

# AROUND THE STATE

## Texas Counselors' Network

May 2004  
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[www.texascounselorsnet.org](http://www.texascounselorsnet.org)

### Texas Counselors' Network Assessment

An assessment of the current status and future needs of the Texas Counselors' Network (TCN) project was recently conducted by Educational Consultants Drs. Irma Berry and Molly Boyd in a preliminary report to the TCN Project Advisory Committee February 18, 2004. A condensed summary of the final assessment results is provided below. The completed final report is anticipated to be posted to the TCN website in May 2004.

Assessment surveys were sent to the facilitators of each of the existing 33 networks statewide. The response rate was 85%, with 28 of the 33 networks returning completed surveys. The top three, or four for ties, of five or more choices in each category were tallied and the number of respondents choosing each item is indicated in parentheses below.

#### TCN Features of Most Importance to K-16 Counselors

- Attending professional development workshops (25)
- Sharing information (25)
- Discussing problems/solutions for dealing with students (24)
- Face to face networking opportunities with other counselors (24)

#### TCN Technical Assistance Preferences

- Providing current information related to social issues and educational initiatives for counselors (15)
- Providing training/professional development (13)
- Providing workforce education information (11)

#### TCN Website Information Preferences

- Counselors' activities calendar (18)
- Professional development workshops (16)
- TCN handbook (14)

#### Important TCN Services and Resources

- Networking opportunities via TCN Listserv (13)
- Statewide directory of ISD lead counselors (13)
- Resource material (11)

#### TCN Training Module Preferences

- College admissions/transition issues for Tech Prep Students (19)
- Best practices in counseling/ethics (16)
- Career advising (16)
- PEIMS (16)

#### Local CN Sustainability Plan

Twenty-one of the responding networks reported that Tech Prep provides funding for local network activities, with Tech Prep staff currently administrating 19 of those networks. The responses concerning what will happen if TCN funding is eliminated were as follows:

- Our network would find alternative funding (Tech Prep or other) (18)
- Local activities would cease and we would not participate in the TCN (6)
- Network partners would provide funding (either as registration fees or other) (6)
- My institution would provide some level of funding (4)
- No Response (2)

2003-2004  
Texas School  
Counselor  
Association  
Counselors  
of the Year

see page 6

Coming  
Fall 2004

Counselors' Network  
Newsletters will be  
available *only* online.



For more information,  
check us out on the web:  
[www.techpreptexas.org](http://www.techpreptexas.org)



# TEXAS ROUND-UP

## Concho Valley

The Concho Valley Partnership has secured Go Centers for each of the high schools in the Concho Valley Region. The Partnership and the Concho Valley Counselors are working to schedule Go Training for each of the high schools. For more information, please call **Cynthia Lackey** at 325-481-8340.

## Coastal Bend

The Coastal Bend Counselors' Network/Tech Prep Consortium hosted a regional counselors workshop on September 26, 2003.

**Ms. Debra Mills**, CORD, presented "From Twinkles to Wrinkles" to over 150 secondary and post-secondary counselors.

Participants rated the workshop "excellent" with the Statistics and Labor Market Information for the Coastal Bend Region being the most highly rated element of the presentation.

The Coastal Bend Counselors' Network/Tech Prep Consortium has hosted over five counselor workshops and more are planned for the future.

## East Texas

Our fall workshop was held at the University of Texas at Tyler on Oct. 30, 2003. Our theme this year was "Be A Lifesaver," and our keynote speaker was State Representative **Glenda Dawson** from Pearland, Texas. **Ms. Dawson** was a business teacher for 33 years before retiring. Her presentation - "Be A Lifesaver" - was both motivational and informational. Additional topics at the workshop were Higher Education Opportunities at the University of Texas at Tyler, presented by **Dr. Tommy Gilbreath**, Associate Professor at the university. **Dr. Gilbreath** presented information about scholarship opportunities and Tech Prep community

college graduates moving seamlessly to four-year universities.

