



2024

“Connecting the Silos in Education through Transition”

VOCATIONAL & TRANSITION

**49th ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**

Waco Conference Center

Waco, TX

July 15-18, 2024



Network: TAVAC

Password: Conference2024

2024 TAVAC Conference

“Connecting the Silos in Education through Transition”



TAVAC Executive Board

President: Tresha Hattar

President Elect: Kimberly Johnson

1st Vice President: Jann Davies

2nd Vice President: Brynn Biggs

Secretary: E. Hope Steinhoff

Treasurer: Diana Azzouz

Editor: Janice Johnston

Parliamentarian: Vacant

ESC Liaison: Amy Reeves

Technology Liaison: Jessica Hill

TAVAC Regional Representatives

Region 1: VACANT

Region 2: Deborah Norris

Region 3: Josephus Carter

Region 4: Austin Reynolds

Region 5: Heidi Pease

Region 6: VACANT

Region 7: Debbie Harris

Region 8: Jessica Garza

TWC Liaison: Janine Bunke

You can Serve on the TAVAC Board!

Please consider serving as an officer with TAVAC. All officers serve individuals in the area of transition and or vocational services, and have a member for the previous two years. If elected, you will take office at the Annual TAVAC Summer Conference. Serving as an officer for TAVAC does require a time commitment but it is well worth the effort to be able to work with a great group of educators in service to the organization. **Next year need: President-Elect, 2nd VP, Editor, and Regional Reps. 2, 4, 6, 8**

2024 TAVAC Conference

Monday, July 15, 2024

- 3:00-5:00 **Conference Registration** (Waco Conference Center)
- 3:00-5:30 Vendor & Scholarship Auction Set-up
- 5:00-7:00 **Hilton Pool Side Mixer** (Hilton 1st Floor)
- 7:00-8:00 **Conference Registration** (Waco Conference Center)

Tuesday, July 16, 2024

- 7:15-9:30 Conference Registration (Waco Conference Center)
- 7:15-8:00 **Continental Breakfast**
- 8:00-4:30 Scholarship Auction & Exhibits Open
- 8:00-8:30 **Welcome & Introduction of TAVAC Board Members**
- 8:30-10:00 **Keynote Speaker- Dr. Erik Carter**
- 10:30-11:00 **Regional TAVAC Meeting including TWC Representatives** (door prizes)
- 11:15-12:15 **Breakout Session #1**
- 12:15-1:30 Lunch on your own
- 1:30-2:30 **Breakout Session #2**
- 2:45-3:45 **Breakout Session #3**
- 3:45-4:00 Break with snacks
- 4:00-5:00 **Breakout Session #4**
- 5:00-5:30 **TAVAC Business Meeting**

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

- 7:15-8:00 Continental Breakfast
- 8:00-11:30 Voting for Officers
- 8:00-4:30 Scholarship Auction & Exhibits Open
- 8:00-8:25 **Welcome, Announcements**, Introduction of Scholarship Winners
- 8:30-10:00 **Keynote Speaker - Steven Aleman**
- 10:15-11:15 **Breakout Session #5** (Brazos Ballrooms will start 10 minutes late)
- 11:30-12:30 **Breakout Session #6**
- 12:30-1:45 Lunch on your own
- 1:45-2:45 **Breakout Session #7**
- 3:00-4:00 **Breakout Session #8**
- 4:00-4:15 Break with snack
- 4:15-5:15 **Breakout Session #9**

Thursday, July 18, 2024

- 7:15-8:00 Continental Breakfast
- 8:00-8:30 Introduction of New 2024-25 TAVAC Board
- 8:30-10:30 **Keynote Speaker - Spinny Brand**
- 10:40-11:30 Scholarship Auction Drawing for Prizes



TAVAC Voting @ CONFERENCE

TAVAC President Elect
TAVAC 2nd Vice President
TAVAC Editor
TAVAC Treasurer

TAVAC Regional Representatives 2, 4, 6, 8
(will be voted on at Regional Meetings)

Nomination for President Elect

Over the past 16 years, I have dedicated my career to education, with the last 9 years focused on serving as a Transition Specialist. My mission has always been to enhance the transition process for students with disabilities, ensuring they gain the vocational and independent living skills needed to thrive in adulthood. I am currently over the 18+, vocation program and lifeskills. My vision for TAVAC is rooted in collaboration, innovation, and advocacy. Together, we can build a future where every student with disabilities is equipped with the tools and confidence to achieve their dreams. Your support will be instrumental in continuing this crucial work, and I am eager to contribute my experience and dedication to our shared goals.

Nomination for TAVAC 2nd Vice President Vacant– President will appoint

Nomination for TAVAC Editor

Janice Johnston

Instructional Specialist, Texas City ISD

Over the past 27 years in special education, I have enjoyed serving on the TAVAC board as Editor. I will continue to communicate with members providing newsletters, program, and continue to assist in registration during the conference.

Nomination For TAVAC Treasurer, Special Election

Dianna Azzouz

Special Education Program Specialist, Fort Bend ISD

I will keep transparency and report and explain all accounts finances. I will continue to be honest and work with integrity. I have fixed the TAVAC account and created a new scholarship account, so I will continue to work diligently fulfilling this role. I m good with numbers, capable and willing to learn new skills to keep TVAC's bank accounts financially managed.

This extends to following all our bylaws and being flexible to change.

Vote Monday & Tuesday

Scan QR Code to Vote for TAVAC Board Members



<https://bit.ly/TAVACVOTE2024>

**Voting Opens Tuesday @ 8:00 AM
Ends Wednesday @ 11:30 AM**



Support TAVAC Scholarship Fund by visiting the Scholarship Auction

Monday, July 15, 2024

3:00-5:00	Conference Registration
3:00-5:30	Vendor & Scholarship Auction Set-up
5:00-7:00	Hilton Pool Side Mixer
7:00-8:00	Conference Registration

**Be sure to stop by and visit
Exhibitors/Vendors/
Auction**

Hours 8:00 AM-4:30 PM

Tuesday & Wednesday

Location:

**Waco Center Hallway/
Chisholm Hall**

Join us at the Pool Side Mixer



Monday 5:00-7:00 PM

Location: Hilton Pool

Appetizers & Networking

Exhibitors/Vendors

Bloom Consulting	rfrazier@bloomconsultingco.com
SCTN	kbd019@shsu.edu
ESC 10: Michael Milstead	krystle.dipaolo@region10.org
TWC TABLE: Alyssa Kee	rebecca.resendes@twc.texas.gov
Janine Bunke	janine.bunke@twc.texas.gov
Samantha Alverado	Former scholarship winner
Texas Life Planning	lburton@txlifeplanning.com
Grace Law Office	malory@gracelawoffice.com
Aetna Better Health of Texas	SantanderJ@aetna.com
TAMU: Center on Disability	robin.miller@exchange.tamu.edu
Baylor: Erik Carter	Erik_Carter@baylor.edu
29Acres	Jenna Curry jenna@29acres.org
Quest Employment Services	Dana MacDonald, MS,CRC,CVE
Texas Able, Vanessa Goodson	vanessa.Goodson@cpa.texas.gov
GRACE Transition Education	Lisa.Rodriguez@gracetes.com

