

# TACRAO NEWS

WINTER 2023

## *2023 Conference Recap Special Edition*



***“We hope you leave with better connections,  
new ideas, and a desire to innovate your  
students to success.”***

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# Message from the President



**Bobbie Brown**  
*President*  
Texas Tech University

I hope you all had a wonderful time at TACRAO 2023 in Denton! It was so nice seeing colleagues and friends and spending several days together catching up and sharing ideas.

I want to give a hearty **THANK YOU to all TACRAO Volunteers!**

Your TACRAO organization is efficient and productive because of YOU! We have so many awesome volunteers that participated in association business during the year and at the 2023 conference:

Standing Committees:	94 volunteers
Session Planning Committees:	51 volunteers
Local Arrangements Committee:	70 volunteers
TACRAO 2023 Presenters:	152 volunteers
TACRAO 2023 Facilitators:	70 volunteers
Executive Committee:	12 volunteers

And the grand total is **449!** This is an astounding number of volunteers! I appreciate each of you.

And to all of you who volunteered to lead our organization into 2024, thank you for giving your time freely to an organization that will give back to you professionally and personally. We have much work ahead of us, but I have no doubt we will get it done accurately, quickly, and with a big smile!

I would be remiss to exclude SACRAO and AACRAO. Our sister organizations provide excellent opportunities for professional development and connection-making across the United States. Please mark these dates and try to attend to represent TACRAO well:

## **SACRAO 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

February 3 – 7, 2024

Lexington, Kentucky

Link: <https://www.sacrao.org/2024-conference>

## **AACRAO 109<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

April 7 – 10, 2024

Columbus, Ohio

Link: <https://www.aacrao.org/events-training/meetings/annual-meeting>

Life is all about connections. Make your connection in TACRAO and SACRAO and AACRAO! If you haven't volunteered, get to it! TACRAO 2024 – San Marcos will be here before you know it!

**Bobbie Brown**  
TACRAO President





## Reed's Ramblings

I'm certain this will be a theme in some of the other updates you'll read, but man...what a conference that was! I'm still smiling from that Big Event and am still going through all the notes I took. It's a bit surreal to write my first article as your new President Elect but I'm extremely excited to begin this new adventure.

Let me take this opportunity to personally thank all of our session presenters. Your expertise is one of the primary ingredients that makes this conference so special and you showed up in force this year. I had a **first-time attendee** pull me aside at one point after a session and remark about how **she had learned more in her first day at a TACRAO conference than she had in her whole first year in her job**. That's the kind of stuff that ought to make you want to volunteer all over again!

If you're interested in presenting there is no reason to wait until the call goes out for next year to let us know. For those of you who loved it and want to present again, we want you. For those of you who are finally ready to take that leap, we want you. For those who aren't sure you're ready yet, don't sweat it. We'll help you get ready and we want you.

The **session proposal** link can be found at the bottom of the TACRAO homepage or directly at [this link](#). You can also find a place to suggest your session at the bottom of the ["I'm Available"](#) for while you're raising your hand for other volunteer opportunities.

Always know that all of us on the TACRAO Executive Committee are here to help and if you've got questions on anything from possible session topics, how to get involved, or anything else related to the organization we'd love to talk to you.

Stay strong out there and keep the faith. The holiday break is coming soon!

**Chris Reed**

President-Elect



**Chris Reed**  
*President-Elect*  
*Texas A&M University*



# Congratulations New Honorary Members!



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***Bobbie Fry***  
*University of the Incarnate Word*

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***Chris Gore***  
*Kilgore College*

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***Sherry Waldon Wells***  
*Lamar University*

