenn Baese



Jenn Baese has been an English teacher and speech coach at Lakeville North High School in Minnesota for 30 years, and has been the Head Coach for the past 20. She fell in love with Informative in the mid 2000s and it has been her favorite category ever since. She has had 5 state champions in Informative in Minnesota, multiple state finalists, and multiple finalists in Informative and Expository at NIETOC and NSDA nationals, including one national Expos champion. While Informative can take an inordinate amount of time to do well, she is a passionate believer that it can also be one of the most fascinating categories out there and that the work can be half the fun!



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2026 TSCA OFFICERS

President	Jeremy Hutchins, Texas State University
Vice President	Heather Soltero, Tascosa High School
Vice President-Elect	Justin Blacklock, San Antonio College
Executive Secretary	Mellessa Denny, Amarillo High School
Comptroller	Wade Hescht, Lone Star College North Harris
Communications Director	Stef Cambra, Drury University Andrew Gibson, Woodlands College Park
Journal Editor	Amanda Jo Ratcliff, Tyler Junior College Randall Fowler, Abilene Christian University
Archivist	Jana Riggins, Retired
Immediate Past President	Rory McKenzie, Lindale High School
Webmaster	Cody Morris & Brent Hinkle
Convention Coordinator	M'Liss Hindman, Tyler Junior College
Parliamentarian	Lou Ann Seabourn, Retired
TFA Representative	Jenn Melin, Team Texas

2026 DISTRICT CHAIRS

District 1	Chris Esparza	christopher.esparza@hcsisd.org
District 2	Salena Pereida	spereida@g-pisd.org
District 3	Mark Ruiz	Mruiz@ednaisd.org
District 4	Eric Porter	eric.porter@thevillageschool.com
District 5	<i>Vacant</i>	
District 6	Heather Strawn	hstrawn@csisd.org
District 7	Kari McKenzie	mckenziekd@lisdeagles.net
District 8	Cody Morris	cmorns@chisddevils.com
District 9	<i>Vacant</i>	
District 10	Hunter Parrish	hwparrish@prosper-isd.net
District 11	Haley Harp	hayley.harp@argyleisd.com
District 12	Keylynn Boyce	boycek@ccisd.com
District 13	Hanna Collazo	hc1141@txstate.edu
District 14	Mary Anna Kidd	kidd.mary@mcm.edu
District 15	<i>Vacant</i>	
District 16	Brett Howard	brett.howard@canyonisd.net
District 17	Heather Byars	hbyars@frenship.us
District 18	Joshua Wimberly	jwimberley@livingstonISD.com
District 19	Brandon Cohn	Bcohn@episid.org
District 20	Daniel Moore	daxx.moore@gmail.com

2026 INTEREST GROUP CHAIRS

INTEREST GROUP CHAIRS

Argumentation & Debate	Eli Cook emmaccook@katyisd.org
Outreach and Engagement	Hunter Parrish hwparrish@prosper-isd.net
Instructional Development College & University	Randall Fowler rpf23a@acu.edu
Instructional Development High School	Andy Zeiglar andy.zeigler@amaisd.org
Instructional Development Middle School	Franz Hill FHill1@houstonisd.org
Interpersonal/Organizational Communication	Lacy Cannon lcannon@wtamu.edu
Oral Interp & Performance Studies	Sami Womack sami.womack@pspcisd.net
Rhetoric & Communication Theory	Mary Anna Kidd kidd.mary@mcm.edu
TFA	Ryan Lovell Ryan.Lovell@amaisd.org
TIFA/TCCFA	Wade Hescht wade.hescht@lonestar.edu
UIL	Kyla Brookshier-DeLeon kyla.Brookshier@wimberleyisd.net

Call for Manuscripts

The Texas Speech Communication Journal (TSCJ) issues a call for papers that focus on research in human communication. Contributors may approach topics from multiple perspectives, contexts, and methodologies supported within the discipline. Manuscripts that emphasize discovery, legibility, comity, or topics of special relevance to Texas are encouraged. Submissions should be received no later than December 20, 2026. TSCJ follows a policy of blind review so no author identification should appear in the abstract and body of the manuscript. For volume 51, TSCJ welcomes three types of submissions for consideration:

1. Original Scholarship
2. Book Reviews
3. Forum: Lone Star Elections 2026

Original Scholarship

Manuscripts should not exceed 9,000 words, including references and figures, and should be written according to the most recent edition of either the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association or Chicago Manual of Style. All submissions should be divided into the following two (Microsoft Word) documents:

1. Title Page should include: author name(s), academic position(s), institutional affiliation(s), mailing address(es), email(s), author bio(s) - under 50 words each, method/approach (e.g. rhetorical criticism/theory, qualitative/quantitative methods, content/multimodal analysis, ethnography or field methods, etc.), 2-5 keywords, and brief history of the manuscript (any conferences, campus, or other presentations, etc.).
2. Anonymized Abstract and Manuscript - An abstract of no more than 150 words and 2-5 keywords should accompany the manuscript. No author identification should appear in this file. Incomplete manuscripts will be desk rejected. Include all tables, graphs, and appendices.

Book Reviews

Texas Speech Communication Journal invites book reviews of academic monographs and edited volumes in the field of Communication Studies. Quality reviews should do the following:

- Quickly and creatively convey the content, claims, and significance of the book.
- Mention the author(s) and how the book fits into their larger body of work.
- Provide a summary of the book structure and organization.
- Highlight the book's major themes and scholarly interventions.
- Include careful criticism of ways in which the book might have been stronger in the reviewer assessment.

Book review submissions should be no more than 1,600 words in length and conform to Chicago Style guidelines. The journal is willing to coordinate with prospective reviewers to assist in securing a review copy of the book furnished by the academic publisher. Prospective reviewers are welcome to email the TSCJ editor to pitch potential books to review prior to submission.

Forum: Lone Star Elections 2026

TSCJ requests submissions for a special forum of short entries addressing the communication dimensions of the 2026 midterm elections in Texas. Given the salience of the 2026 midterm election cycle in Texas, including U.S. House redistricting, new candidates and retirements, the party primary defeat of multiple incumbent members of Congress, and numerous marquee races heading into November, a special forum on communication in Lone Star elections is warranted.

Interested contributors should submit a 500-word abstract of their idea via the TSCJ submission portal online and are welcome to direct any inquiries to Dr. Randall Fowler (rpf23a@acu.edu), TSCJ editor, and Dr. Gil Carter (tgcl33@msstate.edu), guest editor for this forum.

The Texas Speech Communication Journal is a state journal published by the Texas Speech Communication Association. TSCJ normally publishes one print issue annually. The journal has a 24% acceptance rate.

All submissions should be via the TSCJ website: <https://www.etsca.com/journal.asp>

Acceptance/Rejection notices: Sent early to mid-April 2026.