Tuesday, July 16, 2023 10:30-11:00

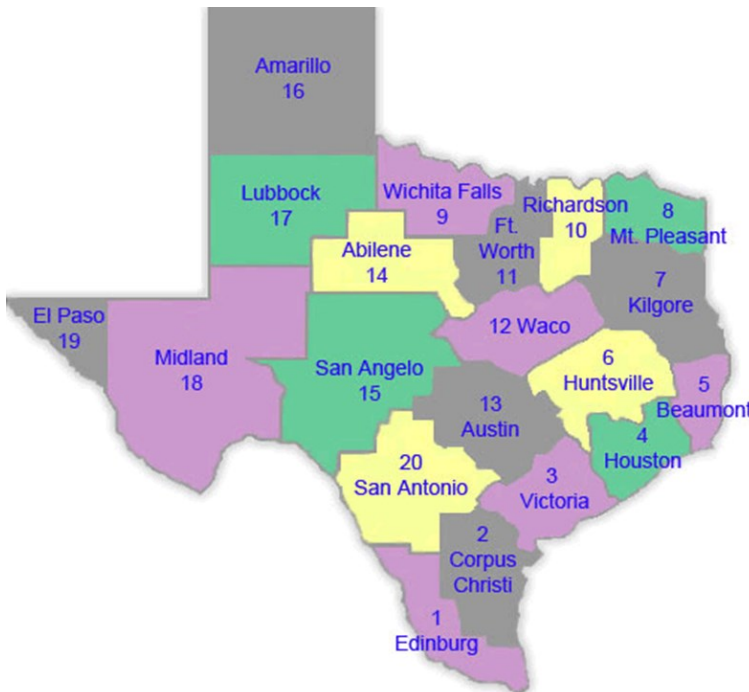
Regional TAVAC Mtg.

Read the chart below for location.

Information about what is happening in your area and find out how your students can apply for scholarships in April.

TAVAC & TWC Meetings– Check your name tag for TAVAC Region			
TAVAC REGIONAL REP	Location	TAVAC Region	ESC Region
Vacant	McLennan 208	1	16, 17
Deb Norris	McLennan 208	2	9, 11, 14
Josephus Carter	Brazos A	3	6, 12, 13
Austin Reynolds	Brazos A	4	15, 18, 19
Heidi Pease	Brazos B	5	20
Vacant	Brazos B	6	7, 8, 10
Debbie Harris	McLennan 207	7	3, 4, 5
Jessica Garza	McLennan 207	8	1, 2

Map of ESC Regions



Please attend

TAVAC Regional Meetings

Information that will be discussed:

Meet Regional Representative

**Voting for Regional Reps. & Alternates
(TAVAC Regions 2, 4, 6, 8)**

**Dates & Meeting Locations
Throughout the Year**

Scholarship Information

Local Dues

VAC Certifications

Answer questions

****Meet your TWC Representative**

TAVAC SERVICE AWARDS

TAVAC SERVICE PIN EARNED 23-24

NAME	TAVAC Region	School District	PIN EARNED
Rubino Arenas	5	San Antonio ISD	5
Rebecca Bloxham	3	Luling ISD	5
Yvonne Cadena	5	San Antonio ISD	5
Andrew Castillo	4	TWC	5
David Enriquez	4	TWC	5
Dawn Hamilton	7	Cy Fair ISD	5
Lisa Laura	8	OGISD	5
Johanna Logan	2	Aldeo ISD	5
Deborah Norris	2	Fort Worth ISD	5
Maria Roussett	8	TWC	5
Grant Featherson	6	Denison ISD	10
Tamie Harrison	3	Austin ISD	10
Terry Snow	6	Dennison ISD	10
Christopher "Todd" Coffey	3	Austin ISD	15
Gerald Gawlik	5	San Antonio ISD	15
Becky Addison	2	Granbury ISD	20
Shelley Campbell	1	Slaton ISD/SELCO	30



TAVAC LIFE MEMBERS

Name	Year
Carl Crosskno	1981
Dr. Linda Parrish	1983
Betty Garrett	1992
Norris Harris	1994
Kenneth Herron	2000
Allen Burd	2001
Steve Callaway	2001
Lou Clouinger	2001
Sherry Dick	2001
Karen Dye	2001
Ben Jungmann	2001
Nancy Nelms	2001
Susan McCormick	2007
Moses Perales	2007
Rodney Robinson	2007
Renee Sadler	2007
Jim Cathy	2008
Margaret Cook	2008

Name	Year
John Estes	2008
Imogene Nelson	2008
Carole Thomas	2008
Doylene Walker	2008
Milton Brock	2008
Nancy Hunter	2009
Jeanne Patrick	2011
Nancy Forget	2015
Erma Garcia	2015
Barbara Markey	2015
Sharon Moseley	2015
Lindy Stafford	2015
Mary Stovall	2015
Martin Synatschk	2015
Maria Vargas	2015
Keith Kieke	2015
Dr. Vickie Mitchell	2022

Name	Year
Tresha Hattar	2023
Josephine Feipel	2023
Sandy Cox	2023
Susan Rose	2023
Sharon Rutherford	2023
Janice Johnston	2024
Debbie Harris	2024
Cheryl Nelson	2024
Gerald Gawlik*	2024

Tuesday, July 16, 2024 8:30-10:00AM

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Erik Carter

Erik_Carter@baylor.edu



Bio:

Erik Carter, Ph.D., is *Luther Sweet Endowed Chair in Disabilities* at Baylor University. He began his career as a high school transition teacher in San Antonio, Texas, before becoming a special education professor at Vanderbilt University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research and writing focus on principle-driven and research-based strategies for promoting full participation, relationships, and valued roles for youth and young adults with disabilities. He has published more than 300 articles and chapters, along with seven books. He proudly serves as Executive Director of the *Baylor Center for Developmental Disabilities*, which works to promote the flourishing of people with disabilities, their families, and communities.

“The Road to Employment for Transition-Age Youth: Postures, Practices, and Partnerships that Matter Most”

Like anyone else, youth with disabilities want to experience an enviable life—during school and into adulthood. Providers, educators, families, and community members can each play a powerful role in supporting these aspirations to become a reality in every corner of the country. This keynote will highlight what we know about what works best for promoting successful transitions. Moreover, it will emphasize how the postures we adopt, the practices we implement, and the people we engage can bend the trajectories of individuals with disabilities toward a future of flourishing.

7:15-8:00	Continental Breakfast
8:00-4:30	Scholarship Auction & Exhibits/Vendors Open
8:00-8:30	Welcome & Introduction of TAVAC Board
8:30-10:00	Keynote Speaker – Dr. Erik Carter
10:00-10:30	Break
10:30-11:00	Regional TAVAC Meeting including TWC Representatives

Notes

11:15-12:15 **Breakout Sessions #1**
 12:15-1:30 Lunch on your own
 1:30-2:30 **Breakout Sessions #2**
 2:45-3:45 **Breakout Sessions #3**
 3:45-4:00 Break w/ snack
 4:00-5:00 **Breakout Sessions #4**
 5:00-5:30 **TAVAC Business Meeting**—All attendees are invited (door prizes)