Each counselor received the latest version of "Earning College Credit in Texas High Schools," and **Doris Sharp**, Executive Director of the East Texas Tech Prep Consortium, presented information on Advanced Technical Credit training and PEIMS coding.

Lunch was served and campus tours followed. Approximately 60 counselors attended the workshop.

## Grayson Community College

The Tech Prep office is excited to announce a professional development opportunity. A grant-writing seminar will be offered at Grayson County College in the faculty lounge on April 28 from 9:00a.m. -12:00p.m.

**Dr. Jan Elias** has agreed to present the workshop that will cover writing basics for educational professionals. In the course of the presentation the following topics will be discussed:

- Reasons for grant writing
- Proposal components
- The grant writing process
- Research funding sources
- Details that need attention
- Benefit to student

**Dr. Elias** has a Ph.D. From the University of North Texas, an MFA from the University of Georgia and a BFA from Berry College. **Dr. Elias** has taught at the college level, administered educational programs, and served as a grant coordinator and director of resources. Over the past 20 years **Dr. Elias** has written many successful grants for art organizations, secondary and post-secondary educational institutions, and community organizations.

We will be eager to hear if you would be interested in attending. Space is limited so please rsvp as soon as possible.

## Weatherford College

The Weatherford College Counselors' Network held this year's Winter Workshop February 19, 2004. The workshop agenda kicked off with a legislative update presentation by **Rob Franks**, Director of Perkins Grants Administration for the state of Texas. College staff provided informational sessions covering the following student transition issues: career assessment, college financial aid, student outreach, recruitment, special populations, dual credit, Tech Prep, and the Texas TWO-STEP project. The luncheon keynote speaker was Weatherford police officer **David Foreman** who addressed the issue of "Gangs in Schools." Career exploration breakout sessions were held during the afternoon and the workshop concluded with the presentation "Employer Expectations" by **Moneisa Downs**, Director of the Texas Workforce Center in Weatherford

## West Central Texas

**Dr. Tony E. Roach** was the speaker for the West Central Texas Tech Prep Counselor's Network Workshop on February 17, 2004. **Dr. Roach** holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Science from Hiram College, Hiram, Ohio. Additionally he has a Master of Science degree in Ministry and Evangelism and a Doctor of Ministry degree in Marriage and Family from Abilene Christian University Abilene, Texas. **Dr. Roach** received training in "Social Values Framework Process" under Dr. Lewis E. Lemmond, who is an Educational Consultant at McMurry College, Abilene, Texas. **Dr. Roach** currently serves as the Minister for the Minda Street Church of Christ in Abilene, Texas. In addition, he serves as Chairman and CEO of a training program and curriculum called God's Love Bank Enterprises. It is a research

institute for developing New Self-Love in human beings of all ages, ethnic groups, and cultures.

The 33 school counselors and community service participants who attended the workshop were inspired by **Dr. Roach's** topic regarding "How to Find Purpose in Today's World." Additionally, **Mr. Fitz Husbands**, Assistant Director of West Central Texas Tech Prep spoke on "Tech Prep...It's a Team Effort!" Lunch was served by the Hendrick Home for Children.

#### Upcoming Events

Central Texas Tech Prep Consortium will sponsor a workshop for the Central Texas Counselors' Network on Friday,

April 23, 2004, at Central Texas College. The theme for the workshop is "Successful Transitions – College is for Everyone."

Retired **Gen. Robert Shoemaker** will speak on the Central Texas Two Step Program and **Dr. F. Andrew Wolf** of Temple College will discuss the TRIO Program. About 20 representatives from Central Texas College and Temple College will participate in a panel discussion of college technical programs and their requirements. Following lunch, **Dr. Karen Closs-Bleeker**, Vice President of Educational Services at Temple College, will speak on the importance of college for everyone.