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# THANK YOU

## Denton Local Arrangements Committee!

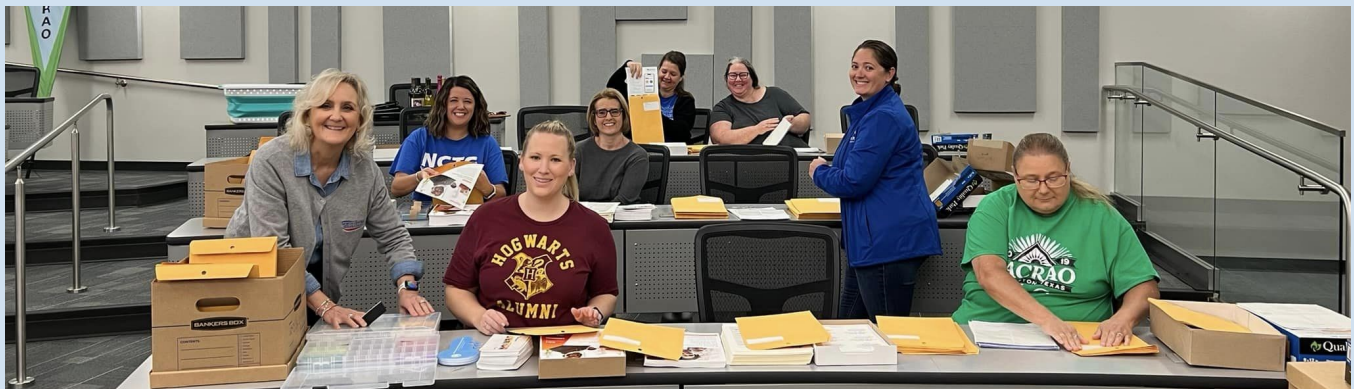


Kate Richardson, Co-chair  
Samantha Taylor, Co-chair  
Rene Andre  
Angela Balch  
Jennifer Beal  
Meagan Bibb  
Rhonda Bolton  
Nancy Bramlet  
Natasha Brown-Lewelling  
Zuemy Castillo  
Cristal Cervantes  
Jordan Collard  
Cheyenne Conkin  
Cassandra Cove  
Zac Dockins  
Debbie Dunn

Ruth Espinoza  
Kenneth Evans  
Erinn Farrell  
Ashley Fleeke  
Luis Franco  
Sarah Garay  
Beverly Goddard  
Mitzie Goff  
Jason Hale  
Sharese Harris  
Alex Holland  
Amy Hurley  
Anam Iqbal  
Zaria Kelley  
Tiffany Lipscomb  
Casandra Luna

Ashley Mason  
Hannah McDonald  
Kayla McDowell  
Regina Middleton  
Peyton Mitchell  
Virginia Monk  
Caroline Moon  
Colleen Moore  
Rudy Obregon  
Kenzie Osteen  
Alex Perez  
Rebeca Perfecto  
Ana Pina  
Pete Portillo  
Vikas Rajpurohit  
Becki Rathfon

Mackenzie Reiter  
Andi Repp  
Jodie Rexroat  
Darrah Rippy  
Noel Rodriguez  
Victoria Salazar  
Krystal Sawyer  
John Spencer  
Melissa Stanford  
Stephanie Stephens  
JJ Thompson  
Patrick Vasquez  
Casey Weatherly  
Val White  
Denny Yarborough  
Autumn Young



“Therefore, let it be resolved that Sam Taylor, Kate Richardson, and the entire LAC committee be congratulated on an extraordinary event!”

- 2023 Resolutions Committee



# Don Palermo 5K Fun Run



## 1st Place

*Female:* Andrea Wiste, 30:25

*Male:* Eric Gumm, 33:22

## 2nd Place

*Female:* Meagen Bibb, 33:22

*Male:* Allen Garcia-Martinez, 45:07

## The Prestigious & Honored Dead Ass Last Award

*Female:* Frances Kelly

*Male:* Allen Garcia-Martinez



## Moments from Melinda



**Melinda Carroll**  
Past President  
North Central Texas College

It brings me great joy to announce that the **102<sup>nd</sup> TACRAO conference held in Denton, Texas** was a resounding success, boasting an impressive turnout of over 600 attendees, with 287 new members. I extend my sincere appreciation to all who contributed to making the conference an exceptional and memorable event.

I am delighted to share that the Newcomers event yielded remarkable results, with TACRAO receiving over 90 **I'm Available forms** submitted during the conference. The challenge posed was met with enthusiasm by both our new and seasoned TACRAO members by volunteering. A special thanks goes to Past President, **Paige Bussell** and the Newcomers Committee, including **Justin Schilke**, **Virginia Monk**, and **Breanne Ashmore**, for their dedicated efforts in ensuring the event's success for all members, especially our Newcomers.

The wealth of knowledge shared during the various sessions was truly enlightening, and it was wonderful to see everyone come together. I encourage you to take a moment to complete the **conference and session evaluations** in Guidebook. Your feedback is invaluable and instrumental in enhancing future conferences.