Breakout Session 1

Tuesday, July 17, 2024 11:15-12:15

Room	Breakout Session Title, Presenter & Description
Brazos A (Seats 100) Session 1 & 4	Maximizing Workforce Services & Enhancing Postsecondary Outcomes for Students <i>Sonia White, Imelda, Trevino, & Jasine Hernandez</i> Attendees will learn how Student HireAbility Navigators successfully coordinate with Boards, contractor staff, TWS-VRS, Educational Institutions and other community partners to create innovative and successful strategies that increase the inclusion of workforce services and facilitate access to Pre-Employment Transition Services for students with disabilities. Through information sharing and examples, the presenters will address best practices that can be implemented in other local settings.
Brazos B (Seats 100) Session 1 & 5	Empowering Self-Determination: Navigating Disability Awareness and Understanding <i>Samuel Gonzalez</i> Join us for an a session focused on empowering self-determination and fostering a deeper understanding of disability awareness. In this session, we will explore strategies for navigating disability awareness, equipping individuals with the knowledge and tools to embrace their abilities while navigating the world they live in. Attendees will gain valuable perspectives on harnessing self-determination to overcome barriers, advocate for themselves, and thrive in various aspects of life. Whether you are navigating your own journey or supporting someone else, this session offers invaluable guidance and empowerment for fostering resilience and achieving personal growth.
McLennan 207 (seats 50) Session 1 & 9	Project SEARCH - Texas A&M Hotel and Conference Center <i>Josephus Carter & Kathy Turner</i> A look at a Project SEARCH Program being conducted at a hotel, what are some of the advantages and challenges of hosting a program in a hospitality setting.
McLennan 208 (Seats 50) Session 1 & 5	The Power of asking questions: WH Questions for Self-Determination <i>Leah Wood</i> "In this session, participants will explore the transformative power of asking ""WH"" questions (who, what, where, when, why, and how) in fostering self-determination among students with disabilities. Through interactive discussions and practical examples, attendees will learn how encouraging students to ask these questions empowers them to take charge of their own lives and educational journeys. By understanding the significance of each type of ""WH"" question and how they contribute to decision-making and problem-solving skills, participants will gain valuable insights into supporting students with disabilities in becoming active agents in their own lives. Measurable Goals: Participants will develop strategies to incorporate ""WH"" questions into their teaching practices, as evidenced by creating at least one lesson plan or activity that explicitly encourages students to ask ""WH"" questions in various contexts. This goal aims to provide concrete tools for educators to implement in their classrooms, promoting student engagement and critical thinking skills. Participants will assess the impact of implementing ""WH"" questions on student self-determination by conducting pre- and post-surveys to measure students' self-efficacy and ability to advocate for themselves. This goal seeks to provide tangible evidence of the effectiveness of asking ""WH"" questions in empowering students with disabilities, emphasizing the importance of fostering autonomy and independence in their educational experiences."
McLennan 209 (Seats 50) Session 1 & 6	Texas HHS Vocational Apprenticeship <i>Glenn Heath</i> The Texas Health and Human Services Vocational Apprenticeship Program serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and those with mental health conditions living in Texas by offering opportunities for vocational training in a supported integrated environment. The program provides both classroom education and work experience by embedding apprentices in a real and practical work environment. With the skills learned through the program, graduates will have increased opportunities to find employment.

12:00-1:15 Lunch on Your Own

Breakout Session 2

Tuesday, July 16, 2024 1:30-2:30

Room	Breakout Session Title, Presenter & Description
Brazos A (Seats 100) Session 2 & 8	Student Work Program... What you need to know <i>Debbie Harris & Dr. Theresa Courtney</i> Overview of WBL the changes to WBL and Vocational Options. How to assist students with Transition and becoming able to improve their post-secondary outcomes.
Brazos B (Seats 100) Session 2	Y'all Means All: Expanding Employment Access for Students with More Significant Needs <i>Jana Bishop, Robin Miller, Llucy Gafford, Ryan Cole, & Ticcara Cassell</i> According to the Department of Labor, Employment First centers on the belief that all individuals, including those with the most significant disabilities, are capable of full participation in community life and competitive, integrated employment. Reaching this goal can be challenging for students with complex support needs. Drawing upon the Texas Beacons of Excellence project, this session will present proven strategies to create individualized plans and supports to expand access to employment opportunities.
McLennan 207 (seats 50) Session 2 & 6	Interventions to Support Employment-Related Transferable Skills for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities <i>MacKenzie Wicker</i> Employment-related transferable skills (i.e., "soft skills") such as social skills, problem solving, communication, teamwork, and time management, are non-technical, generic skills that can be applied to any type or level of employment. However, the development and demonstration of transferable skills among individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are often hindered due to deficits in intellectual functioning, adaptive behavior, and communication. As employers have continually emphasized the importance of transferable skills when considering the potential employability of an individual, research has demonstrated it is the lack of these skill domains that continue to be the largest factor related to unemployment and underemployment for this population. This presentation will provide an overview of the interventions targeting transferable skills related to the acquisition or maintenance of employment for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Additionally, this presentation will provide a practical example of how an intervention was implemented within a naturalistic setting to teach four employees with an intellectual or developmental disability to solve various customer service problems at their place of employment. Overall, this presentation will emphasize the training of employment-related transferable skills to ensure individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are equipped to attain, and maintain, competitive and integrated employment.
McLennan 208 (Seats 50) Session 2 & 6	Silos Coming Together for Employment Opportunities <i>Grace Casper</i> I used to manage Bitty & Beau's Coffee and I saw how the community of Waco responded to our presence. I would love to talk about how I saw everyone come together. I would also love to bring in some former employees to talk about how employment has impacted their lives financially, and communally.
McLennan 209 (Seats 50) Session 2	Texas ABLE: An Saving Plan for Individuals with Disabilities <i>Vanessa Goodson</i> The Texas ABLE Program: the state's new savings program for Texans with disabilities. Come learn about the Texas Achieving A Better Life Experience (Texas ABLE®) program and how Texans with disabilities and their families can save for disability - related expenses in a tax-advantaged ABLE account without losing eligibility for certain public benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid. Texas ABLE is based on federal and state legislation and is maintained by the state through the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. Funds in an ABLE account can be used to pay for qualified disability expenses that relate to the beneficiary's blindness or disability and are used to maintain or improve his or her health, independence or quality of life. This presentation will cover all the basics of ABLE and give you details on how to open an ABLE account in Texas. Learn ore and enroll online at TexasABLE.org . 844-4TX-ABLE (844-489-2253) CustomerService@TexasABLE.org

Breakout Session 3

Tuesday, July 16, 2024 2:45-3:45

Room	Breakout Session Title, Presenter & Description
Brazos A (Seats 100) Session 3 & 9	Matching WBL Job Sites to Post-Secondary Goals <i>Dr. Theresa Courtney & Debbie Harris</i> Do you struggle to find job sites to meet student training/education and employment postsecondary goals? This session will provide an overview of Work-Based Learning (WBL) along with strategies to add to your toolkit to better serve students in the 9-12 grades as well as students receiving 18+ Transition Services.
Brazos B (Seats 100) Session 3 & 8	Preparing Students for College Success: Accommodations & Disability Disclosure <i>Jennifer Solomon & Carrie Williams</i> College and other postsecondary institutions provide valuable educational and independent living opportunities. Having the skills to navigate college as a student with disabilities is essential to a successful college experience. Join Carrie Williams, Director of Student Disability Services at Texas A&M University, and Jennifer Solomon, Region 8 ESC Transition Lead, to discuss accommodations and disability disclosure at the postsecondary level. We will also explore recommended transition services and the coordinated set of activities for high school students seeking college enrollment.
McLennan 207 (seats 50) Session 3 & 5	How to Protect Your Special Needs Child <i>Adriane Grace</i> Attorney Adriane S. Grace, an estate planning and disability attorney from Frisco, Texas discusses the 3 ways caregivers and supporters can protect their special needs child through legal advocacy. This session will cover the legal topics of guardianship, obtaining public benefits as a legal guardian, and securing a financial legacy through careful special needs planning.
McLennan 208 (Seats 50) Session 3	Utilizing LTSS and VR Services to Support Transition Youth <i>Lauren Chenoweth</i> This presentation will provide an overview of potential sources of long term services and supports in Texas and how they can complement the services available to youth through TWC-VR.
McLennan 209 (Seats 50) Session 3	Lighting a Spark: Transition Planning with Younger Teens <i>Joette Hardin & Jana Bishop</i> Transition planning needs to begin early, but engaging younger teens can be a challenge. Students and their families are busy, students may not be thinking about life after high school, and families often have difficulty envisioning employment options for their students. Drawing upon findings from Texas A&M's Capacity-Building and Work-Based Learning Projects, this session will provide practical strategies and resources to help school and VR teams build a vision for earlier transition planning.