## Who's New at TCN!



**Teresa "Terry" Brock**

**Teresa Brock**, Project Coordinator – "Terry" joined the TCN staff this past September. She has worked in the Office of Resource Development and Strategic Initiatives at Weatherford College since 1998. Terry can be contacted at 817-598-6348 or by e-mail at [tbrock@wc.edu](mailto:tbrock@wc.edu).



**Sandra "Sandy" Colvin**

**Sandra Colvin**, Administrative Assistant – "Sandy" has been with Weatherford College approximately two years, having formerly worked with the Teacher Certification Program. Sandy can be contacted at 817-598-6459 or by e-mail at [scolvin@wc.edu](mailto:scolvin@wc.edu).

Have you ever wanted to find an answer to a burning question in a hurry?

How about learning of best practices in the counseling field?

To subscribe to the TCN Listserve, go to [www.texascounselorsnet.org](http://www.texascounselorsnet.org) and click on the link "Listserve" then follow the instructions.

\* Links to External Sites should be considered informational. These links have not been formally endorsed by Weatherford College or Texas Counselors' Network.

## Helpful Websites

*for counselors...*

[www.tea.state.tx.us/guidance](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/guidance) is for TEA School Guidance and Counseling information.

[www.ed.gov/nclb/landing.jhtml?src=fb](http://www.ed.gov/nclb/landing.jhtml?src=fb) is for information on No Child Left Behind from the U.S. Dept. of Education.

[www.geocities.com/txsca](http://www.geocities.com/txsca) is the Texas School Counselor Assoc. Their new website is under construction and will be [www.txsca.org](http://www.txsca.org). TXSCA is a division of the Texas Counseling Assoc. ([www.txca.org](http://www.txca.org)).

[www.schoolcounselor.org](http://www.schoolcounselor.org) is the American School Counselor Assoc.

[www.counseling.org](http://www.counseling.org) is the American Counseling Assoc. It has an abundance of resources for all counselors.

*for students...*

[www.wiredscholar.com](http://www.wiredscholar.com) allows you to apply for many awards online.

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) can match you up with thousands of awards, database is updated daily.

[www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com) gives you information on numerous scholarships and funding sources.

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) provides a college and scholarship search guide along with practice tests for the SAT/PSAT.

[www.act.org](http://www.act.org) gives advice and practice tests for the ACT.

[www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov) gives you direct information about various funding sources.

[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) apply for financial aid online - it's free and even saves you the cost of the postage!

The Texas Counselors' Network Leadership Project is funded by the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Division of Community and Technical Colleges. The project is under the leadership and guidance of the following:

**PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Dr. Michael Altekruse**  
*University of North Texas, Denton*

**Dr. Arleen Atkins**  
*Weatherford College, Weatherford*

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*TX Higher Educ. Coordinating Board, Austin*

**Dr. Jane Holland**  
*Stephen F. Austin University, Nacadoches*

**Candy Slocum**  
*INTERLINK, Dallas-Fort Worth Airport*

**Robert Starke**  
*El Paso Community College, El Paso*

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

PROJECT ADVISOR  
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PROJECT STAFF  
**Dr. Shirley Chenault**, Project Director  
**Teresa Brock**, Project Coordinator  
**Sandy Colvin**, Administrative Assistant

**Linda Hutton**, Editor

**Did you know ?**

Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was published March 20, 1852. It was the first American novel to sell one million copies.

and

Dr. Seuss wrote "Green Eggs and Ham" after his editor dared him to write a book using fewer than 50 different words.