Remember, your active participation is what contributes to TACRAO's ongoing success. There is still an opportunity to get involved by completing the **I'm Available form**, submitting a session proposal, and sharing your feedback with the conference evaluation.

Wishing you a safe and joyous holiday season!

**Melinda Carroll**  
Past President





# Conference Highlights

## Welcome Newcomers!



## 282 First-Time Attendees!



### CONGRATULATIONS

to the winner of the Newcomer Scavenger Hunt drawing and a **FREE** registration to the 2024 TACRAO Conference in San Marcos!

**Ruth Espinoza**  
Tarrant County College



# Conference Highlights



## 2023 President's Award

Jodie Rexroat  
*SMU*

## BATTLE OF THE REGIONS Congratulations CENTRAL TEXAS!



## Jason's Jottings

Hey TACRAO Friends,

I hope this message finds you all doing well and still spooked with energy from our recent TACRAO Conference. As I step into my role as your VP of Admissions, I want to start by saying a big thank you to all of you. The trust and opportunity you have given me mean the world. I've been around in the Enrollment Management game for a good 20 years now, doing all sorts of committee work and giving my two cents in TACRAO sessions. But if I am honest, I have always dreamed of serving on the TACRAO Executive Committee. And you have made that dream come true. I promise to give this role everything I have.

Looking back at this year's conference, I am blown away by the talent and expertise within our association. The sessions presented were not just informative, but they also showcased the amazing, talented members we have. I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the 2023 session planning committees and chairs for making the conference such a success.

As we gaze ahead to our **2024 annual conference in San Marcos**, themed "Embrace the Shifting Currents", our session planning committees are already hard at work. They're like the behind-the-scenes heroes crafting sessions that will be valuable and relevant to all of us. But here's the thing, we want your input too! If you've got ideas for sessions, topics, or speakers that you'd like to see next year, reach out to these awesome chairs:

<b>Admissions</b>	<b>Rex Oliver</b>	<b>Texas Tech University</b>	<b>rex.oliver@ttu.edu</b>
<b>Access &amp; Equity</b>	<b>Kenneth Evans</b>	<b>Tarrant County College</b>	<b>kenneth.evans1@tccd.edu</b>
<b>Community College, Technical, &amp; Transfer</b>	<b>Kim Herman</b>	<b>Southern Methodist University</b>	<b>kaherman@mail.smu.edu</b>
<b>Recruitment &amp; Outreach</b>	<b>Dali Hatanville</b>	<b>Texas A&amp;M – Commerce</b>	<b>dali.hatanville@tamuc.edu</b>
<b>Student Success</b>	<b>Amanda Nickerson</b>	<b>University of Texas at Arlington</b>	<b>amanda.nickerson@uta.edu</b>

And if you're bursting like a mermaid out of the deep waters with a session idea, you can submit it directly on our planning site. Just click [HERE](#) and let your ideas flow.

I am looking forward to working with all of you in the coming year, and I wish you a fantastic Holiday Season, filled with joy and laughter.



**Jason Hale**  
*Vice President for Admissions*  
*Texas Tech University*



Cheers,  
**Jason Hale**  
Vice President for Admissions



# Vice President Updates



**Scott Branum**  
*Vice President for Records  
& Registration  
Galveston College*

## Scott's Scribbles

Greetings, TACRAO!

I hope each of you had safe travels back from our annual conference in Denton. I had a wonderful time reconnecting with colleagues, meeting new attendees, and laughing at the revamped celebration luncheon. The Local Arrangements Committee is to be commended for a fantastic job on planning and executing a memorable conference.

This year, we had over 110 sessions (not including regional/committee meetings) for attendees to choose from. Popular session topics included FERPA, enrollment reporting, commencement, and interdepartmental collaboration. There were also dozens of technology-related, customer service, and wellness-related sessions.

