

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF FUTURE EDUCATORS

A BIG TAFE THANK YOU!

Presenters:

Clark High School TAFE Chapter

Mike Richardson

TAFE Area Coordinators

Jerri Cox

Carrie Swisher

Connie Thornell

Joe Thornell

TAFE Interns

Journey Harris

Jacque Roe

TAFE State Officers and Teacher Leaders:

Jaxon Tomlinson Cleburne HS

Vanessa Buttler, Cleburne ISD

Katelyn Cooksy, Opportunity Central, Forney ISD

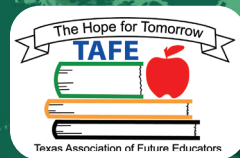
Shellie Massengale, Opportunity Central, Forney ISD

Live Kutev, Denton HS

Zen Gamboa, Denton ISD

Cooper Sykes, Dumas HS

Nallely Pinon, Dumas HS



www.tafeonline.org

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF FUTURE EDUCATORS

TEACHER LEADER'S WORKSHOP

July 13-14, 2026 | Hilton Austin Downtown

Exploring the
Wilderness of Teaching

MONDAY, JULY 13

All Sessions Are In Room 400

9:00a-11:00a Registration

10:00a-11:45a New Teacher Leader Orientation Part I

• **Monica Shaw, TAFE State Director**

This session is for new advisors and will answer the basic questions about setting up your chapter, charging dues, developing a constitution, electing officers, and defining your role in the school community. Part 2 on Tuesday morning

12:00p-1:15p.....Luncheon/First General Session

• **Lunch / Welcome / Introductions / Officers / TAFE Updates**

1:30p-2:30p..... Breakout Session I

• **TAFE Survivor Part 1: Outwit, Outplay, Out Serve Through TRAFLES**

Bringing the excitement of Survivor to your campus with TAFE Survivor, an engaging chapter project that challenges future educators to use creativity, leadership, teamwork, and service while promoting the seven TRAFLES areas. Students are divided into “tribes” and embark on a wilderness-inspired adventure filled with challenges, competitions, and community-building activities.

2:45p-3:45p Breakout Session 2

• **TAFE Survivor Part 2 - Connie Thornell, Area Coordinator**

Bringing the excitement of Survivor to your campus with TAFE Survivor, an engaging chapter project that challenges future educators to use creativity, leadership, teamwork, and service while promoting the seven TRAFLES areas. Students are divided into “tribes” and embark on a wilderness-inspired adventure filled with challenges, competitions, and community-building activities.

4:00p-4:45p Breakout Session 3

• **Preparing Students for TAFE Competitions - Monica Hunter and Kim Gorman, Caney Creek HS**

Explore paths students can take to prepare for upcoming competitions with TAFE. Let us be your guide through the peaks and valleys of navigating the preparation of your campers for TAFE competitions.

Notes: _____

TUESDAY, JULY 14

All Sessions Are In Room 400

8:00a-9:15a..... New Teacher Leader Orientation, Part 2

• **Monica Shaw, TAFE State Director**

This session is designed to help new teacher leaders by providing methods and tools for conducting meetings and events including agendas and planners; membership recruitment, marketing, and recognition; utilizing competitive events; as well as online resources and device apps.

9:30a-10:15a..... Breakout Session 4

• **Park Ranger Training - Journey Harris and Jacque Roe, TAFE Interns**

Join TAFE interns, Journey and Jacque, for a hands-on ranger experience for teacher leaders preparing for the year ahead. Through team missions and real-world scenarios, participants will earn badges while building leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills for the education wilderness.

10:30a-11:15a..... Breakout Session 5

• **Guiding the Way: Coach Rich’s Tips for New TAFE Teacher Leaders - Mike Richardson, Rusk HS**

Join Coach Rich as he shares practical advice and tools to help ease your transition into a confident, empowered TAFE Teacher Leader. Whether you’re brand new or looking for a refresher, this session offers insights that make the journey smoother and more successful.