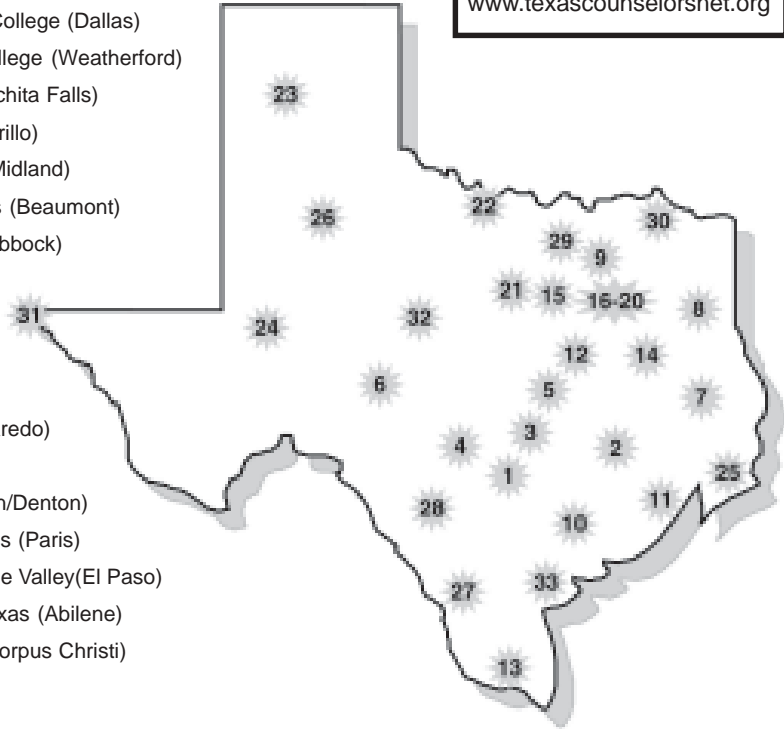
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# TEXAS COUNSELORS' NETWORK

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- 11 • Gulf Coast (Houston)
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- 14 • Navarro College (Corsicana)
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- 17 • Brookhaven College (Farmers Branch)
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- 29 • Texoma (Denison/Denton)
- 30 • Upper East Texas (Paris)
- 31 • Upper Rio Grande Valley(El Paso)
- 32 • West Central Texas (Abilene)
- 33 • Coastal Bend (Corpus Christi)



<p><b>19 • EASTFIELD COLLEGE (MESQUITE)</b> <b>Patsy Caropresi</b>, Director, Career Services Eastfield College, 3737 Motley Drive Mesquite, Texas 75150-2099 (972) 860-7038, (972) 860-8326 FAX pcaropresi@dcccd.edu</p>	<p><b>20 • MOUNTAIN VIEW COLLEGE (DALLAS)</b> <b>John Pruitt</b>, Dean, Student Support Svcs. Mountain View College 4849 W. Illinois Ave., Dallas, TX 75211 (214) 860-8591, (214) 860-8704 FAX jrp6500@dcccd.edu</p>	<p><b>21 • WEATHERFORD COLLEGE</b> <b>Linda Hutton</b>, Tech Prep Support Specialist Weatherford College Tech Prep Consortium 225 College Park Dr., Weatherford, TX 76086 (817) 598-6336, (817) 598-6210 FAX lhutton@wc.edu</p>
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# Time to TWO-STEP

By David Russell, Ph.D.

Weatherford College Tech Prep Coordinator

Employers continue to place a premium on skills and higher education due to the increasing demand of the 21<sup>st</sup> century job market. While occupations that require two-year associate in applied science (AAS) degrees continue to be one of the fastest growing areas, earning a bachelor's degree is essential to obtaining a high-paying job. The Texas TWO-STEP Project is an innovative seamless transfer project that offers technical students the same opportunities long enjoyed by associate of arts/science degreed students; namely, the prestige and increased marketability gained by earning a bachelor's degree.

Technical students face almost insurmountable barriers to earning a bachelor's degree since universities typically do not accept technical transfer credits. Consequently, representatives from Collin County Community College, Dallas County Community College, Navarro College, Tarrant County College, Weatherford College, and the University of Texas at Arlington created the UTA/Community College Transfer Program Texas TWO-STEP Project to ensure that all qualified students earn bachelor degrees. The Consortium was formed in 2002 and is funded by the Carl D. Perkins Education Act of 1998 through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The project is called the *TWO-STEP* (Technology Workforce Opportunities through Seamless Transitions and Educational Partnerships) because it

offers a seamless, no-penalty transition for technical students from high school to community college (step 1), and from the community college to the university to earn an *academic* bachelor's degree at the University of Texas at Arlington (step 2). High school students earn community college credits through Tech Prep and then, after earning their associate degree, transfer up to 24 hours of approved technical coursework from the community college, in addition to the general education core of 44 hours, to earn a BA/BS degree in Interdisciplinary Studies or a BA/BS degree from the College of Science at UTA. The project, therefore, provides a *convergence* of academic and technical pathways to prepare students for today's demanding job market.