Our conference is successful because of its membership. Session Planning Chairs rely on topics/ideas from you to offer timely and relevant sessions at the conference. If you have ideas for sessions (and, better yet, if you have a presenter for the session), please contact one of the individuals below:

<i><b>Certification &amp; Legal Issues</b></i>	<b>David Short</b>	<b>Lamar University</b>	<b>wdshort@lamar.edu</b>
<i><b>Graduation &amp; Commencement</b></i>	<b>Nicole Luna</b>	<b>University of Texas—Rio Grande Valley</b>	<b>nicole.luna@utrgv.edu</b>
<i><b>Management, Organization, &amp; Professional Development</b></i>	<b>Virginia Leathers</b>	<b>West Texas A&amp;M University</b>	<b>vleathers@wtamu.edu</b>
<i><b>Records &amp; Registration</b></i>	<b>Hannah McDonald</b>	<b>Texas A&amp;M University—Central Texas</b>	<b>h.mcdonald@tamuct.edu</b>
<i><b>Technology &amp; Data Collection</b></i>	<b>John Spencer</b>	<b>Tarrant County College</b>	<b>john.spencer@tccd.edu</b>

Thank you all for your commitment to our organization! I look forward to seeing you next year in San Marcos!

**Scott Branum**  
Vice President for Records and Registration





# Vice President Updates

## Melissa's Message

Hello fellow TACRAOnians!

It was a blast seeing everyone at the conference and I can't wait to see you on my home turf in San Marcos next year! In the meantime, I am thankful we will have two opportunities to see each other virtually, so bust out the hot cocoa or apple cider and read on.

First, we will have another **Enrollment Reporting Webinar on February 26<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-11:00am CST**. The registration form will go live in January and you will be able to submit those burning questions! The hope is to be able to break out into specific SIS groups sooner in the meeting and give more time for dialogue between schools. So, butter that biscuit and save the date!

Second, we will have another **Residency Webinar on February 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-11:00am CST**. This registration form will also go live in January and you will be able to submit those "stump the expert" questions to the group! Note it helps to have the questions beforehand to allow the facilitators the ability to get the answers and keep things moving. So, get a heaping, helping of stuffing and save the date!

The executive committee also approved the formation of an ad-hoc committee for Enrollment Reporting! The purpose of this committee is to develop a Best Practices document and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) that will be on the TACRAO website. More information and who those committee members are will be at the meeting. Now if that isn't the ice cream on a slice of pie!

We will be developing discussion forums for each region! The hope is for those schools to be able to collaborate within their regions (or brag about winning Battle of the Regions, cough, cough, CENTACRAO). I highly encourage you to check them out. Log in, click **Discussion Forums** at the bottom of the Quick Links. Don't wait until you are in a turkey coma to join!

If you have any ideas or recommendations on how TACRAO can utilize technology better, I'd love to hear them! Please send your ideas/comments/questions to me at [vpit@tacrao.org](mailto:vpit@tacrao.org).

Best wishes for a fabulous holiday season,

**Melissa Hyatt**

Vice President for Technology



**Melissa Hyatt**  
Vice President for  
Technology  
Texas State University



# 2023 Resolutions Report

**Ladies and Gentleman**, we are gathered here today in the presence of many witnesses as your resolutions trinity: anxiety, trepidation, and regret. Don't worry Saint Thomas University. Your allergy to presbyterians has been noted, and you'll find epipens under your chairs.

A Priest, a Monk, and a Friar walk into an elevator... That's not a joke. That's how Ashley Mason kicked off her first TACRAO experience. Welcome Newcomers!

Having gathered together for the 102nd annual TACRAO conference in Denton, Texas, Brad and Janet's Home of Happiness, where 629 TACRAO attendees, 87 vendors... I mean exhibitors, and 41 sponsors came together to innovate for student success. We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to the Embassy Suites by Hilton Denton Convention Center staff for keeping our drinks and meeting rooms ice cold for ultimate freshness for the duration of the conference.

**Therefore, let it be resolved** that Sam Taylor, Kate Richardson, and the entire LAC committee be congratulated on an extraordinary event. Signage and shuttles were on point. The Guidebook App was up to date. The Hospitality Suite was bumping. The drinks were flowing. With a record number of TACROA newbies on LAC, let us all bear witness to what is surely the start of the next generation of TACRAO leadership! May it henceforth be resolved that all members of LAC go home and take a well-earned nap.

Sunday's welcome reception featured guest speaker Freddy Shegog, whose humble beginnings included dumpster diving - something Jennifer Beal is familiar with. Did you find those registration packets, Jen? We were also introduced to this year's philanthropy, Our Daily Bread, an organization who feeds, shelters, and cares for homeless and at-risk community members.