Queries should be sent via email to: TSCJ Editor, Dr. Randall Fowler Abilene Christian University
email: tscjeditor@etsca.com or rpf23a@acu.edu

Deadline: December 20, 2026

Bylaws

Ann Shofner '27 (Chair)
Cindi Timmons '26
Brian Alford '27
Kathy Owens '27
Ronnie Massey '28
Heather Huffman '28

College & University

Justin Blacklock '26 (Chair)
Sarah Contreras '26
Casey Garcia '27
Angela Amina-Korang '27
Kate Mead '27
Amanda Jo Ratcliff '29
Mark Paz '28

Educator Training

Haley Harp '27 (Chair)
JP Fugler '26
Greg Arp '26
Vicki Beard '26
Ross DeLeon '26
Barb Ixba '27
Kyle Borne '27
Branson Cobb '27
Cassandra De La Vina '27
Shauna Punch '27
Dillon Rogers '27
Heather Stringer '27
David Serna '27

Committee to Nominate the Nominating Committee

Brian Darby (Chair)
Christine Beard '27
Branson Cobb '28
Joanna Hickey '28
Dillon McCoy '28
Leslie Rodriguez '28

Educator of the Year

Kari McKenzie '27 (Chair)
Brian Eans '26
George Tennison '27
Shannon LaBove '27
Franz Hill '27
Amy Jones '27

Fiscal Review

Brent Hinkle '27
Wayne Kraemer '26
Ryan Tinlin '28

Governmental Affairs

Ryan Lovell '26 (Chair)
Max Vanderheyden '26
Joshua Wimberly '27
Andrew Gibson '27
Nicole Cornish '27
Linda Alderson '27
Monique Wallace '27

Local Arrangements

M'Liss Hindman
Kari McKenzie
Rory McKenzie
JP Fugler
Nicole Cornish
Amanda Jo Ratliff

Nominating

Ryan Lovell (Chair)
Mendy Meurer-Busby
Racy Kane
Casey Garcia
Will Honea
Xochitl Callejo-Estrada

Special Awards

Wade Hescht '27 (Chair)
Ralph Long '27
Connie Mckee '27
M'Liss Hindman '27
Aimee Kasprzyk '27

UIL Advisory

Yolanda Silva '27 (Chair)
Heath Martin '26
Salena Pereida '27
Brian Darby '27
Will Honea '27
Melissa Witt '27
Mark Ruiz '28

Public Relations

Michael Merritte '26 (Chair)
Peter Dubrule '26
Bekka Berryhill '27
Hannah Rodriguez '27
Melonie Menefee '27
Eric Mears '26
Wendy Curran-Meyer '27
Lindsey Petropoulous '27
Gina Lozano '27
Courtney Plotts '26

**If you're interested in being
on a committee after the
convention, please email
Heather Soltero**

TSCA PAST PRESIDENTS

1923	Bernice Duggan	1960	P. Merville Larson	1997	Trudy Hanson
1924	Jeston Dickey	1961	Betty Hughes	1998	Jana Riggins
1925	Olivia Hobgood	1962	Angus Springer	1999	President Not Recognized
1926	Jesse Millsaps	1963	Rex Fleming	2000	R. Scott Allen
1927	Mary E. Latimer	1964	Ted Skinner	2001	June Smith
1928	Gladys de Silva Bate	1965	Mabel Wyatt	2002	Teresa Galiazzo
1929	Marjorie E. Will	1966	R.V. Holland	2003	Russell Lowery-Hart
1930	Unknown	1967	June Prentice	2004	Ann Shofner
1931	Earl C. Bryan	1968	Don Streeter	2005	Natalie Bryant
1932	Alma Copelin	1969	Billie Etheridge	2006	Joe Trevino
1933	Unknown	1970	James Barton	2007	Barbara Mayo
1934	Nena Kate Ramsey	1971	Chloe Armstrong	2008	Lois Davis
1935	Minnie L. Blundell	1972	Noyce Burleson	2009	Ralph Long
1936	Sara Lowery	1973	George Tade	2010	Kandi King
1937	Sara Lowery	1974	Ed Thompson	2011	Connie Mckee
1938	Yetta Mitchell	1975	Ted Colson	2012	Russell Kirkscey
1939	Florence Horton	1976	Virginia Myers	2013	M'Liss S. Hindman
1940	Emory G. Horger	1977	Vernon McGuire	2014	Mellessa Denny
1941	Emory G. Horger	1978	Pat Rogers	2015	Amy Tilton Jones
1942	Thomas A. Rousse	1979	Helen Schafer	2016	Melissa Witt
1943	Thomas A. Rousse	1980	Rita Harlien	2017	Wade Hescht
1944	Thomas A. Rousse	1981	John Wilson	2018	Colin Malinak
1945	Thomas A. Rousse	1982	Maridell Fryar	2019	Mendy Meurer-Busby
1946	Wilhelmina G. Heede	1983	George Grice	2020	Aimee Kasprzyk
1947	Anna Jo Pendleton	1984	L.D. Naegelin	2021	Lacy Cannon
1948	Jesse Ray Holcomb	1985	Rosanna Herndon	2022	Ryan Lovell
1949	Jesse J. Villarreal	1986	Pat Jurek	2023	Randy Cox
1950	Oretha Whitworth	1987	Tyler Tindall	2024	Rory McKenzie
1951	Harold Weiss	1988	Ronald Dodson	2025	Jeremy Hutchins
1952	Fred. J. Barton	1989	John Gossett		
1953	Jeanne Lennard	1990	Debra Dehlinger		
1954	Elton Abernathy	1991	Marilyn Swinton		
1955	Verna Harris	1992	Jackie Jarrett		
1956	E.L. Pros	1993	Robert Stewart		
1957	Nan Elkins	1994	Ann Shofner		
1958	Crannell Toliver	1995	R. Neal Rieke		
1959	Jonnie Ross Elzner	1996	Kerry Moore		

TSCA PAST EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES

1935 - 1938	Emory G. Horger	1970 - 1979	Robert Jeffrey
1938 - 1941	J. Clark Weaver	1979 - 1982	William DeMougeot
1941 - 1946	Hugh Seabury	1982 - 1983	Ray Ewing
1946	P. Melville Larson	1983	William DeMougeot
1946 - 1947	F. L. Winship	1983 - 1988	Ann Harrell
1947 - 1949	Bruce Roach	1988 - 1989	Carrol Haggard
1947 - 1952	Crandell Tolliver	1989 - 1991	Tyler Tindall
1952 - 1955	Robert Cape	1991 - 1995	June H. Smith
1955 - 1958	Ted Skinner	1995 - 1998	Ralph Long
1958 - 1961	R. B. Holland	1998 - 2001	Lou Ann Seabourn
1961 - 1964	Don Streeter	2001 - 2007	Randy Cox
1964 - 1967	P. Melville Larson	2007 - 2012	Brent Hinkle
1967 - 1969	Curtis L. Pope	2012 - 2016	Lou Ann Seabourn
1969 - 1970	C. L. Farr	2016 - 2022	Carolyn Baum



We value the dedicated service of our Current Executive Secretary, **Mellessa Denny**, (since 2022) as well as those that have preceded her.

TSCA MEMBER MILESTONES

Twenty-Five Year Honorees

Thirty-Five Year Honorees

Forty Year Honorees

Fifty Year Honorees

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to TSCA!
If you are approaching a benchmark year of membership (25, 40, 50) please
contact (INSERT NAME HERE)

TSCA RISING STAR RECIPIENTS

2023	Kelsey Vincent	Bushland High School
2024	Brett Howard	Canyon High School
2025	Hannah Rodriguez	Prosper High School

TSCA TOP PAPER AWARD STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE

2016	Stephanie Williams	West Texas A&M University
2017	Rachel Riggs	Angelo State University
2018	Amanda Brookhart	West Texas A&M University
2019	Dane Glenn	West Texas A&M University
2020	Cynthia Callahan	West Texas A&M University
2021	Jan Chitsey	Angelo State University
2022	Melissa Haynes	East Texas Baptist University
2023	Sebastian Nichols	East Texas Baptist University
2024	Mary Tinuoye	Texas Tech University
2025	Noah Tew	University of Texas at Tyler

