2024 TAFE Teach Tomorrow Summit

Press Release

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ chapter of Texas Association of Future Educators (TAFE) attended the TAFE Teach Tomorrow Summit at Kalahari Resort, in Round Rock, TX, February 28-March 1, 2024. TAFE is a statewide co-curricular Career and Technical Student Organization created to allow young men and women an opportunity to explore the teaching profession. Attendees to this three-day conference included members of TAFE, which consisted of approximately 3,400+ students, interested in becoming educators. The conference gave these students the opportunity to meet others from around the state with the same interests, gain an understanding of what it takes to be a successful college student, and learn the skills necessary for becoming a successful educator.

This year’s conference theme was “Say Aloha to Teaching” and we were able to celebrate TAFE’s 40th birthday! Students heard from Bavu Blakes, a Scholar Emcee deliberately walking through the intersection of Hip Hop, education, and spirituality. A former middle school Humanities instructor, he is an award-winning teaching artist who constructs and conducts keynote speeches, interactive learning sessions, and multimedia projects. Students also heard from Julie Schniers, a former high school speech and debate coach. She concentrates on fostering connections through effective communication, building relationships, goal setting, and instilling confidence. She crafts narratives that inspire others to place people at the heart of their mission, where you will find your greatest potential.

TAFE’s mission is to encourage students to learn about careers in education and assist them in exploring the teaching profession while promoting character, service, and leadership skills necessary for becoming effective educators. The meeting featured a series of breakout sessions and general sessions in which members had opportunities to develop these skills. 120 students were recognized and celebrated as they declared Education as their major at over 50 different universities.

While at the conference, many of the members participated in competitive events. The competitive events are designed to offer future educators exciting, authentic opportunities to measure their creativity, skills, and initiative against high standards and against their peers from across the state. There are 37 competitive events and 24 of those events advance to nationals. The students who placed in the top 10 in each of the national events have the opportunity to compete at the Educators Rising National Conference, June 28-July 1, in Washington, D.C.

On Friday afternoon, the new officer team for 2024-2025 was elected to continue the mission of TAFE and to inspire “The Hope for Tomorrow.”

“It is my hope students found a connection, and home amongst other students in Texas who are just as passionate about becoming teachers as they are,” Monica Oliver, TAFE State Program Director.