Breakout Session 4

Tuesday, July 16th 4:00-5:00

Room	Breakout Session Title, Presenter & Description
Brazos A (Seats 100) Session 1 & 4	Maximizing Workforce Services & Enhancing Postsecondary Outcomes for Students <i>Sonia White, Imelda, Trevino, & Jasine Hernandez</i> Attendees will learn how Student HireAbility Navigators successfully coordinate with Boards, contractor staff, TWS-VRS, Educational Institutions and other community partners to create innovative and successful strategies that increase the inclusion of workforce services and facilitate access to Pre-Employment Transition Services for students with disabilities. Through information sharing and examples, the presenters will address best practices that can be implemented in other local settings.
Brazos B (Seats 100) Session 4	Thinking Outside the Box - Life Bridges - Comal ISD's approach to the 18 + Program <i>Andrea Stephens & Deanna Clark</i> Comal ISD's approach, "Thinking Outside the Box" to meet the diverse needs of all of our district's 18+ transition program team members who attend a separate campus. Starting with our "Visual Transition Plan" process, to opportunities to grow and learn in a community based program, and everything in between until completion.
McLennan 207 (seats 50) Session 4 & 7	Summer Career Readiness Programs: A personalized journey from going through a program and what I learned <i>Aracely Fuentes</i> In us as we explore a personal journey of empowerment and advocacy, beginning with a transformative summer experience at the Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities. Through firsthand accounts, we delve into the pivotal moments of discovery and growth, as the speaker navigated through challenges, learned about disability rights, and honed self-advocacy skills. From this foundational experience emerged a passion for empowering others, leading to a meaningful career trajectory within the UNT WISE Transition Programs. Discover the critical role of summer career readiness programs in fostering self-advocacy and disability awareness among students. Gain insights into the strategies and approaches that effectively nurture these essential skills, ultimately empowering individuals to thrive in academic, professional, and personal spheres. Through engaging narratives and practical insights, this session illuminates the transformative power of personalized journeys, emphasizing the importance of investing in youth development programs for a more inclusive and empowered future. Join us as we embark on a journey of growth, empowerment, and advocacy.
McLennan 208 (Seats 50) Session 4	Transition Compliance <i>Amy Reeves</i> Transition Planning-This session will explore the components of transition compliance as described in the Desk Review Rubric and Indicator 13. Educators will consider their current practices and examine potential areas for improvement.
McLennan 209 (Seats 50) Session 4 & 7	Stop Playing Work! <i>Robin Miller, Jana Bishop, & Joette Hardin</i> Creating the vision for a work-based learning project that actually leads to employment: school-based enterprises are often viewed as "playing work" because students don't experience an authentic work environment or gain real-world vocational skills. Based upon Texas A&M University's Work-Based Learning Project Manual, this session will provide a practical guide to help school staff stop thinking like an educator and start thinking like a boss.

Tuesday, July 16, 2024

5:00-5:30 PM

TAVAC Business Meeting

Location:

MEETING



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF VOCATIONAL ADJUSTMENT COORDINATORS



General Member Meeting Agenda
Waco Convention Center, Waco Texas
July 17, 2024

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| I. Call to Order and Welcome | Tresha Hattar |
| II. Approve Minutes from 7/18/2023 Meeting | Hope Steinhoff |
| III. Conference Information/Updates | Kim Johnson |
| IV. Treasurer Report | Diana Azzouz |
| V. Get involved with TAVAC | Brynn Biggs |
| VI. New Business | Tresha Hattar |
| VII. Call to Adjourn Meeting | Tresha Hattar |

2024 TAVAC Scholarship Recipients

TAVAC Members can submit student applications each year due the last Friday in March each year!

Student Name	Amount	TAVAC Region	TAVAC Sponsor
Education Scholarship			
Kahimara Holder	\$1,000	7	Lisa Longacre
Aliya Sneed	\$950	7	Lisa Longacre
Jude Ruano	\$950	7	Maya Bechi
Jayce Crowson	\$950	3	Jennifer Watkins
Leo Flores	\$900	3	Keimesha Alexander
George "Cole" Copas	\$900	3	Kim Johnson
Colt Cunningham	\$850	3	Josephus Carter
Jocelyn Ochoa	\$800	5	Mary Cruikshank
Annynia Nelson – Wilson	\$700	5	Mary Cruikshank
Renee-Alisha Campos	\$600	5	Yvonne Cadena
Employment Scholarship			
Murvin Johnson	\$350	5	Heidi Pease
Shelby Tindell	\$300	3	Jennifer Watkins
Aricella Martinez	\$250	5	Heidi Pease
Zachary Friess	\$250	3	Jennifer Watkins
Cason Cravey	\$250	3	Jennifer Watkins

TAVAC SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION



How does the Scholarship Auction work? Customers buy a number of tickets for a set price (\$2 each or 6 for \$10), then use the tickets to bid on the items on display by dropping them in a jar next to the item. The more you want something, the more tickets you put in that jar to increase your odds of winning.

Buy your raffle tickets to support TAVAC Scholarships and a chance to win!

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

7:15-8:00 Continental Breakfast
8:00-11:30 Voting for Officers
8:00-4:30 Cowboy Auction & Exhibits Open
8:00-8:25 Welcome & Announcements

8:30-10:00 A.M.

Keynote Speaker:

Steven Aleman, MPAff, J.D.

saleman@disabilityrightstx.org



**Senior Policy Specialist
Disability Rights Texas
Austin, TX**

Bio:

Steven Aleman is a Senior Policy Specialist with Disability Rights Texas in Austin, TX. He is an expert on public school issues affecting children and youth with disabilities in Texas. He guides advocacy efforts to improve the state's laws and programs for special education. Prior to joining Disability Rights Texas, Steven had many years of experience in policy analysis, law, mediation, and teaching. He has worked both in Washington, DC at the federal level and in Austin, TX at the state level. He is frequent speaker at conferences and training sessions. Steven has a Master of Public Affairs degree from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin, and a J.D. degree from the Law School at George Washington University in Washington, DC.

“Post-School Transition: Texas Policy Update”

State rules, programs, and guidance for serving the needs of transition-age students with disabilities continue to evolve. Further, state lawmakers return to the Capitol next year to address the state budget for public education as well as legislation on special education. Learn about relevant agency developments connected to transition and what's upcoming before the Texas Legislature.