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR RECIPIENTS

1974 Alonez Blackburn, Hawley HS
 1975 Marjorie Best
 1976 Pamela McDaniel, Boswell HS
 1981 Lanny Naegelin, Churchill HS
 1982 Jackie Jarrett, Coronado HS
 1984 Opal Hall, Denton HS
 1985 Jean Clough, Ball HS
 1986 Ron Dodson, Westlake HS
 1987 Kerry Moore, Muleshoe HS
 1988 Ann Shofner, Tascosa HS
 1989 Paula Moeller, Hays HS
 1990 Mildred Peveto, Newman Smith HS
 1991 Charlotte Brown, Gregory-Portland HS
 1992 Kandi King, Clark HS
 1993 Roberta Grenfell, Klein HS
 1994 Sandra Lucas, Skyline HS
 M'Liss S. Hindman, Tyler Junior College
 1995 Lana Hall, Hereford HS
 Linda Long, Northlake College
 1996 Jana Riggins, Kaufman HS
 Leann Ellis, South Plains College
 Virginia Myers, Wayland Baptist Univ.
 1997 Joe D. Trevino, Jr., Bishop HS
 Glynis Holm Strause, Coastal Bend Coll.
 June H. Smith, Angelo State Univ.
 1998 Connie McKee, Amarillo HS
 Ralph Long, Collin County Comm Coll.
 Trudy Hanson, West Texas A&M Univ.
 1999 Mary C. Green, Pasadena HS
 Claude Caffee, Brookhaven College
 Martha J. Haun, University of Houston
 2000 William Schuetz, Gregory-Portland HS
 Natalie Bryant, South Plains College
 Carley Dodd, Abilene Christian University
 2001 Randy Ellis, Spring HS
 Lou Ann Seabourn, Amarillo College
 Terry Thibodeaux, Sam Houston State Univ.
 2002 Teresa Galiazzo, Alief Hastings HS
 Jackie Ganschow, Del Mar College
 2003 R. Scott Allen, Humble ISD
 Janna Holt-Day, South Plains College
 John Gossett, University of North Texas
 2004 Linda Alderson, Bolng HS
 Catherine Gragg, San Jacinto College
 Robin Williamson, University of St. Thomas
 2005 Sammy Green, Spring HS
 Marla Chisholm, Del Mar College
 Mary Trejo, University of Texas, El Paso
 2006 Sara Jane Barno, Hornedo MS
 Barbara McCain, Plano East Senior HS
 Charles Wise, St. Philips College
 Randy Cox, University of Texas, Austin

2007 Mary Jane Grant, Morehead MS
 Myrna Bass, Athens HS
 Sarah Contreras, Del Mar College
 Michael Elkins, Texas A&M Univ. Kingsville
 2008 Sandra Jones, Killough MS
 Barbara Garner, Duncanville HS
 Amy Tilton Jones, Del Mar College
 Shawn Wahl, Texas A&M, Corpus Christi
 2009 Cheryl Miller, Henderson MS
 Robert Shepard, Creekview HS
 Wade Hescht, Lone Star College, North Harris
 Debbie Hatton, Sam Houston State Univ.
 2010 Gilbert Casas, McCollum HS
 Mike Jones, Del Mar College
 2011 George Pacheco, Jr. Angelo State University
 Karen Wilbans, Plano Senior HS
 2012 George Tennison, E. A. Olle MS
 Gay Hollis, James E. Taylor HS
 Jim Towns, Stephen F. Austin University
 2013 Stacy Thomas, The Kincaid School
 Kim Falco, Franklin HS
 Victoria Beard, Spring Woods HS
 2014 Kelly Kimball, Carroll HS
 Danny Moss, North Texas CC
 Wayne Kraemer, Texas State University
 2015 Melissa Witt, Dimmitt HS
 Mendy Meurer, Del Mar College
 Michelle Maresh-Fuehrer, Texas A&M, CC
 2016 Eloise Blair, Lamar Consolidated
 Patrick Ralls, Wharton Junior College
 2017 Aimee Kasprzyk, Blooming Grove HS
 Kathy Owens, Univ of Mary Hardin-Baylor
 Barbara Mayo, Northeast College
 2018 Mellessa Denny, Amarillo High School
 Amy Aldridge Sanford, Texas A&M, CC
 2019 Noah Recker, La Vernia High School
 Justin Blacklock, San Antonio College
 Leslie Rodriguez, Angelo State University
 2020 Lyn Esquivel, Tuloso-Midway MS
 Lindsey Petropoulous, Rice MS
 Michael Merritte, Galveston Ball HS
 2021 Brian Eanes, Ronald Reagan HS
 Amanda Jo Ratcliff, Tyler Junior College
 2022 Ryan Lovell, Tascosa HS
 Carolyn Baum, West Texas A&M Univ.
 2023 JP Fugler, Lindale HS
 Lacy Cannon, West Texas A&M Univ.
 2024 Rory McKenzie Lindale HS
 2025 Brian Alford, Texas A&M Consolidated
 Heather Huffman, The Village School
 Casey Garcia, Lone Star College
 Stef Cambra, Drury University

LIFE MEMBERS

Kelsey Abele
Linda Alderson
Chris Arnold
James Barnes
Andrew Barrett
Carolyn Baum
Darlene Bellinghausen
Kristina Bilban
Justin Blacklock
Jane Boyd
Robert Boyd
George Bradley
Elaine Brink
Joseph Brown
Lacy Cannon
Christina Cardenas
Catherine Carroll
Gilbert Casas
Richard Cheatham
Deanne Christensen
Gene Taylor Clough
Cynthia Cone
Sarah Contreras
Dondi Cooks II
Jason Courville
Nicole Cornish
Martin (Randy) Cox
Jason Crane
Mellessa Denny
Vanessa Dirksmeyer
Christina Dodd
Claire Dodillet
Ashley Donahue
Judy Dorset
Paul Duffy
Tim C. Edgerly
Jennifer Edwards
Millard Eiland
Michael Elkins
Tolline Enger
Keith V. Erickson
Charles L. Etheridge
Ira Evers
Tanya Evers
Randall Fowler
Paige Frost

JP Fugler
Maridell Fryar
Alice Gabbard
Casey Garcia
Marsha Gephart
J.S. (Jack) Gibson
Karen Gossett
Robert Gratz
Lou Greenwood
George L. Grice
Trudy Hanson
Michael Harlan
Carrol Haggard
Ann Harrell
Sandra Hile Hart
Karen Hatley
Martha J. Haun
Wade Hescht
M'Liss S. Hindman
Sonya Hopkins
Dolly Hudgins
Jo Hudson
Jeremy Hutchins
Tim Jackubek
Kathleen Jamieson
Amy Tilton Jones
Lavoy Jones
Mike Jones
Aimee Kasprzyk
Marilyn S. Kelly
Tania Kelley
Genell Kelso
Nanette Kelton
Kandi King
Russell Kirkscey
Elizabeth Kizer
Wayne Kraemer
Shannon LaBove
Brian Lain
Ralph Long
Laverne Loving
Russel Lowery -Hart
Tim Mahoney
Craig Malinsky
Carol Malloy
Bernita Mansfield

Paul May
Barbara J. Mayo
Karin McCallum
Candace McConnell
Floyd McConnell
Martha McDaniel
Connie McKee
Kari McKenzie
Rory McKenzie
Carol Malloy
Michael Merritte
Mendy Meurer -Busby
Nora Moreno
Jarrell Danny Moss
Bonnie Mutschler
Dwight Mutschler
Lacye Odam - Matejowsky
Adesuwa Omoruyi
Melondy Ojeda
Kathy Owens
George Pacheco Jr
Krin Brooks
Perry David Peters
Seth Pietsek
Eric Pinon
Sally Ponzio
Larry Preas
J.B. Prior
Todd Rainey
Clydene Reep
Jana Riggins
La Anna Rodriqs
Edwin Rowley
Robert Salm
Ivan Sandlin
Helen Schafer
William Schatte
Julie Schniers
Cynthia Shade
Ann Shofner
Ted Skinner
Gary Smith
Lawrence R. Smith
Nancy Smith
Cindy M. SoRelle
Kevin Steinberg

Glynis Holm Strause
Charlene Strickland
Carolyn Strohkirch
Jason Sykes
Carlos Tarin
Jane Terrell
Terry Thibodeaux
David Thomas
Max Thompson
Tyler Tindall
Jim Towns
Michael Trynosky
Linda M. Vancil
Beverly Wakefield
Gwen Waldrop
Gloria Walter
Julie Welker
Gloria White
Toby Whisenhunt
Janice C. Wieland
E.L. Williamson
Joseph A. Willis
Walter Willis
Joshua Wimberley
Debbie Winkler
Charles N. Wise
Melissa Witt
John Wright
Mabel Wyatt
Patricia Wysong
Judith Zafirin