It has been overheard among membership that Monday's Celebration luncheon was the best Monday luncheon since the infamous bee incident of Horseshoe Bay. Great entertainment was provided by Dave Wilke from Four Day Weekend who really spruced up our normally subpar presidential introductions and kept us engaged with a variety of fun activities. Participants were delighted to win items such as a \$6 Baylor Inflated Pepsi, a complimentary Embassy Suites toothbrush, and a \$40 long sleeve Dallas skyline tshirt. Witnessing Tiffany Lipscomb's elbow drop during powerpoint karaoke was a treat for all in attendance.

While the green beans were so chewy, Dennis Cliborn questioned if they came from a rubber plant, that caramel cheesecake stepped up to the plate and smacked one out of the park (Let's Go Rangers!) It is rumored that Dr. Troy White requested to, and I quote "bathe in a tub full of it." And on that note, this committee would like to sincerely apologize to Melissa Hyatt - who - being too short to reach her shower-head had to also take a cheesecake bath.

Congratulations to our five Fred Russell scholarship winners. It appears that when many institutions went test optional, they forgot about our good friends at the College Board - who also helped sponsor this year's scholarship winners.

Members were delighted by the attendance of so many honored past presidents - who - so-thoughtfully- sat together and in chronological order during the conference Town Hall. This was incredibly helpful in teaching our young TACRAOans their TEC history by providing an effective visual aid.

Thank you to our VPs for discreetly leaving out any description of townhall thus enticing many new members to attend. However, they unfortunately began trickling out when they realized they would not be receiving extra drink tickets for attending.

(continued on page 35)

# Secretary & Treasurer Updates

## Beal's Blabber



**Jennifer Beal**  
Secretary  
North Central Texas College

WOW! What an amazing conference we had in Denton, Texas. I hope you all had as much fun as I did and leaned even more from the amazing colleagues we have here in Texas. Kate Richardson and Sam Taylor, I have to commend you and your LAC for a job well done! I am looking forward to our next conference in San Marcos.

As we approach the new year, I would like to remind all TACRAO institutions to **update their membership rosters**. Keeping your roster current is essential for several reasons. **First** and foremost, it ensures that you and your colleagues can take full advantage of our extensive network of professionals in the field of higher education. **Secondly**, it allows us to maintain accurate Day/Night Subscribers contact lists, facilitating smoother communication within our TACRAO members and the communities we serve. **Lastly**, up-to-date rosters grant you access to a wealth of invaluable information on our website and listserv, keeping you informed and engaged in the latest developments and resources in our field.

Thank you for your cooperation in this important endeavor, and we look forward to a year filled with continued growth and collaboration.

**Jennifer Beal**  
Secretary





# Secretary & Treasurer Updates

## Truman's Take

What an amazing 102nd Annual Conference in Denton!

I would like to thank everyone that attended this year's conference and applaud the **2023 LAC Co-Chairs Kate Richardson and Samantha Taylor** for their hard work and dedication! The countless hours of preparation that each person contributed to the overwhelming success of this conference are appreciated!

As I move into my second year as TACRAO Treasurer, I would like to thank everyone for their support. I'm very grateful for this opportunity to get to network across the state as both colleagues and friends. As reported at the conference, TACRAO continues to be in great financial standing. The TEC and LAC continue to be good stewards of the membership's funds. We appreciate everyone's prompt payments for their invoices.

With the memorable 102nd Conference now in the books, I am already looking forward to next year's conference and hope you are making plans now for when we meet again. The membership is in great hands with **San Marcos LAC Co-Chairs Martha Fraire-Cuellar and Brandy Garcia** as they are already working hard with future local arrangements.

Happy Holidays TACRAO family!

**Truman Glenn**  
TACRAO Treasurer



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**Truman Glenn**  
*Treasurer*  
*The University of Texas at Austin*

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# 2024 Conference Chat

We extend a heartfelt invitation to you and members of your institution to attend TACRAO 2024 in San Marcos, TX, from November 10 – 13, 2024.

From our beautiful river to the Tanger and Prime Outlet Malls, there's no shortage of activities to make your visit memorable.

San Marcos is the home of the Aquarena Springs Lake and the San Marcos River. Aquarena Springs used to be a popular tourist destination and amusement park before SeaWorld and Six Flags. The Mermaids entertained visitors with underwater shows that included Ralph the Swimming Pig. The mermaid legacy lives on in San Marcos as we continue to celebrate them with special events and festivities. The Mermaids of San Marcos symbolize our commitment to preserve our natural spring lake and river.