11:30a-12:30p..... Breakout Session 6

• **From Trailhead to Success: Planning Your Year with TRAFLES! - Clark HS TAFE Chapter**

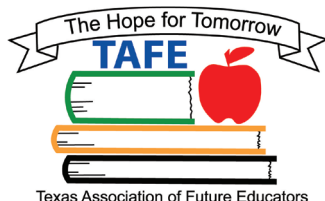
Pack your gear and join us as we map a clear path to chapter success with the help of the TRAFLES Framework! Led by student officers, this interactive session will provide real-world examples of how an active and thriving chapter can use TRAFLES to engage members, develop leaders, and create meaningful opportunities throughout the year. Students will share officer expectations, honor cord requirements, successful chapter activities, and lessons learned from their own experiences. Teacher leaders will leave with a roadmap for success as they map out their own chapter’s journey using the TRAFLES framework. Through guided planning and collaboration, participants will have dedicated time to develop a customized yearlong calendar that includes at least two intentional activities for each TRAFLES category, tailored to the unique needs of their chapter and school community. Attendees will leave with implementation steps, planned dates, and practical ideas they can use immediately to create a well-rounded, impactful TAFE chapter.

12:30p-2:30p.....Luncheon/Third General Session

• **State Officer Activity /TAFE Updates/ Q & A**

Notes: _____





Texas Association of Future Educators 2026-2027 AREA CONFERENCES AND CONTACT INFORMATION



AREA - PRESIDENT / SCHOOL	PRESIDENT TEACHER LEADER	DATE / LOCATION	AREA COORDINATOR / EMAIL
1 - Jaelynn Palacios, Veterans Memorial HS & Zoe Vasquez, Skidmore Tynan HS	Natalie Gomez & Corina Garcia	Nov. 7 @ Veterans Memorial HS - Mission	TBA
2 - Sunny Henry, Anne Frank Inspire Academy	Stephanie Padilla	Nov. 14 @ Texas A&M Victoria	TBA
3 - Maebry Kraatz, San Marcos High School	Emily Buchtien	Dec. 5 @ ACC Highland Campus	Carrie Swisher / tafeswisher3@gmail.com
4 - Moises Discua, Spring High School	LaKeisha Taylor	Nov. 13 @ Lone Star College-University Park	Connie Thornell / cthornel@yahoo.com
5 - Cheyenne Davenport, Bellville High School	Christy Jacob	Nov. 2 @ Sam Houston	Connie Thornell / cthornel@yahoo.com
6 - Lindsey Hayes, Sulphur Springs High School	Debbie Stribling	Dec. 4 @ Texas A&M Texarkana	Ann Grimes / grimesae81@gmail.com
7 - Emily Buck, Central High School	Scarlet Rodriguez	Dec. 4 @ McMurray University	Jerri Cox / jerri.cox@att.net
8 - Landry Whitworth, Silverton High School	Nikki Gamble	Nov. 7 @ West Texas A&M University	Carrie Swisher / tafeswisher3@gmail.com
9 - Gabriel Alvvarado, Bowie High School	Lexly Davis	Nov. 7 @ Fabens High School	Connie Thornell / cthornel@yahoo.com
10 - Sydney Powell, Central High School	Farrah Dickens	Nov. 14 @ Tarleton State Univ @Ft. Worth	Jerri Cox / jerri.cox@att.net
11 - Aylin Gonzalez, West Mesquite High School	Shelbi McKenny	Nov. 14 @ Dallas Baptist University	Ann Grimes / grimesae81@gmail.com

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Teacher Leader Workshop: July 13-14 @ Hilton Austin Downtwon
- FCSTAT Conference: July 13-17 @ Hilton Austin Downtown
- Area Conference Registration @ October 1 - 16
- Deadline for State and National Affiliation: November 1
- 43rd Teach Tomorrow Summit Registration:
 - Early Bird Registration: December 14 - January 29
 - Late Registration: January 30 - February 19
- State Officer and Board of Director Applications Due: January 15 @ 5pm CST
- Prescoring Window: February 1-5
- Competition Time Sign up: January 26-28
- 43rd Teach Tomorrow Summit: March 4-6 @ San Antonio Convention Center
- EdRising Conference: June 17-20 @ Columbus, Ohio

FALL WORKSHOP DATES AND LOCATIONS:

- Area 1 - N/A
- Area 2 - Sept. 26 @ CAST Teach @JP Steven's High School
- Area 3 - Sept. 12 @ San Marcos High School
- Area 4 - Sept. 18 @ Lone Star College- University Park
- Area 5 - Sept. 25 @ Lone Star College- Montgomery
- Area 6 - Sept. 23 @ Region 8 Service Center
- Area 7 -
- Area 8 - N/A
- Area 9 - N/A
- Area 10 -
- Area 11 - Aug. 29 @ Wylie High School
- Virtual Fall Workshop: September 16 1:30-3:30p