Outreach Coordinators serve each consortium member campus by informing staff and faculty about the initiative and facilitating the transfer of interested technical students to UTA. Outreach Coordinators also work in partnership with College Tech Prep staff to illuminate existing pathways for technical high school students that lead to two-year A.A.S. degrees at the community colleges. The Texas Counselors' Network also serves as a delivery vehicle to inform high school counselors about these unique opportunities.

Technical students are already taking advantage of these opportunities. Seven students have graduated from UTA since the project's inception. Sixty-three

technical students were enrolled in UTA's Interdisciplinary Studies Program in the fall of 2003, a 142% increase from the twenty-six students enrolled in fall 2002. The project also has welcomed Howard College, Temple College, Vernon College, and the College of the Mainland into the consortium. The consortium anticipates the addition of universities and/or the modeling of the project statewide to other major universities and community colleges.

Dr. Shirley Chenault, WC Dean of Resource Development, secured financial support for the project from Carl D. Perkins funds through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and serves as a member of the Texas TWO-STEP steering committee. "This project is so unique because of UTA's willingness to accept selected technical hours into an *academic* degree program. This sets it apart from the BAAS or BAT technology degrees that have been around for quite some time," said Chenault.

Bettye Hutchins, UTA Project Coordinator for the Texas TWO-STEP Project stated, "The TWO-STEP allows technical students educational opportunities that were unavailable to them prior to the project." Dr. Cubie Ward, Director of the project and UTA's Interdisciplinary Studies Program, said, "This collaborative, educational partnership has made sure that all qualified students now have access to traditional four-year degrees."

## Spotlight on.....

### 2003-2004 TSCA Counselors of the Year

#### Elementary School

##### Judy Williams

Judy is in her fifth year as counselor at Joy James Elementary in Ft. Worth ISD. During her tenure, she began a Star Student Program to help students improve self-esteem, helped organize canned food drives, organized weekly parenting sessions, organized Dad's Play Days to get more fathers involved, held a Career Day each year, and also helped write a Career Day Grant. Her principal, Dr. Conita Cramer, said, "I have never worked with any counselor who has spent more time meeting the needs of others than Judy Williams."

#### Intermediate School

##### Gladys Cooper

Gladys is a counselor at James S. Hogg Middle School in Tyler and has been a member of TSCA and TCA since 1973. In addition to her regular counseling activities, she coordinates the peer mediation program and is the campus liaison for an after-school program. Her school houses the International Baccalaureate Magnet Program and also has students from the local Care Shelter, the Salvation Army, the Crisis Center, and Boot Camp. Gladys was nominated by the Piney Woods Counseling Association.

#### High School

##### Gail Roaten

Gail is a counselor at Rockport-Fulton High School in Rockport, and she was nominated by the Gulf Coast Counseling Association. Gail has taught Teen Leadership for four years at night, without pay, to help high school students improve leadership skills and earn an extra one-half credit, has taught stress management to homemaking classes, teaches a teenage Bible class, and supervises counselor interns. She encourages her students to do volunteer work such as mentoring and working with camps for the handicapped.

## Counseling Students on Higher Education

SB 158 requires that each counselor at an elementary, middle or junior high school, including an open-enrollment charter school offering those grades, advise students and their parents or guardians regarding the importance of higher education, coursework designed to prepare students for higher education and financial aid availability and requirements.