We look forward to the opportunity to host you and share [the magic of San Marcos](#), Texas.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Your Local Arrangements Co-Chairs,

**Martha Fraire-Cuellar**

University Registrar  
Texas State University

**Brandy Garcia**

Senior Director of Admissions Operations  
University of Texas – San Antonio



**Martha Fraire-Cuellar**  
*Local Arrangements Co-Chair*  
Texas State University



**Brandy Garcia**  
*Local Arrangements Co-Chair*  
University of Texas—San Antonio



# 2023-2024 TACRAO Executive Committee



<b>President</b>	Bobbie Brown	Texas Tech University	bobbie.brown@ttu.edu
<b>President-Elect</b>	Chris Reed	Texas A&M University	creed@tamu.edu
<b>Past President</b>	Melinda Carroll	North Central Texas College	mcarroll@nctc.edu
<b>Vice President for Admissions</b>	Jason Hale	Texas Tech University	jason.hale@ttu.edu
<b>Vice President for Records &amp; Registration</b>	Scott Branum	Galveston College	sbranum@gc.edu
<b>Vice President for Technology</b>	Melissa Hyatt	Texas State University	mh07@txstate.edu
<b>Secretary</b>	Jennifer Beal	North Central Texas College	jbeal@nctc.edu
<b>Treasurer</b>	Truman Glenn	The University of Texas at Austin	truman.glenn@austin.utexas.edu
<b>Local Arrangements Co-Chair</b>	Martha Fraire-Cuellar	Texas State University	mfraire@txstate.edu
<b>Local Arrangements Co-Chair</b>	Brandy Garcia	The University of Texas at San Antonio	brandy.garcia@utsa.edu





# REGIONAL NEWS

## Meet your 2023-2024 Regional Editors



**We want to hear from you!** New hires? Promotions? Retirement announcements? Let us know what is going on at your institution so that we can be sure and include it in the Regional News portion of future TACRAO newsletters. Below are the members of the 2022-2023 TACRAO Communications Committee who are your regional contacts for news and updates.

### CENTRAL TEXAS



**Eric Poch**  
The University of Texas at Austin  
[eric.poch@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:eric.poch@austin.utexas.edu)

### EAST TEXAS



**Micky Diez**  
Stephen F. Austin University  
[Mickey.Diez@sfasu.edu](mailto:Mickey.Diez@sfasu.edu)

### NORTH TEXAS



**Anam Iqbal**  
Southern Methodist University  
[ajiqbal@smu.edu](mailto:ajiqbal@smu.edu)

### SOUTH TEXAS



**Melissa Chapa**  
Texas A&M University-  
Corpus Christi  
[missy.chapa@tamucc.edu](mailto:missy.chapa@tamucc.edu)

### SOUTHEAST TEXAS



**Madelyne Tolliver**  
Victoria College  
[madelyne.tolliver@victoriacollege.edu](mailto:madelyne.tolliver@victoriacollege.edu)

### WEST TEXAS

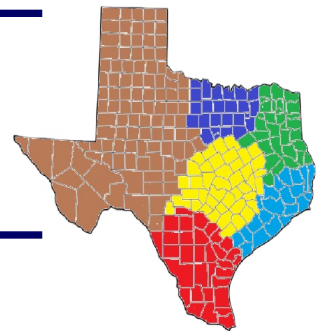


**Georgina Antillon**  
The University of Texas at El Paso  
[gantillon@utep.edu](mailto:gantillon@utep.edu)

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# ***REGIONAL NEWS***

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## ***2024 Submission Deadlines***

***Spring Newsletter: March 18, 2024***

***Summer Newsletter: July 15, 2024***

***Fall Newsletter: September 23, 2024***





# PICTURES, PICTURES, & MORE PICTURES!

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THE NATION'S PREMIER EVENT PHOTOGRAPHER