**If you 'd like to
become a life
member, you can
find more
information at the
registration booth or
on the TSCA
website.**

TSCA EMERITUS MEMBERS

Guy Bizzel*	Mike Jones	Ted Skinner
Jean Boles*	Beverly Martin*	June Smith
Faye Carpenter*	Dell McComb	V. A. Smith
Ted Colson*	Connie McKee	Sue Jane Sullivan*
Ronald Dodson	Vernon McGuire*	Zell SoRelle*
Billie Etheridge*	Miff Mendoza*	Don C. Streeter*
C.L. Etheridge	Kerry Moore*	Frances Swinny*
Noni Ford	Virginia Myers*	Donna Ray
Maridell Fryar	B.J. Naegelin*	Tobias*
Opal Hall*	Anna Jo Pendleton*	Victoria Townsend
Rosanna Herndon*	Jana Riggins*	Emerson Turner*
M'Liss Hindman	Lester Schilling*	Jack Walker*
Florence Horton	Lou Ann Seabourn	Harold Weis
Betty Hughes	Helen Shafer*	Charles Wise
Mary Ireland	Ann Shofner	Guy P. Yates*
Jackie Jarrett*	Vera Simpson*	<i>*In Remembrance</i>

Over the 100 year existence of the Texas Speech Communication Association, we have been so blessed to be served by such wonderful individuals who truly understood the embrace of leadership. As we move into the next century of our organization, we're ready to embrace our new generation of leaders as well. We are grateful for the contribution of our membership and how it has molded and impacted TSCA and the entire state of Texas.

TSCA OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Linda Alderson	Wade Hescht	Virginia Myers
Sara Jane Barno	M'Liss S. Hindman	Krin Brooks Perry
Charlotte Brown	Robert Jeffery	Amanda Jo Ratcliff
Natalie Bryant	Brent Hinkle	Jana Riggins
Faye Carpenter	Kandi King	W.E. Schuetz
Richard Cheatham	Ralph Long	Lou Ann Seabourn
Norma Coston	Sandra Lucas	Ann Shofner
Mellessa Denny	Beverly Martin	June H. Smith
Ronald Dodson	Connie McKee	Glynis Holm Strause
Kim Falco	Dan Mendoza	Charlene Strickland
Maridell Fryar	Michael Merritte	Frances Sweeny
Trudy Hanson	Kerry Moore	Amy Tilton Jones
Martha Haun	Danny Moss	Guy P. Yates

TFA HALL OF FAME

TFA HALL OF FAME

2006

Randy Ellis
Cindy Timmons
David Baker
J.E. Master

2014

Diana Forbes
Brent Hinkle
Eloise Blair
Dr. Rich Edwards

2018

Grant Hahn
Jay Stubbs
Debbie Johnson

2023

Eric Porter
Jonathan Robertson
Joseph Uhler

2007

Kandi King
Bill Shuetz

2015

Chris Agee
Dan Lingel
Kay Magill
Janet Melton

2019

Scott Baker
Michael Harlan

2024

Mellessa Denny

2008

Joe Trevino
Charlotte Brown
Ann Shofner

2020

Jason Sykes
Renita Johnson

2025

Yao Yao Chen

2009

Dave Huston
Gary Boeger
Barbara McCain
Shawn Mena
Aaron Timmons
Karen Wilbanks

2016

Tim Cook
Connie Mckee
Terri Robinson
Sally Squibb-Tate

2021

Deborah Taylor
Michelle Watkins
Perry Bear

2012

Robert Shepard
Kim Falco
Billye Lucas
Cheryl Potts

2017

Brian Eanes
Rhonda Smith
Gay Hollis
Cecil Trent

2022

Vicki Beard
Norma Coston
Kirsten Nash
Yolanda Silva

2013

Lee An Ince
Michael Merritt
Jane Boyd
Sammy Green

TIFA EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

1991	M'Liss S. Hindman, Tyler Junior College
1992	Guy P. Yates, West Texas A&M University
1993	James Mammerella, San Antonio College
1994	Carol & Barbara Hickey, University of Texas, Arlington
1995	Ron Ragston, University of Houston
1999	Dan West, Rice University
2003	Wade Hescht, Lone Star College, North Harris
2005	Wayne Kraemer, Texas State University
2006	Mary Trejo, University of Texas, El Paso
2007	Connie McKee, West Texas A&M University
2008	Randy Cox, University of Texas, Austin
2009	Jolinda Ramsey, San Antonio College
2010	Kathy Owens, Mary Hardin Baylor University
2011	Collier Patton, Lone Star College, Kingwood
2012	Leigh-Anne Williams, San Jacinto College
2013	David Worth, Rice University
2014	Sarah Contreras, Del Mar College
2017	Floyd McConnell, San Jacinto College – North
2018	Jeremy Hutchins, Texas State University
2019	Shannon LaBove, Rice University
2020	Julie Welker, Howard Payne University
2021	Justin Blacklock, San Antonio College
2022	Carlos Tarin, University of Texas at El Paso
2023	Robert Markstrom, McNeese State University
2024	Joan Andrews, Tyler Junior College
2025	Kelsey Abele, West Texas A&M University

TIFA

INTEREST GROUP SPECIAL HONOREES

CALL FOR PANELS

TSCA Convention 2027 October in Rockwall, Texas

The Texas Speech Communication Association invites your submissions for its 2027 Convention centered on the theme “Communicating Through the Chaos”. A person I hold very dear to me, Connie Mckee, is known for the phrase “Not my circus, not my monkeys” but I feel like as educators we are often finding that it is our circus, they are our monkeys, and we are the ringmaster. 10 years ago when I started teaching, I was told to make it to year three and it’ll get easier... but then the world shut down for the pandemic and education was changed forever. That was when I realized that it doesn’t ever really “get easier” you just find stability in the chaos and run with it. So this year I want the organization to explore speech education in a way that brings stability to the chaos for educators and students alike.

How do we meet the needs of our diverse classrooms? How do we juggle large class sizes, the constant growth of technology, and new regulations on the content that we teach? How do we build programs when funding is always uncertain? How do we focus on teaching students the skills they need to be successful in the real world? These are questions that we need to explore as an organization.

- Heather Soltero

Please join us and share your ideas and resources with educators from across the state.

Send program questions and comments to: Justin Blacklock.
jblacklock@alamo.edu

Submit panels through your Interest Group Chairperson OR via Justin Blacklock.

A complete call for papers/panels will be available online at www.etsca.com

Deadline for Initial Program Panel Submissions: April 15, 2027

A - 1 SCHOONER A

Give & Take: Professional Communications in the Classroom

Coordinator: Kelsey Vincent, Bushland High School

Chair: Patricia Cowden, Bushland High School

Presenter(s): JP Fugler, Lindale High School

Rory McKenzie, Lindale High School

This collaborative session focuses on building effective professional communication skills through lesson planning and community partnerships. Educators will exchange strategies, share classroom-ready resources, and explore ways to incorporate real-world interview opportunities with local professionals. Participants will leave with practical activities and a network of ideas to strengthen students' communication skills while connecting classrooms to the wider community.

A - 2 BELLA HARBOR BALLROOM A

Tech Accessibility for ALL Students in the Classroom

Coordinator: Amberley Tanner, Steele Early College High School

Chair: Amberley Tanner, Steele Early College High School

Presenter(s): Hunter Parrish, Rock Hill High School

Amberley Tanner, Steele Early College High School

This interactive panel brings together veteran educators and instructional technologists to explore how purposeful EdTech tools can personalize oral communication instruction. Attendees will leave with actionable toolkits for differentiating speech delivery, assessment, and preparation—ensuring every student finds, refines, and delivers their authentic voice.