During the first school year a student is enrolled in a high school or at the high school level in an open-enrollment charter school, and again during a student's senior year, a counselor shall provide information about higher education to the student and the student's parent or guardian. Counselors must include information regarding:

- 1) The importance of higher education
- 2) The advantages of completing the recommended or higher high school program
- 3) The disadvantages of taking courses to prepare for a high school equivalency examination relative to the benefits of taking courses leading to a high school diploma
- 4) Financial aid eligibility
- 5) Instruction on how to apply for federal financial aid
- 6) The center for financial aid information
- 7) The automatic admission to institutions of higher education of the top 10% of students who graduate from high school
- 8) The eligibility and academic performance requirements for the Toward Excellence, Access and Success (TEXAS) Grant Program

To read the bill in its entirety go to:

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlo/77r/billtext/SB00158F.HTM>

This article was obtained from: [www.schoolcounselor.org/library](http://www.schoolcounselor.org/library)

## Legislative Updates

**It's Official:** On Monday Feb. 2, 2004, the Senate agreed by Unanimous Consent to Senate Resolution 292, designating the week beginning Feb. 2, 2004, "National School Counseling Week." This is truly exciting news for school counselors, as this is the first time a National School Counseling Week resolution has been officially recognized by the U.S. Senate. Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) was the primary sponsor of the resolution; please write Murray to thank her for her work on the resolution.

The Honorable Patty Murray  
United States Senate  
173 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

This article was obtained from:  
[www.schoolcounselor.org/library](http://www.schoolcounselor.org/library)

## Bush's Education Budget for 2005

On Feb. 2, President Bush delivered his fiscal year 2005 budget to Capitol Hill. Given all the preview speeches and articles, it offered few surprises but was still shocking in the depth of cuts and program eliminations that it proposed. For the Department of Education, the proposal, as advertised, would increase funding for Title I, IDEA and the Pell Grant program by \$1 billion each. Although the vast majority of programs would be frozen at the fiscal year 2005 level, several would sustain large reductions. Most notable is a 33 percent reduction for the Carl Perkins Career and Technical Education Act.

The list of 38 program eliminations is a long one. It includes such items as gifted and talented education, drop out prevention, the national writing project,

school counseling, arts in education and smaller learning communities. Although funding for the No Child Left Behind Act is held at 1.8 percent, the overall increase for the department is held at 3 percent, the smallest increase in seven years. Several popular initiatives, such as Teacher Quality Enhancements, the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program and Impact Aid, are frozen for the third year in a row.

For a comprehensive list of proposed funding levels for the Department of Education for FY05 go to: <http://www.schoolcounselor.org/library/budget%202005.xls>.

This article was obtained from:  
[www.schoolcounselor.org/library](http://www.schoolcounselor.org/library).

## The Suggestion Box



Has something exciting happened in your area? Did you have a special speaker at a workshop that you would like to share? Maybe you have an idea about a future article. Has someone in your area received an award or honor for counseling? Do you have any suggestions for information that you would like to see included in this publication?

If you would like articles or upcoming events for your area or network posted in our newsletter, please email the information to Linda Hutton at [lhutton@wc.edu](mailto:lhutton@wc.edu).

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Texas Counselors' Network

- May 2, 2004 • TSCA Pre-Conference Workshop (Elementary)  
Austin, TX
- May 2-4, 2004 • 35th Annual Elementary School Counselors  
Conference #2, Austin, TX  
go to [www.tea.state.tx.us/guidance](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/guidance) for more  
information
- June 3, 2004 • Weatherford College Counselors' Network Workshop  
Weatherford College, Weatherford, TX
- June 10-11, 2004 • Global EDGE "Technology in Education Summit (TIES II)"  
Plano, Texas
- October 13-16, 2004 • NTPN Conference  
Minneapolis, Minnesota
- November 3-6, 2004 • Texas Counselor Association Professional Growth Conf.  
Fort Worth, Texas



**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!**

**2004 NTPN  
Conference**

**October 13-16  
Hilton Minneapolis  
Minneapolis, MN  
[www.ntpn.info](http://www.ntpn.info)**

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