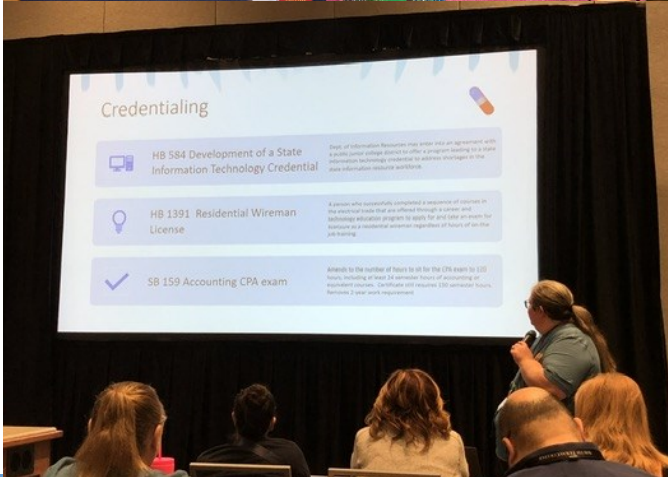




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THE NATION'S PREMIER EVENT PHOTOGRAPHER

## PICTURES, PICTURES, & MORE PICTURES!





# PICTURES, PICTURES, & MORE PICTURES!

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## PICTURES, PICTURES, & MORE PICTURES!





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THE NATION'S PREMIER EVENT PHOTOGRAPHER

## PICTURES, PICTURES, & MORE PICTURES!

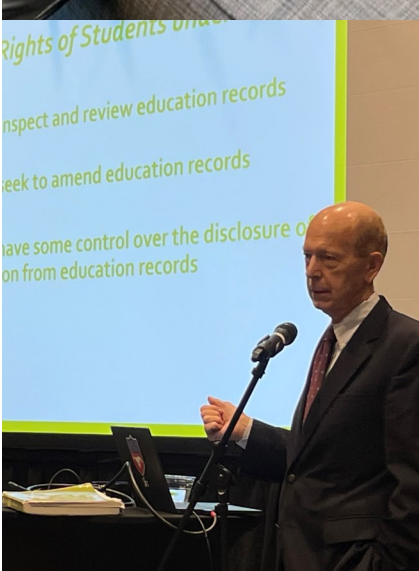




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THE NATION'S PREMIER EVENT PHOTOGRAPHER

## PICTURES, PICTURES, & MORE PICTURES!





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THE NATION'S PREMIER EVENT PHOTOGRAPHER

## PICTURES, PICTURES, & MORE PICTURES!





## PICTURES, PICTURES, & MORE PICTURES!





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THE NATION'S PREMIER EVENT PHOTOGRAPHER

## PICTURES, PICTURES, & MORE PICTURES!



## 2023 Resolutions Report (cont.)

This committee would like to extend a special thanks to Melinda Carroll, Suzanne Johnson from Chestnut Tree catering, and the entire staff of Miss Angelines for one of the most mouth-watering spreads of food in recorded history at the President's Reception. Presenters, committee members, chairs, officers, and exhibitors were treated to tubs of macaroni and cheese, endless slabs of moist meat, hunks of cheese, fresh veggies with an assortment of dips, an entire table covered in marshmallows, ghirardelli chocolate, popcorn, and cake balls, generously poured Old Fashioneds, and at least three "TACRAO 2023" picture frames per attendee.

After closing down the bar at the President's Reception, Past, President Dr. Rebecca Lothringer was spotted merengue-ing onto the shuttle bus to head to the hospitality suite while Bobby Lothringer - fully intent on driving home and sticking as close to his 8:30 bedtime as possible - stood on the curb shouting "are you serious?"

Monday Night's hospitality suite was a thing to behold! Hocus Pocus played in the hallway while far too many tone deaf attendees belted out lyrics from Selena to Frank Sinatra and beyond! When the lights came on and music turned off, 50+ TACRAO members continued on with an a capella rendition of "Goodbye Earl." Cause unlike Earl, the night did not have to die.

Tuesday morning started dark and early for 10 brave attendees as they set out on the fun run! Congratulations on your cute t-shirt, coyote encounters, and minor bout of hypothermia. Interestingly enough, it seems that 30 people actually signed up for the fun run. Therefore, let it hereby be resolved that any attendee who leaves the conference with a fun run t-shirt without completing the fun run will be subject to drink ticket confiscation by any member of this committee.

While it remains uncertain if the low session attendance on Tuesday morning was due to Monday night's activities or individual bathroom concerts inspired by the backlit, bluetooth capable mirrors in the Embassy Suites, we'd still like to thank the presenters of the 112 sessions offered at this year's conference.