A - 3 - BELLA HARBOR BALLROOM F

Engaging Collaboration Across Silos

Coordinator: Justin Blacklock, San Antonio College

Chair: Justin Blacklock, San Antonio College

Presenter(s): Kate Mead, East Texas Baptist University

Justin Blacklock, San Antonio College

A metaphor that captures the isolation of individuals, departments, and workflows in universities is “silo.” This panel will focus on how faculty climb the metaphorical walls of their siloes to craft meaningful collaboration across departments, disciplines, and institutions. Participants will share strategies and reflections on how they’ve cultivated partnerships across academic siloes to reap better classes, coursework, and careers

PANEL A PROGRAMS

Thursday, October 8, 4:15 - 5:10

A - 4 BELLA HARBOR BALLROOM C

Evolving Classrooms & AI: State of the Field

Coordinator: Mendy Meurer-Busby

Chair: Mendy Meurer-Busby

Presenter(s): Mary Anna Kidd, McMurry University

Dillon McCoy, San Antonio College

Zoraya Davidson, El Paso ISD

This panel will discuss the latest AI-integrated technologies as well as pedagogical responses to the presence of these tools in the classroom. Participants will describe platforms, uses, and best practices for educators invested in understanding the latest developments in the higher education landscape.

A - 5 WINDJAMMER

The State of Substantive Due Process in a Post-Roe World

Coordinator: Nathaniel Council, Pampa High School

Chair: Nathaniel Council, Pampa High School

Presenter: Ryan Lovell, Tascosa High School

Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization reversed decades of legal precedent and called into question the legal doctrine of substantive due process. This panel will explore the history and application of substantive due process in relation to individual rights, and will discuss the implications of the Dobbs decision in relation to the future of other seminal Supreme Court Decisions.

A - 6 CATAMARAN

Is FUNdamentals: Learning through Games too Basic?

Coordinator: Victoria Wood, Monterey High School

Chair: Victoria Wood, Monterey High School

Presenter(s): Stef Cambra, Drury University

Traditional public speaking assignments can often feel high-stakes, intimidating, and rigid for high school students. Gamification flips this script by transforming skill-building into low-stakes, highly engaging play. In this interactive panel, experienced speech educators and activity coordinators will share how they integrate tabletop games, improvisation exercises, and tech-based activities into their communication curriculum.

A - 7 SCHOONER B

A Conversation with the Congress Committee

Coordinator: Gina Lozano, Jack C. Hays High School

Chair: Gina Lozano, Jack C. Hays High School

Presenter(s): Gina Lozano, Jack C. Hays High School

Harry Yu, Memorial High School

Nathaniel Council, Pampa High School

This panel will provide members the opportunity to clarify some of the recent rule changes related to Congressional Debate in the TFA Constitution. It will also serve as an informal opportunity for coaches from across the state to provide the committee with insight into the challenges their students are facing in local tournaments as well as state or national ones.

PANEL A PROGRAMS

Thursday, October 8, 4:15 - 5:10

PANEL B PROGRAMS

Friday, October 9, 10:00 - 10:50

B - 1 WINDJAMMER

Prose & Poetry - A Deep Dive into the New UIL Prose & Poetry Categories

Coordinator: M'Liss Hindman, Tyler Junior College

Chair: M'Liss Hindman, Tyler Junior College

Presenter(s): M'Liss Hindman, Tyler Junior College

Join leading speech coaches, UIL adjudicators, and veteran oral interpretation educators for an essential deep dive into the 2026–2027 UIL Prose and Poetry categories. Designed for both middle and high school speech directors, this panel unpacks the structural nuances, documentation rules, and artistic possibilities behind the new contest requirements. Panelists will explore Category A: Igniting the Imagination through Storytelling (focusing on single/narrative story arcs) and Category B: An American Mosaic: The Ties That Define Us (focusing on multi-selection programs and thematic weaving). Attendees will leave equipped with practical strategies to help students find literary merit, build compliant documentation, and craft compelling, judge-ready performances.

B - 2 CATAMARAN

Basics of Interpretation in the Middle School Classroom Part 1

Chair: Franz Hill, Bob Lanier Middle School

Coordinator: George Tennison, Olle Middle School

Presenter: Heather Huffman, Village High School

Lindsey Petropoulos, Rice Middle School

This is part 1 of a 2 part workshop on the basics of interpretation for middle school students. This panel will go over the nuts and bolts of various interpretation events which are done on the middle school level.

B - 3 CATALYST

TIA - The What & How in Speech & Debate Classes

Coordinator: Macy Brown, Coronado High School

Chair: Macy Brown, Coronado High School

Presenter(s): Nicole Cornish, Quitman High School

Victoria Wood, Monterey High School

The Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) offers opportunities for educators to earn recognition and financial rewards, but the process can feel overwhelming. In this panel, speakers who have successfully navigated and earned the TIA designation will share their experiences, practical steps, and lessons learned. Attendees will gain a clearer understanding of eligibility, documentation, and best practices to position themselves for success in the TIA process.

B - 4 SCHOONER A

GIFTS: Assignment Swap from Public Speaking to Communication Theory

Coordinator: Mary Anna Kidd, McMurry University

Chair: Amanda Jo Ratcliff, Tyler Junior College

Presenter(s): Mary Anna Kidd, McMurry University – *Combining Groups and Culture: Identity and Culture Group Presentation*

Leslie Rodriguez, Angelo State University – *The Interview Before the Interview: Preparing Students for Professional Video Interviews*

Kate Mead, East Texas Baptist University – “Assignment/Activity topic”

Gil Carter, Mississippi State University - *Acclaim, Attack, and Defend: Functional Theory in Political Campaign Mailers*

Panelists will share ideas on assignments and class activities that can be utilized in a variety of contexts, from basic public speaking courses to advanced communication theory courses. Join the presenters and get ideas for your own classroom. This panel will share assignments that would be applicable for students at all levels. Leave this panel with handouts from each panelist ready to incorporate into your own class.

B- 5 SCHOONER B

Bridging the Gap in HS/College Collaboration

Chair: Klaire Smith, East Texas Baptist University

Coordinator: Sarah Contreras, Del Mar College

Presenter: Klaire Smith, East Texas Baptist University

Zoraya Davidson, El Paso ISD

Sarah Contreras, Del Mar College

Ondrea Tarske, Del Mar College

This panel will explore strategies for strengthening collaboration between high school and college educators amid the many challenges facing both secondary and higher education. Presenters will discuss curriculum gaps/alignment and partnership models that support student readiness and successful transitions to higher education.

PANEL B PROGRAMS

Friday, October 9, 10:00 - 10:50

PANEL B PROGRAMS

Friday, October 9, 10:00 - 10:50

B - 6 BELLA HARBOR BALLROOM F

GUSSC Student Research: Communication Theory and Contemporary Issues *Media, Culture, and Society*

Sponsoring Group: Graduate/Undergraduate Student Scholarship Conference (GUSSC)

Coordinator: Dr. Angela Anima-Korang

Chair: Dr. Angela Anima-Korang

Panel Title: GUSSC Student Research: Communication Theory and Contemporary Issues

This panel examines how media and cultural environments shape perceptions, identities, representation, and social realities. Presentations explore media influence, cultural representation, visibility, and the ways communication practices reflect and shape contemporary society.

Amanda Baldovinos, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Student Newsroom Employee Ethnographic Research (Paper)

Raegan Weaver, Abilene Christian University

Depp v. Heard and the Court of Social Media: How algorithms shape legal narratives (Poster)

Muhammad Abdur Razzak, Texas State University

Crazy Rich Asians and Hyper(in)visibility: A Critical Analysis of Asian Representation, Class, and Visibility Politics in Popular Cinema (Poster)

Jessica Key-Pritchard, East Texas Baptist University

Cultivated Minds: How Media Quietly Shapes Who We Become - Oratory

B - 7 BELLA HARBOR BALLROOM A

Finding Great Informative Topics

Chair: Hannah Rodriguez, Prosper High School

Coordinator: Hannah Rodriguez, Prosper High School

Presenter: Jenn Baese, Lakeville North High School

Want to know more about what makes a great topic for Informative? Not sure where to look or how to get students generating ideas? Interested in what is being done on the national circuit? In this session, we will talk about the current trends in Informative topics, what to read, watch, and listen to in order to find the gems, and learn how to turn those random cool facts we all love into actual robust topics!