10:00-10:15 **Break**

Breakout Session 5

Wednesday, July 17th 10:15-11:15

Room	Breakout Session Title, Presenter & Description
Brazos A (Seats 100) Session 5 & 6	The X's And O's of Job Coaching: Job Coaching Playbook Brynn Biggs In this interactive session, we'll unlock the secrets of effective job coaching, weaving together personalized strategies that cater to the diverse needs of individuals with disabilities. From fostering inclusive communication to tailoring employment strategies, this playbook is your guide in navigating the dynamic field of job coaching. Be prepared to discover innovative plays, share success stories, and collaborate on empowering solutions. Together, we'll redefine the playbook for job coaching, ensuring that every individual, regardless of ability, can step confidently onto the stage of meaningful employment.
Brazos B (Seats 100) Session 1 & 5	Empowering Self-Determination: Navigating Disability Awareness and Understanding Samuel Gonzalez Join us for an a session focused on empowering self-determination and fostering a deeper understanding of disability awareness. In this session, we will explore strategies for navigating disability awareness, equipping individuals with the knowledge and tools to embrace their abilities while navigating the world they live in. Attendees will gain valuable perspectives on harnessing self-determination to overcome barriers, advocate for themselves, and thrive in various aspects of life. Whether you are navigating your own journey or supporting someone else, this session offers invaluable guidance and empowerment for fostering resilience and achieving personal growth.
McLennan 207 (seats 50) Session 5	Vocational Rehabilitation Transition Program Emily Kirby, Kari McKown, & Karen Oakley An outpatient intensive therapeutic intervention program offered through Elite Therapy Center designed to give young adults with disabilities necessary soft skills and self advocacy skills to prepare them to be competitive employees in the workforce. Attendees will learn about the programs objectives, goals, intervention techniques, and community partners to assist patients in transitioning out of therapy services and into meaningful jobs in the community.
McLennan 208 (Seats 50) Session 1 & 5	The Power of asking questions: WH Questions for Self-Determination Leah Wood "In this session, participants will explore the transformative power of asking ""WH"" questions (who, what, where, when, why, and how) in fostering self-determination among students with disabilities. Through interactive discussions and practical examples, attendees will learn how encouraging students to ask these questions empowers them to take charge of their own lives and educational journeys. By understanding the significance of each type of ""WH"" question and how they contribute to decision-making and problem-solving skills, participants will gain valuable insights into supporting students with disabilities in becoming active agents in their own lives. Measurable Goals: Participants will develop strategies to incorporate ""WH"" questions into their teaching practices, as evidenced by creating at least one lesson plan or activity that explicitly encourages students to ask ""WH"" questions in various contexts. This goal aims to provide concrete tools for educators to implement in their classrooms, promoting student engagement and critical thinking skills. Participants will assess the impact of implementing ""WH"" questions on student self-determination by conducting pre- and post-surveys to measure students' self-efficacy and ability to advocate for themselves. This goal seeks to provide tangible evidence of the effectiveness of asking ""WH"" questions in empowering students with disabilities, emphasizing the importance of fostering autonomy and independence in their educational experiences."
McLennan 209 (Seats 50) Session 3 & 5	How to Protect Your Special Needs Child Adriane Grace Attorney Adriane S. Grace, an estate planning and disability attorney from Frisco, Texas discusses the 3 ways caregivers and supporters can protect their special needs child through legal advocacy. This session will cover the legal topics of guardianship, obtaining public benefits as a legal guardian, and securing a financial legacy through careful special needs planning.

Breakout Session 6

Wednesday, July 17th 11:30-12:30

Room	Breakout Session Title, Presenter & Description
Brazos A (Seats 100) Session 5 & 6	The X's And O's of Job Coaching: Job Coaching Playbook Brynn Biggs In this interactive session, we'll unlock the secrets of effective job coaching, weaving together personalized strategies that cater to the diverse needs of individuals with disabilities. From fostering inclusive communication to tailoring employment strategies, this playbook is your guide in navigating the dynamic field of job coaching. Be prepared to discover innovative plays, share success stories, and collaborate on empowering solutions. Together, we'll redefine the playbook for job coaching, ensuring that every individual, regardless of ability, can step confidently onto the stage of meaningful employment.
Brazos B (Seats 100) Session 2 & 6	Interventions to Support Employment-Related Transferable Skills for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities MacKenzie Wicker Employment-related transferable skills (i.e., "soft skills") such as social skills, problem solving, communication, teamwork, and time management, are non-technical, generic skills that can be applied to any type or level of employment. However, the development and demonstration of transferable skills among individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are often hindered due to deficits in intellectual functioning, adaptive behavior, and communication. As employers have continually emphasized the importance of transferable skills when considering the potential employability of an individual, research has demonstrated it is the lack of these skill domains that continue to be the largest factor related to unemployment and underemployment for this population. This presentation will provide an overview of the interventions targeting transferable skills related to the acquisition or maintenance of employment for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Additionally, this presentation will provide a practical example of how an intervention was implemented within a naturalistic setting to teach four employees with an intellectual or developmental disability to solve various customer service problems at their place of employment. Overall, this presentation will emphasize the training of employment-related transferable skills to ensure individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are equipped to attain, and maintain, competitive and integrated employment.
McLennan 207 (seats 50) Session 6	Project IEDev: Increasing Competitive Integrated Employment 4SightGPS Derrick Wesley & Dr. Michael Faggella-Luby Project IEDev aims to transform the landscape of employment for individuals facing barriers to success through innovative software development. By collaborating with individuals, families, schools, various agencies, and businesses, Project IEDev seeks to enhance employability skills for all. Utilizing the proprietary 4SightGPS technology, educators and individuals will navigate the complexities of employment preparation together, optimizing performance towards employment goals through a structured framework for data collection and analysis.
McLennan 208 (Seats 50) Session 2 & 6	Silos Coming Together for Employment Opportunities Grace Casper I used to manage Bitty & Beau's Coffee and I saw how the community of Waco responded to our presence. I would love to talk about how I saw everyone come together. I would also love to bring in some former employees to talk about how employment has impacted their lives financially, and communally.
McLennan 209 (Seats 50) Session 1 & 6	Texas HHS Vocational Apprenticeship Glenn Heath The Texas Health and Human Services Vocational Apprenticeship Program serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and those with mental health conditions living in Texas by offering opportunities for vocational training in a supported integrated environment. The program provides both classroom education and work experience by embedding apprentices in a real and practical work environment. With the skills learned through the program, graduates will have increased opportunities to find employment.

12:15-1:30

Lunch on Your Own

Breakout Session 7

Wednesday, July 17th 1:45-2:45

Room	Breakout Session Title, Presenter & Description
Brazos A (Seats 100) Session 7	Building an 18+ Program <i>Dr. Vickie Mitchell</i>
Brazos B (Seats 100) Session 4 & 7	Summer Career Readiness Programs: A personalized journey from going through a program and what I learned <i>Aracely Fuentes</i> In us as we explore a personal journey of empowerment and advocacy, beginning with a transformative summer experience at the Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities. Through firsthand accounts, we delve into the pivotal moments of discovery and growth, as the speaker navigated through challenges, learned about disability rights, and honed self-advocacy skills. From this foundational experience emerged a passion for empowering others, leading to a meaningful career trajectory within the UNT WISE Transition Programs. Discover the critical role of summer career readiness programs in fostering self-advocacy and disability awareness among students. Gain insights into the strategies and approaches that effectively nurture these essential skills, ultimately empowering individuals to thrive in academic, professional, and personal spheres. Through engaging narratives and practical insights, this session illuminates the transformative power of personalized journeys, emphasizing the importance of investing in youth development programs for a more inclusive and empowered future. Join us as we embark on a journey of growth, empowerment, and advocacy.
McLennan 207 (seats 50) Session 4 & 7	Stop Playing Work! <i>Robin Miller, Jana Bishop, & Joette Hardin</i> Creating the vision for a work-based learning project that actually leads to employment: school-based enterprises are often viewed as "playing work" because students don't experience an authentic work environment or gain real-world vocational skills. Based upon Texas A&M University's Work-Based Learning Project Manual, this session will provide a practical guide to help school staff stop thinking like an educator and start thinking like a boss.
McLennan 208 (Seats 50) Session 7 & 8	The Benefits and Challenges of Hiring folks with IDD <i>Mark Sauer, Kim Johnson, Janine Bunke, Shane Austin, Heather Pickett, & Kelly Spiller</i> This will be a panel discussion consisting of employers with experience hiring and managing folks with IDD, at least one employer wrestling with doing so, and support resources that help get potential employees ready for the workforce.
McLennan 209 (Seats 50) Session 7	Collaborative Model: Benefits of CBO Partnerships <i>Dana Lewis, Melissa Tolier, & Monique Carter</i> This session will inform attendees of the collaborative efforts the WIN (Workforce Inclusion Network) and our partners are doing to improve employment outcomes for persons with disabilities. The session is designed to help gain a better understanding if employment and employer expectations, the usefulness of career counseling tools, and the services we provide.

Breakout Session 8

Wednesday, July 17th 3:00-4:00

Room	Breakout Session Title, Presenter & Description
Brazos A (Seats 100) Session 8	Evaluating and Improving your 18+ Program <i>Dr. Vickie Mitchell</i>
Brazos B (Seats 100) Session 2 & 8	Student Work Program... What you need to know <i>Debbie Harris & Dr. Theresa Cortney</i> Overview of WBL the changes to WBL and Vocational Options. How to assist students with Transition and becoming able to improve their post-secondary outcomes.
McLennan 207 (seats 50) Session 3 & 8	Preparing Students for College Success: Accommodations & Disability Disclosure <i>Jennifer Solomon & Carrie Williams</i> College and other postsecondary institutions provide valuable educational and independent living opportunities. Having the skills to navigate college as a student with disabilities is essential to a successful college experience. Join Carrie Williams, Director of Student Disability Services at Texas A&M University, and Jennifer Solomon, Region 8 ESC Transition Lead, to discuss accommodations and disability disclosure at the postsecondary level. We will also explore recommended transition services and the coordinated set of activities for high school students seeking college enrollment.
McLennan 208 (Seats 50) Session 7 & 8	The Benefits and Challenges of Hiring folks with IDD <i>Mark Sauer, Kim Johnson, Janine Bunke, Shane Austin, Heather Pickett, & Kelly Spiller</i> This will be a panel discussion consisting of employers with experience hiring and managing folks with IDD, at least one employer wrestling with doing so, and support resources that help get potential employees ready for the workforce.
McLennan 209 (Seats 50) Session 8 & 9	Switched On Learning "Making Learning Through Play Accessible To All Learners" <i>Stacy Brannon & James Tiggeman</i> Join our team of Switched-On Learning experts as we seek to share one ISD's mission of improving our students' quality of life by gaining literacy and adaptive skills through exploratory play. We seek to support our students in helping them become adaptable, functioning, and contributing citizens in their community. We want to empower, equip, and encourage ALL students to write and read their own "great life story!" as well as provide students with an opportunity to gain work-readiness skills.

Breakout Session 9

Wednesday, July 17th 4:15-5:15

Room	Breakout Session Title, Presenter & Description
Brazos A (Seats 100) Session 9	Functional Vocational Evaluation Amy Reeves Vocational Evaluation-The ARD committee must consider whether an Full Vocational Evaluation (FVE) is appropriate to develop the student's transition plan for employment. This session will provide educators with potential tools and resources available to complete an FVE.
Brazos B (Seats 100) Session 3 & 9	Matching WBL job sites to Postsecondary Goals Dr. Theresa Courtney & Debbie Harris Do you struggle to find job sites to meet student training/education and employment postsecondary goals? This session will provide an overview of Work-Based Learning (WBL) along with strategies to add to your toolkit to better serve students in the 9-12 grades as well as students receiving 18+ Transition Services.
McLennan 207 (seats 50) Session 1 & 9	Project SEARCH - Texas A&M Hotel and Conference Center Josephus Carter & Kathy Turner A look at a Project SEARCH Program being conducted at a hotel, what are some of the advantages and challenges of hosting a program in a hospitality setting.
McLennan 208 (Seats 50) Session 9	Supporting Students in Obtaining and Maintaining Employment- A Review of TEKS and Other Curriculum Content Chris Nelson Using the Employability Skills Framework developed by the U.S. Department of Education as a background, this session will review existing TEKS-based courses, state-approved innovative courses, and other published curriculum content that can support students with disabilities in both obtaining and maintaining employment.
McLennan 209 (Seats 50) Session 8 & 9	Switched On Learning "Making Learning Through Play Accessible To All Learners" Stacy Brannon & James Tiggeman Join our team of Switched-On Learning experts as we seek to share one ISD's mission of improving our students' quality of life by gaining literacy and adaptive skills through exploratory play. We seek to support our students in helping them become adaptable, functioning, and contributing citizens in their community. We want to empower, equip, and encourage ALL students to write and read their own "great life story!" as well as provide students with an opportunity to gain work-readiness skills.

Thursday, July 18, 2024

7:15-8:00	Continental Breakfast
8:00-10:30	Last chance to purchase auction tickets
8:00-8:30	Introduction of 2024-25 TAVAC Board
8:30-10:30	Keynote Speaker- Dr. Vicki Mitchell
10:40-11:30	Scholarship Auction- drawing prizes
11:30	Have a Safe Trip Home!

**Last chance
to purchase
Scholarship
Auction
Tickets!**

Christian “Spinny” Leal Spinny Brand Co. Founder



I am in a wheelchair, and have osteogenesis imperfecta, brittle bone disease. I have been in a wheelchair my entire life. I started a collectible business Spinners Toys & Collectibles, about 8 years ago, where I sold collectibles at local events. I now vend at conventions, across Texas, and other states. In 2023, I started a clothing line called Spinny Brand Co. a clothing line I created to empower people who are disabled, with the intent to give confidence, and enable people with disabilities to follow their dreams, and that anything is possible. In addition, another goal was to rewrite the assumptions that are usually placed on people with disabilities. When people see or hear of someone being disabled, that can at times come with a negative connotation immediately about that person. Which causes awkward interactions at times with people who are unaware of how to handle situations with someone with disabilities, may they arrive. That can even narrow down to a simple conversation. I've had plenty of people walk into my vendor booth, and leave when told if they have any questions to check with me. I don't think it is discrimination, I just think it's something that some people don't know how to approach, so they avoid the interaction all together. I want to change that if I can, and show people that people with disabilities are like everyone else. We have good days, bad days. Dreams and goals. Aspirations and perseverance. And overall trying to live the same lives as everyone, as best we can.

This has led to me starting my gifted & disabled market, which has been amazing so far. We started in November, and hit 8 months in June. We really believe the event is beginning to make a positive impact on people with disabilities, and overall. These disabilities aren't limited to physical disabilities. We support all disabilities, and have vendors that are autistic, immunocompromised, paralyzed, amputees, scoliosis, have asthma, astigmatism, glaucoma, and more.

I want to help the community as much as possible, and cannot wait to attend the TAVAC Conference and meet everyone!