PANEL C PROGRAMS

Friday, October 9, 11:00 - 11:50

C - 1 BELLA HARBOR BALLROOM F

GUSSC Student Research: Communication Theory and Contemporary Issues *Communication Theory and Persuasion*

Sponsoring Group: Graduate/Undergraduate Student Scholarship Conference (GUSSC)

Coordinator: Dr. Angela Anima-Korang

Chair: Dr. Angela Anima-Korang

Panel Title: GUSSC Student Research: Communication Theory and Contemporary Issues

This panel explores how communication theories help explain persuasion, influence, interpersonal interaction, and organizational relationships. Presentations consider the power of narrative, language, space, and persuasive communication across organizational, educational, religious, and social contexts.

Antonio Prince Daniels, East Texas Baptist University

Cult Conversion and Deprogramming in the Context of Advanced Persuasion - Paper

Noshin Tasmin Hassan, Texas State University

Narrative Persuasion and Organizational Commitment: The Role of Storytelling in Recruiting Employees - Poster

Sanzida Mahila, Texas State University

Climate Resilience Communication for Bangladeshi Children: A Theoretical Framework Integrating Social Cognitive Theory and Narrative Persuasion (Poster)

Jessica Key-Pritchard, East Texas Baptist University

Cultivated Minds: How Media Quietly Shapes Who We Become - Oratory

C - 2 CLIPPER

From Performance to Publication: Turning Forensics Speeches into Scholarly Research

Coordinator: Shannon Labove, Rice University

Chair: Randall Fowler, Abilene Christian University

Presenter(s): Aaron Delgado, UT Dallas

Shannon Labove, Rice University

Jack Rogers, "The Forensics"

This panel explores how students can transform forensics writing into viable scholarly research. Panelists will discuss strategies for moving from persuasive performance to academic inquiry, including refining research questions, deepening literature reviews, and adapting citation and methodological standards. Drawing on experiences in coaching, teaching, and publishing, the panel highlights how forensics can serve as an entry point into undergraduate research, conference presentations, and academic publication—helping students translate competitive success into lasting scholarly impact.

C - 3 BELLA HARBOR BALLROOM A

How to Organize and Write for Informative

Chair: Joseph Uhler, Liberal Arts and Science Academy

Coordinator: Joseph Uhler, Liberal Arts and Science Academy

Presenter: Jenn Baese, Lakeville North High School

Not sure how to go about organizing an Informative speech? Want ideas on how to construct a solid introduction for public address? Interested in easy editing tips you can share with your students? This session will cover the basics as well as share lots of examples of each step of the process. We will also talk about ways to make your students writing stronger with easy hints that you can have them apply on their own!

C - 4 CATAMARAN

Basics of Interpretation in the Middle School Classroom Part 2

Coordinator: George Tennison, Olle Middle School

Chair: Franz Hill, Bob Lanier Middle School

Presenter(s): Heather Huffman, The Village High School

Lindsey Petropoulos, Rice Middle School

This is part 2 of a 2 part workshop on the basics of interpretation for middle school students. This panel will feature performances by middle school students who will receive live, real-time coaching to demonstrate best practices in preparing students for competition

Friday, October 9, 11:00 - 11:50

PANEL C PROGRAMS

PANEL C PROGRAMS

Friday, October 9, 11:00 - 11:50

C - 5 WINDJAMMER

Applied Learning Experiences - Bridging Event Management Theory and Global Practice

Coordinator: Drs. Karley A. Goen

Chair: Drs. Karley A. Goen

Presenter(s): Dr. Karley A. Goen, Tarleton State University

In this session, Drs. Karley A. Goen and Tracey M. Holley share insights from a Summer 2026 study abroad program across Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Germany, and Austria that used Applied Learning Experiences to bridge event management theory and global practice. Attendees will explore how immersive field activities—including venue site audits, cross-cultural vendor management, and European sustainability assessments—develop critical student skills like cultural intelligence and operational resilience. Participants will also receive a practical infographic to help adapt these experiential learning strategies into their own academic assignments and event production frameworks.

C - 6 SCHOONER B

Publishing Pathways in Higher Education

Coordinator: Mary Anna Kidd, McMurry University

Chair: Leslie Y. Rodriguez, Angelo State University

Presenter(s): Mary Anna Kidd, McMurry University

Randall Fowler, Abilene Christian University

This panel explores academic publishing across multiple formats, including journal articles, books, coauthored works, and edited volumes. Panelists will discuss strategies for navigating peer review, developing book proposals, and building a sustainable publication record. The conversation will also address current challenges in academic publishing and the growing importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in producing impactful scholarship.

C - 7 SCHOONER A

Legislating in the Time of Roberts Part III: Developing Congress Legislation in Response to the 2025-2026 Supreme Court Term

Coordinator: Tori Wood, Monterey High School

Chair: Tori Wood, Monterey High School

Presenter(s): Ryan Lovell, Tascosa High School

The past two TSCA conventions we have explored details of Supreme Court decisions from the previous year and discussed strategies to guide students in developing Congress legislation in response to these decisions. This panel will delve into details from the 2025-2026 Supreme Court term and explore possible legislative responses to these decisions.

**Join us for the
Texas Speech Communication Association Luncheon
Friday, October 9, 2026 12:00 PM**

*Bella Harbor Ballroom D&E
(Tickets can be purchased at the Registration Table)*

2026 Communicator of the Year

**G. David Smith, Attorney
Current President of the State Bar of Texas**



Friday, October 9, 1:00 - 1:50

D - 1 BELLA HARBOR BALLROOM A

Presidential Rhetoric & Repositories: Resources for Communication Scholars

Coordinator: Randall Fowler, Abilene Christian University

Chair: Madi Marr, Abilene Christian University

Presenter(s): Jay M. Hudkins, Arkansas Tech University

Randall Fowler, Abilene Christian University

Madi Marr, Abilene Christian University

Jacqueline Garcia Torres, Abilene Christian University

Brayson Jones, Abilene Christian University

Emma Hudkins, Abilene Christian University

Liza Talbot, Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library

Did you know that Texas has more presidential libraries than any other state? This panel will discuss ways that scholars can learn how to better leverage this access. Through close analysis of case studies and discussion of the resources available at presidential archives, this panel is designed to delve into presidential rhetoric as a communication phenomenon and educational resource.

D - 2 BELLA HARBOR BALLROOM F

The Publishing Playbook

Chair: Mellessa Denny, Amarillo High School

Coordinator: Mellessa Denny, Amarillo High School

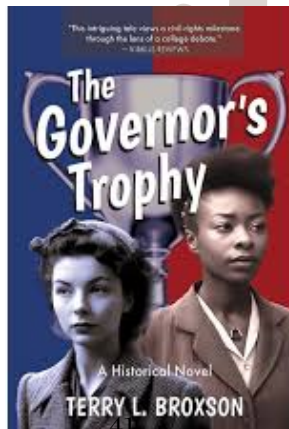
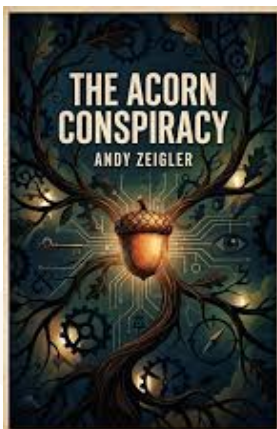
Presenter: Andy Zeigler, "The Acorn Conspiracy"

James C. Kingsmill, "At the Top of the Lighthouse"

Terry Broxson, "The Governor's Trophy"

Jane Boyd, "Think Before You Speak"

Join an engaging panel of TSCA member-authors as they share the real-world strategies behind writing and publishing their own books. Discover practical insights, hidden shortcuts, and creative exercises designed to guide you in helping your own students become published authors.