Samuel Gonzalez



Sam Gonzalez is an Education Consultant, in the area of Special Education-Transition at ESC-20. He has his BS in Psychology and a master's in education. He has worked with the Transition program for the past 13 years at NISD and ESC-20. Sam has presented at the Texas Transition Conference, DCDT, Inclusion Works, Special Education Academy conferences and was a keynote for TAVAC. He is passionate about the transition process and helping students and adults who have disabilities be successful after they leave high school. Sam is an advocate, for students and adults with disabilities and deeply committed to championing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility for all individuals.



8:30-10:30 AM
Keynote Speakers

**Sam Gonzalez &
Spinny Brand Co. Founder,
Christian “Spinny” Leal**

“The Power of Self-Determination and Post-Secondary”

We will explore strategies for enhancing disability awareness, equipping participants with the knowledge and tools to embrace their abilities and navigate challenges. Through engaging discussions and practical insights, attendees will gain valuable perspectives on understanding self-determination to overcome barriers, advocate for themselves, and thrive in various aspects of life. This session features Christian Leal's inspiring story of overcoming his disability and founding Spinny Brand Co., a platform advocating for individuals with disabilities.



Thursday, July 18, 2024
TAVAC Scholarship Auction
10:40-11:30



Drawing for Prizes
(Must be present to Win)

<https://bit.ly/TAVACsurvey2024>



The TAVAC Board would appreciate your feedback about your experience at this year's conference. You can scan the QR Code below to access the evaluation document.
Thank you~



**Guidelines for TAVAC
Recognition for 60 hours of In-Service Training.**

1. Applicant must be a current member of TAVAC when applying for recognition.
2. Applicant needs to acquire a principal, personnel person, superintendent, or director to verify 60 hours of in-service in the following areas:

- **Job development and job analysis**
- **Student assessment and job match**
- **Job placement and job site training**
- **Sustaining employment**
- **Follow-along and transition**

3. Applicant must submit a letter on school letterhead via email (address below) from a personnel person (as listed in statement #2) verifying the 60 in-service hours and include a list of in-services attended including hours of each training to the following TAVAC Board-appointed certification officer:

For more info, email: tavacvicepresident2@gmail.com

It is recommended that you keep a copy of all documentation for your records.
The TAVAC Board is not responsible for documents lost in the mail.

4. Acceptable in-service training to qualify for the certification can be acquired by attending any related training sessions at the Education Service Centers, any school district session related to the above listed areas, and any related conferences and workshops. For example: TAVAC Summer Conference usually includes 15 - 16 hours of training, The Texas Transition Conference offers 12-15 hours.

TAVAC.org

2024-25 Member Password:

Aggie2025

Notes

Be sure to stop by and visit Exhibitors/Vendors/ Auction

Hours 8:00 AM-4:30 PM

Tuesday & Wednesday
Waco Conference Center Upper Level

Scholarship fundraiser!

ORDER TODAY!

<https://www.bonfire.com/tavac-2024-shirts/>



Transition Resources



Visit the website: spedsupport.tea.texas.gov



Visit this website: www.spedtex.org



Visit this website: <https://prntexas.org>

[Special Education Resources](#) | [SPEDTex](#)

Upcoming FREE Conferences

Aligned! 2024: From Child Find to IEP Implementation

✓ ARD/IEP Supports, Child Find, Evaluation, Transition



[Register Today](#)

July 29-30 2024

★ 12 Credits

Texas Statewide Capacity Building Conference

Transition Planning and Pre-Employment Skills Training for Younger Teens with Disabilities

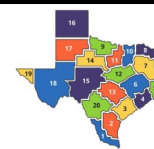
October 7-9, 2024

Frisco, TX



Secondary Transition/Post-School Network

Education Service Center Transition Specialist 2023-24



ESC Region	Name	Address	Phone/Fax	Email
TEA Contact	Elizabeth Danner	1701 N Congress Ave Austin, TX 78701	512/463-9414 512/463-9560	elizabeth.danner@tea.texas.gov
Region 1	Josie Reyes	1900 W. Schunior Rd. Edinburg, TX 78541	956/984-6164 956/984-7632	joreyes@esc1.net
Region 2	Kathleen McNeill-Murch	209 N. Water St. Corpus Christi, TX 78401	361-561-8672 361-883-3442	Kathleen.McNeill-Murch@esc2.us
Region 3	TJ Burke	1905 Leary Lane Victoria, TX 77901	361/573-0731 361/576-4804	tyoung-burke@esc3.net
Region 4	Dr. Theresa Cortney	7145 W. Tidwell Houston, TX 77092	713/744-4470 713/744-6811	theresa.cortney@esc4.net
Region 5	Lauren Peet	350 Pine Street, Suite 500 Beaumont, TX 77701	409/951-1730 409/923-5414	lpeet@esc5.net
Region 6	Suzanne Jones	3332 Montgomery Rd. Huntsville, TX 77340	936/435-8258 936/435-8469	sjones@esc6.net
Region 7	Tracy Johnston	1909 N. Longview St. Kilgore, TX 75662	903/988-6978	tjohnston@esc7.net
Region 8	Jennifer Solomon	4845 U.S. Highway 271 N. Pittsburg, TX 75686-4303	903/575-2762 903/575-2712	jsolomon@region8.net
Region 9	David Hamilton	301 Loop 11 Wichita Falls, TX 76306	940-322-6928 ext. 8286 940/767-3836	David.hamilton@esc9.net
Region 10	Amy Reeves	904 Abrams Richardson, TX 75081	972/348-1754 972/348-1437	amy.reeves@region10.org
Region 11	Carla Johnson	1451 S. Cherry Lane Fort Worth, Texas 76108	817/740-3614 817/740-7684	cjohnson@esc11.net
Region 12	Monica Johnson	2101 W. Loop 340 Waco, TX 76712	254/297-1158 254/666-0823	monica.johnson@esc12.net
Region 13	Chris Nelson	5701 Springdale Rd. Austin, TX 78723	512/919-5182 512/919-5215	chris.nelson@esc13.txed.net
Region 14	Casey Westmoreland	1850 Highway 351 Abilene, TX 79601	325/675-7019 325/675-8659	cwestmoreland@esc14.net
Region 15	Valerie Moos	612 S. Irene St. San Angelo, TX 76903	325/658-6571 325/655-4823	valerie.moos@esc15.net
Region 16	Myra Johnson	5800 Bell Street Amarillo, TX 79109	806/677-5283	myra.johnson@esc16.net
Region 17	Nancy Coffey	1111 West Loop 289 Lubbock, TX 79416	806/281-5876 806/281-5764	ncoffey@esc17.net
Region 18	Mary Groomer	PO Box 60580 Midland, TX 79711	432-561-4338 432/567-3290	mgroomer@esc18.net
Region 19	Leah Wood	6611 Boeing Drive El Paso, TX 79925	915/780-5349 915/780-6534	lwood@esc19.net
Region 20	Sam Gonzalez	1314 Hines Ave. San Antonio, TX 78208	210/370-5467 210/370-5754	samuel.gonzalez@esc20.net