D - 3 SCHOONER A

Beyond the Comm Major: Recruiting Across Campus and Promoting Forensics for All Students

Coordinator: Justin Blacklock, San Antonio College

Chair: Shannon Labove, Rice University

Presenter(s): Ryan Tinlin, University of Texas at Austin

Justin Blacklock, San Antonio College

Shannon Labove, Rice University

This panel examines how coaches successfully recruit speech and forensics team members from outside communication studies and position forensics as a high-impact, cross-curricular activity. Panelists will share strategies for partnering with faculty in other disciplines, aligning events with course outcomes, and framing forensics as skill-building relevant to diverse majors. The discussion highlights practical approaches for increasing visibility, broadening participation, and demonstrating the academic value of forensics across the curriculum.

D - 4 SCHOONER B

Multiple Meanings of "Advisor"

Coordinator: Mendy Meurer-Busby, Del Mar College

Chair: Mark Paz II, Texas State University

Presenter(s): Mark Paz II, Texas State University

Mendy Meurer-Busby, Del Mar College

Ondrea Tarske, Del Mar College

Mary Anna Kidd, McMurry University

This panel will examine the varied roles and responsibilities encompassed by the term “advisor” within educational institutions. Panelists will reflect on academic advising, mentorship, program guidance/leadership, career preparation, and balancing multiple relational roles with students.

D - 5 WINDJAMMER

Basics of Debate in the Middle School Classroom Part 1 of 3

Coordinator: George Tennison, Olle Middle School El Paso

Chair: Franz Hill, Bob Lanier Middle School

Presenter(s): Rob Gales

Franz Hill, Bob Lanier Middle School

This is part 1 of a 3 part workshop on the basics of competitive debate for middle school students. The panel will go over the round format and goals of each speech in the round to be done in the second panel.

D - 6 BELLA HARBOR BALLROOM B

GUSSC Student Research: Communication Theory and Contemporary Issues

Health, Organizations, and Public Communication

Coordinator: Dr. Angela Anima-Korang

Chair: Dr. Angela Anima-Korang

This panel explores how communication theories help explain persuasion, influence, interpersonal interaction, and organizational relationships. Presentations consider the power of narrative, language, space, and persuasive communication across organizational, educational, religious, and social contexts.

Trang Thu Bui, Denison University

Considering Vietnamese Culture in Communication Privacy Management: The Influences of Confucianism and Collectivism on Young Women's Gynecological Care (Poster)

Emmanuel Edmund, Texas Tech University

Pre-Nursing Students' Communication Skills: A Descriptive Study of Communication Competency, Self-Efficacy, Perspective Taking, Cultural Competence, And Empathetic Listening for Individuals Pursuing Healthcare (Paper)

Leah Tecle, University of Texas Permian Basin

Combating the Restrictions of Democracy in Participative Democratic Unions - Paper

D - 7 BELLA HARBOR BALLROOM C

“Don't Let the Coaches Walk Away”: Recruiting, Retaining and Rebuilding Speech Programs

Coordinator: Eric Porter, The Village School

Chair: Heather Huffman, The Village School

Presenter(s):
Eric Porter, The Village School
Heather Huffman, The Village School
Victoria Beard, Spring Woods High School
George Tennison, Olle Middle School

An open session to explore practical strategies for recruiting new coaches, retaining experienced coaches, developing assistant coaches, and creating a culture where coaches feel supported rather than isolated. How can we do better to keep thriving programs alive when coaches do leave, and that program no longer exists? Looking to create an actionable recruitment retention plan to offer schools to solve this problem. We spend a lot of time asking how to recruit students. Maybe we should start questioning how to we keep the adults who make the activity possible. So come join us and share your ideas and suggestions.

PANEL D PROGRAMS

Friday, October 9, 1:00 - 1:50

PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

Friday, October 9, 2026 6:00 - 7:00 PM

The Pergola



As an organization, we are incredibly thankful for our President, Jeremy Hutchins. His service and dedication to the betterment of Speech Education have helped TSCA grow as an organization. Join us on Friday, October 9th as we celebrate Jeremy and the work that he has done.

2026 Educator of the Year Nominees

In addition to celebrating Jeremy, we will also recognize the 2026 Educators of the Year, Top GUSSC Student Paper, Membership Milestones, Service Award nominees and winners, and Interest Group Honorees.



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Communication Studies
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■ Public Forum

■ Speech/Individual Events

■ World Schools

View program listings: [**MOODY.UTEXAS.EDU/UTNIF-PROGRAM**](https://moody.utexas.edu/utnif-program)

E - 1 SCHOONER A

AI and the Ethics of Grading

Coordinator: Mendy Meurer-Busby, Del Mar College

Chair: Randall Fowler, Abilene Christian University

Presenter(s): Mendy Meurer-Busby, Del Mar College

Randall Fowler, Abilene Christian University

Angela Anima-Korang, East Texas Baptist University

Zoraya Davidson, El Paso ISD

This panel will explore how emerging generative tools are reshaping assessment practices in higher education and challenging traditional notions of authorship, grading, transparency, work, fairness, and academic integrity. It will examine practical and philosophical questions centered on developing concrete strategies for crafting effective grading policies in an AI-saturated learning environment.

E - 2 CATAMARAN

Basics of Debate in the Middle School Classroom Part 2 of 3

Coordinator: George Tennison, Olle Middle School

Chair: Franz Hill, Bob Lanier Middle School

Presenter(s): Rob Gale

Franz Hill, Bob Lanier Middle School

This is part 2 of a 3 part workshop on the basics of competitive debate for middle school students. This panel will feature a full debate round by middle school students. The round will be debriefed and analyzed in the following panel.

E - 3 BELLA HARBOR BALLROOM A

Visual Aids for Informative

Coordinator: Ryan Lovell, Tascosa High School

Chair: Ryan Lovell, Tascosa High School

Presenter: Jenn Baese, Lakeville North High School

Visual aids are often the biggest challenge for Informative speakers and coaches. Come learn about how to generate ideas for visuals, hints on how to actually make interesting and interactive VAs, and tips on how to perform using visuals! This session will have hands-on examples of many different types of visual aids you can check out!

E - 4 SCHOONER B

Building Cross-Curricular Connections in Speech & Debate

Coordinator: Hannah Rodriguez, Prosper High School

Chair: JP Fugler, Lindale High School

Presenter(s): Christy Squires, Bryan Adams Academy

Hunter Parirsh, Rock Hill High School

JP Fugler, Lindale High School

Hannah Rodriguez, Prosper High

Heather Byers, Frenship High School

This session explores strategies for expanding the impact of speech and debate across academic disciplines. Learn how to collaborate with departments such as English and History to create meaningful cross-curricular opportunities that strengthen critical thinking, communication, and research skills. Panelists will share practical approaches to outreach, integration, and program growth within your school community.

E - 5 WINDJAMMER

Beyond the Ballot: Connecting Speech Tournaments to Community Engagement

Coordinator: Justin Blacklock, San Antonio College

Chair: Dillon McCoy, San Antonio College

Presenter(s): Justin Blacklock, San Antonio College

Dillon McCoy, San Antonio College

This panel explores how speech tournaments can intentionally connect with local communities through outreach, service, and public-facing events. Drawing on models already used at regional and national tournaments, panelists will discuss partnerships with community organizations, public showcases, and service-based initiatives that highlight the civic value of forensics. The conversation emphasizes how community engagement can make speech activities more visible, impactful, and accessible—while also helping programs demonstrate relevance and value to campus administrators.

E - 6 CATALYST

The Ins and Outs of Pocket Coach Academy

Coordinator: Heather Soltero, Tascosa High School

Chair: Justin Blacklock, San Antonio College

Presenter(s): Cody Morris, Pocket Coach Academy

This panel provides a deep dive into what Pocket Coach Academy has to offer coaches and students. Explore resources and ask questions to help better prepare your students for the upcoming UIL Season.





Student Organizations

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PANEL F PROGRAMS

Saturday, October 10, 10:00 - 10:50

F - 1 SCHOONER B

ZebraPad

Coordinator: Natalie Sintek & Meg Krekeler

Co-Founders, Zebrapad

Chair: Natalie Sintek & Meg Krekeler

Presenter(s): Natalie Sintek & Meg Krekeler Co-Founders, Zebrapad

Drawing from data across 45+ speech programs, 500 certified judges, and thousands of student interactions, Zebrapad co-founders Natalie Sintek and Meg Krekeler present cross-program insights on student motivation, feedback, and skill development. This interactive session challenges traditional assumptions by examining emerging trends in communication education from the collective perspectives of students, coaches, and judges. Attendees will engage in collaborative discussion and leave with actionable frameworks to enhance confidence, growth, and long-term engagement in their own speech programs.

F-2 CATAMARAN

Basics of Debate in the Middle School Classroom Part 3 of 3

Coordinator: George Tennison, Olle Middle School

Chair: Franz Hill, Bob Lanier Middle School

Presenter(s): Rob Gale

Franz Hill, Bob Lanier Middle School

This is part 3 of a 3 part workshop on the basics of competitive debate for middle school students. This panel will feature a full debate round by middle school students. The round will be debriefed and analyzed in the following panel.

F - 3 WINDJAMMER

Classroom Activities to Introduce Oral Interpretation TEKS

Coordinator: Andy Zeigler, Caprock High School

Chair: Andy Zeigler, Caprock High School

Presenter(s): Mellessa Denny, Amarillo High School

Ryan Lovell, Tascosa High School

Andy Zeigler, Caprock High School

For both new and experienced educators, finding new and exciting activities to introduce students to the Oral Interpretation TEKS can be difficult. This panel will walk educators through various activities that can be implemented in the classroom to help students practice using tone, volume, facial expressions, body movement and much more to master fundamental concepts of Oral Interpretation.

F - 4 CATALYST

Exploring Resources and Strategies to Re-establish Competitive CX at Your School

Coordinator: Andrew Gibson, The Woodlands College Park

Chair: Andrew Gibson, The Woodlands College Park

Presenter: Preston Stolte, Churchill High School

Despite the litany of online resources, video databases, and freely available starter evidence sets, novice and experienced coaches alike often express similar sentiments when asked about competing in policy debate: "Too difficult"; "Too complex."; "Too much of a research burden"; "Too many silly arguments." This panel seeks to disprove the stigma that all too often surrounds one of the oldest debate events so that we can encourage more coaches to offer this event to their team. The goal of this panel is to provide resources/advice to coaches on how to start (or restart) a policy debate program at their school.

F - 5 BELLA HARBOR BALLROOM A

Building the Pipeline: Recruiting High School Students into College Forensics

Coordinator: Tori Wood, Monterey High School

Chair: Tori Wood, Monterey High School

Presenter(s): M'Liss Hindman, Tyler Junior College

Dillon McCoy, San Antonio College

Kelsey Vincent, Bushland High School

This panel examines strategies for recruiting high school students into college forensics and competitive speech through intentional collaboration between collegiate and secondary organizations. With a focus on potential co-sponsorship by the Texas Intercollegiate Forensics Association (TIFA) and high school organizations such as the Texas Forensics Association (TFA) and UIL, panelists will discuss outreach models, shared events, and messaging that support a sustainable forensics pipeline from high school to college.

PANEL F PROGRAMS

Saturday, October 10, 10:00 - 10:50

F - 6 BELLA HARBOR BALLROOM F

Forensics Across the Curriculum: Integrating Speech and Debate into Academics

Coordinator: Justin Blacklock, San Antonio College

Chair: Wayne Kraemer, Texas State University

Presenter(s): Wayne Kraemer, Texas State University
Jeremy Hutchins, Texas State University
Justin Blacklock, San Antonio College
Brian Lain, UNT

This panel examines how forensics—both speech and debate—can be integrated across disciplines to enhance learning, critical thinking, and communication skills. Panelists will share strategies for embedding events into courses, collaborating with faculty in non-communication fields, and aligning forensics activities with academic outcomes. The discussion highlights ways to broaden participation, demonstrate relevance to diverse majors, and position forensics as a transformative, cross-curricular experience that benefits students and institutions alike.

PANEL F PROGRAMS

Saturday, October 10, 10:00 - 10:50

- B** Jenn Baese, p. 36, p. 37, p. 46
Victoria Beard, p. 44
Justin Blacklock, p. 31, p. 42, p. 48, p. 52
Jane Boyd, p. 41
Terry Broxson, p. 41
Heather Byars, p. 47
- C** Stef Cambra, p. 32
Sarah Contreras, p. 35
Nicole Cornish, p. 34
Nathaniel Council, p. 33
- D** Zoraya Davidson p. 32, p. 35, p. 46
Aaron Delgado, p. 37
Mellessa Denny, p. 50
- F** Randall Fowler, p. 39, p. 46, p. 47
JP Fugler p. 31, p. 47
- G** Rob Gales, p. 41, p. 46, p. 50
- H** Franz Hill, p. 41, p. 46, p. 50
M'Liss Hindman, p. 34, p. 51
Emma Hudkins, p. 47
Jay M. Hudkins, p. 47
Heather Huffman, p. 34, p. 37, p. 44
Jeremy Hutchins, p. 52
- J** Brayson Jones, p. 47
- K** Mary Anna Kidd p. 32, p. 35, p. 39, p. 42
James C. Kingsmill, p. 41
Wayne Kraemer, p. 52
Meg Krekeler, p. 50
- L** Shannon Labove, p. 37, p. 42
Brian Lain, p. 52
Ryan Lovell p. 32, p. 39, p. 50
Gina Lozano, p. 33,
- M** Madi Marr, p. 47
Dillon McCoy p. 32, p. 48, p. 51
Rory McKenzie p. 31
Kate Mead p. 31, p. 35
Mendy Meurer-Busby, p. 42, p. 46
Cody Morris, p. 48
- P** Hunter Parrish p. 31, p. 47
Mark Paz II, p. 42
Lindsey Petropoulos, p. 34, p. 38
Eric Porter, p. 44
- R** Hannah Rodriguez, p. 47
Leslie Rodriguez, p. 35
Jack Rogers, p. 37
- S** Natalie Sintek, p. 50
Klaire Smith, p. 35
Christy Squires, p. 47
Preston Stolte, p. 51
- T** Liza Talbot, p. 47
Amberley Tanner p. 31
Ondrea Tarske, p. 35, p. 42
George Tennison, p. 44
Jacqueline Garcia Torres, p. 47
- V** Kelsey Vincent, p. 51
- W** Victoria Wood, p. 34
- Y** Harry Yu, p. 33
- Z** Andy Zeigler, p. 41, p. 50



The Texas State Communication Studies Department proudly sponsors the LBJ Debate Society, Elton Abernathy Forensics Society, and Coronal Philosophical Society.



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WAYNE KRAEMER

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<https://www.commstudies.txst.edu/speech-and-debate>

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NOTES

NOTES

Texas Speech Communication Association

Convention 2026: Communicating for Collaboration: Collaborating for Change

October 8-10, 2026

Attendance Record and Verification Sheet

Participant's Name: _____

Date	Session Title	Facilitator Label Chair Signature
10/8/26	TFA Regional Meetings (1 hour)	
10/8/26	New Members Orientation (1 hour)	
10/8/26	Panel B (1 hour)	
10/8/26	TSCA Standing Committees (1 hour)	
10/8/26	TFA Interest Group Meeting #1 (3 hours)	
10/9/26	Panel B Programs (1 hour)	
	Interest Group 1 (1 hour)	
	Panel C Program (1 hour)	
	Panel D Program (1 hour)	
	Interest Group 2 (1 hour)	
	TFA Interest Group Meeting #2 (2 hours)	
	Panel E Program (1 hour)	
	Panel F Program (1 hour)	
	Interest Group 3 (1 hour)	

Total number of Conference CPE Hours _____ (Maximum of 17 hours)

----- Signature of TSCA Representative

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