ESC Transition Contact Updates

<https://spedsupport.tea.texas.gov/statewide-contacts?>

TAVAC Breakout Session Presenters

Presenter Name	Company	Email
Stacy Brannon	Irving ISD	sbrannon@irvingisd.net
Brynn Biggs	Sam Houston State University/Project	brynnbiggs@shsu.edu
Jana Bishop	Texas A&M	janabishop@tamu.edu
Josephus Carter	Bryan ISD	joseph.carter@bryanisd.org
Monique Carter		monique@cartertds.com
Casper Grace	Baylor University	grace_casper@baylor.edu
Ticcara Cassell	UNT	ticcara.cassell@unt.edu
Lauren Chenoweth	TWC	lauren.chenoweth@twc.edu
Deanna Clark	Comal ISD	deanna.clark@comalisd.org
Ryan Cole	UNT	ryan.cole@unt.edu
Dr. Theresa Cortney	ESC Region 4	theresa.cortney@esc4.net
Michael Faggella-Luby	TCU	m.faggella-luby@tcu.edu
Aracely Fuentes	UNT	aracely.fuentes@unt.edu
Lucy Gafford	UNT	lucy.gafford@unt.edu
Sam Gonzalez	ESC Region 20/Education Consultant-	samuel.gonzalez@esc20.net
Vanessa Goodson	Texas ABLE	vanessa.Goodson@cpa.texas.gov
Adriane Grace	Grace Law Office	adriane@gracelawoffice.com
Joette Hardin	Texas A&M Program Coordinator	jhardin@tamu.edu
Debbie Harris	Pearland ISD/VAC	harrisd@pearlandisd.org
Glenn Heath	Pearland ISD	glenn.heath@hhs.texas.gov
Jasmine Hernandez		jasmine@wfsolutions.org
Kim Johnson	Workforce Solutions	kimberly.johnson@midwayisd.org
Emily Kirby	Midway ISD	emily.kirby@elitetherapycenter.org
Dana Lewis		dana.lewis@morgans.org
Kari McKown	Elite Therapy Center	kari.mcknown@elitetherapycenter.org
Robin Miller	TAMU	robin.miller@tamu.edu
Dr. Vickie Mitchell		
Chris Nelson	ESC 13	chris.nelson@esc13.txed.net
Karen Oakley		
Amy Reeves	ESC Region 10/Transition Consultant	amy.reeves@region10.org
Mark Sauer	Bitty and Beaus Coffee	msauer@bittyandbeauscoffee.com
Jennifer Solomon	ESC Region 8 Transition Lead	jsolomon@reg8.net
Andrea Stephens	Comal ISD	andrea.stephens@comalisd.org
James Tiggeman	Irving ISD	JTIGGEMAN@irvingisd.net
Melissa Tolier	Endeavours Unlimited	mtoler@endeavoursunlimited.org
Imelda Trevino	Workforce Solutions	Imelda.trevino@workforcesolutionscb.org
Kathy Turner	Bryan ISD	kathy.turne@bryanisd.org
Derrick Wesley	Directed Analytics	dwesley@directedanalytics.com
Sonia White	ETCOG	sonia.white@etcog.org
MacKenzie Wicker	Baylor University	mackenzie_wicker1@baylor.edu
Carrie Williams		
Leah Wood	ESC Region 19/Project Manager	lwood@esc19.net

Map

TAVAC Conference will be located on the upper level only.





RESTAURANTS

Nearby

Steakhouses & BBQ

Diamondbacks
217 Mary Avenue

Cricket's Draffhouse & Grill
211 Mary Avenue

Barnett's Whiskey House
420 Franklin Avenue

Comfort Food

Jake's Texas Tea House
613 Austin Avenue

Schmaltz's Sandwich Shop
105 S. 5th Street #2102

Billy Bob's Burgers
300 S. 2nd Street Suite 102

Olive Branch
215 S. 2nd Street

Twisted Root
801 S. 2nd Street

Milo
1020 Franklin Avenue

Other

Oh my Juicel
201 S. 2nd Street #101

Bitty & Beau's Coffee
110 Franklin Avenue

Italian Food

Pignetti's
401 S. 3rd Street

Portofino's
725 Austin Avenue

Asian Food

Claypot
416 Franklin Avenue

Teryaki Park
220 S. 2nd Street

Bangkok Royale
215 S. University Parks

The Blasian Asian
720 Franklin Avenue

Stonehearth Indian Cafe
506 Austin Avenue

J-Petal and Poke
315 S. University Parks Drive #120

Mexican Food

Ninfas
220 S. 3rd Street

Hecho en Waco
300 S. 6th Street b

Huaco Lounge
112 Mary Avenue #2

Magnolia Brands

Magnolia Market at the Silos
601 Webster Avenue

Silos Baking Company
601 Webster Avenue

Magnolia Press Coffee Co.
418 S. 8th Street

Magnolia Home
418 S. 8th Street

Magnolia Table
2132 S. Valley Mills Drive



Gerald's Work Group 2024

Keniiion Allen - Convention Center

Phillip Auchard - Hilton Housekeeping

Hazael Ebanks - Convention Center

Latreveon Girtman - Hilton Housekeeping

Benjiman Johnson - Hilton Kitchen/Restaurant

Damian Lebran - Hilton Kitchen/Restaurant

This year's interns were able to participate in Summer Earn and Learn (SEAL) at the above conference locations.

Thank you to Texas Workforce Solutions VR, Communities in Schools, The Waco Hilton, & Waco Convention Center for allowing the interns to take one week of their SEAL experience to help facilitate all aspects of our TAVAC Conference and gain invaluable paid work experience this summer! Gerald would be so proud of you all!!

Summer Earn & Learn

Creating Pathways to Employment for
Students with Disabilities

SEAL is a collaborative effort between Texas Workforce Solutions Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VR) and local workforce boards. Its primary aim is to provide students with disabilities the chance to acquire essential job skills and experience through summer employment. But it's more than just a summer job—it's a comprehensive program that equips students with the tools they need to navigate the world of work.

For students with disabilities, SEAL is more than just a summer job—it's a pathway to Independence, confidence, and future success. By providing meaningful work experiences and essential skills training, SEAL unlocks opportunities for students, empowering them to reach their full potential.



Gerald Gawlik, served the Special Education community of Harlandale and San Antonio for 33 years as an advocate for and supporter of students with disabilities. Dedicated to promoting and enhancing services for “his students”, Gerald worked diligently and selflessly to develop programs to assist students in obtaining independence and employment. He continues spirit was felt at every meeting and conference, and you would see him working alongside the students to make sure they were supported. More importantly was what he did behind the scenes. He promoted and worked with business and companies to advocate for students to be hired into real jobs, and be included in the workforce. He never took NO for an answer and started several programs in his community for students with disabilities. Working with TWC, he created the Group Skills Training (GST) at TAVAC for students to be paid and potentially hired at the hosting hotel conference center. The GST will be renamed “Gerald’s Work Group”. He never wanted credit for his work and was just happy seeing the students smile. His impact was not only felt locally but statewide as a board member with TAVAC- a staff run and lead organization of Special Education staff and supporters.

Memories

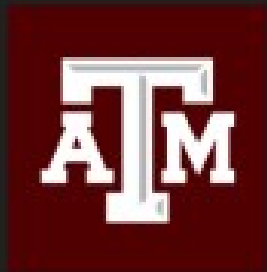


*Save the
Date*

TAVAC

**DECEMBER
3-5, 2025**

50th
ANNIVERSARY



**Texas A&M Hotel and
Conference Center
DOUG PITCOCK '49**

177 Joe Routt Blvd, College Station, TX 77840

Attractions:

***Santa's Wonderland
George Bush Presidential Library
Texas A&M University
Bonfire Memorial
Christmas in the Park
Howdy Holly-Days
Kyle Field***