A heartfelt hoorah goes out to the Central Texas region for winning Battle of the Regions and the East Texas region for taking home the coveted golden chicken. Rumor has it that TEC took so long judging the regions' toilet paper mummies that they themselves began to mummify. And this just in, experts are now claiming that this particular contest made Denton ground zero for the next nationwide toilet paper shortage.

Competing with Halloween festivities and the Rangers playing game 4 of the World Series, this year's Big Event still slapped. Featuring Emerald City who once again brought TACRAO attendees to their feet with songs that transcended generations. It was exciting to witness a number two become number one as Jason Hale was awarded funniest costume for his toilet paper ribbon dancing and party pooper ensemble. Also witnessed for the first time in recent centuries, was a rare T-Rex mating ritual. Thank you, Kilgore College.

A collective inhale could be heard when the first few bars of Thriller were played and everyone suddenly remembered that email we all received and ignored a few days prior about a flash mob surprise for TEC. Therefore, let it henceforth be resolved that TACRAO 2024 will consist of a flash mob featuring mermaids and swimming pigs.

After stating that his one goal this TACRAO conference was to keep his name out of Resolutions, Past President Bobby Lothringer was encouraged to embrace his inner Berri O'Neal, and answered the call with a riveting Blues Brothers performance. While blaming his off key and off beat vocal performance on an inability to hear the music, we suspect bourbon was involved. Looks like someone ferpa-ed around and found out.

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## 2023 Resolutions Report (cont.)

The party continued in the hospitality suite where we cheered the Rangers onto victory (SORRY STROS FANS! YOU'RE IN RANGERS COUNTRY NOW). Our mole queen Malificent, aka Jennifer Beal's drinks disappeared faster than Troy White's facial hair. Andi Scott was overheard enthusiastically yelling "I'm gonna grab some nuts for later" while the bartender shook the last of the mysterious blue drink into Tiffany Lipscomb's glass.

All of this wouldn't have been possible without our awesome, committed TACRAO Executive and Local Arrangements committees. And on that note, let it hereby be resolved that TEC and LAC members be REwarded and Awarded for some of their more memorable moments from now on.

Without further ado, this committee proudly presents:

### The TACKIES

The Time Warp Tackie goes to our LAC chairs Samantha Taylor and Kate Richardson for putting on a conference so fun, entertaining, and flawless, it flew right by.

The Pay no Attention to the Lady Behind the Curtain Tackie goes to VP of Technology Melissa Hyatt for doing amazing work behind the scenes on the TACRAO website.

The Courageous Lion Tackie goes to Scott Branum for having the courage to stand up to VP of Admissions, Chris Reed and remind him it is never appropriate to moisten the carpet no matter how funny the situation may be.

The Cat Kid Tackie goes Secretary, Brandi Piner for incorporating her cat kid, Toto the inebriated cat, into her Dorothy Costume. If you have questions regarding cat kids, feel free to reach out to Becky from Grayson.

The Ruby Red Slippers Tackie goes to Past Treasurer Lori Zerr for bringing more shoes to the conference than most people have in their closets. Keeping her feet in style, always dry, and never moist.

The Topless Pumpkin Tackie goes to Trumann Glenn for the uncanny resemblance. Chris Reed was also up for this particular award, but we found one more fitting. PS Thanks to Cheyenne for washing all those pumpkins, topless or not. All pumpkins are created equal.

The Farrah Fawcett Hair Swoosh Tackie goes to President Elect Elect Chris Reed for shaking the most hands and kissing the most babies. Chris would also like to remind you that there's still time to take a vote of no confidence.

The Auntie Em Tackie goes to our newcomer's favorite TACRAO auntie, Past President Paige Bussell for putting on a fantastic newcomer event, educating our 282 first-time TACRAO attendees about the organization, and encouraging 79 first time attendees to complete the I'm Available form.

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## 2023 Resolutions Report (cont.)

The Wicked Witch of the West Texas (aka Lubbock) Tackie goes to President Elect, Bobbie Brown. Release the Cracken!

The Thesaurus Tackie goes to a lady that needs no introduction, because we've introduced her three times already, our hoss president, Melinda Carroll. Because as we all know, words are hard.

And now that we come to the end of another annual conference, let it henceforth be resolved that quote "I am a human first," but quote "people are the worst." We hope you leave with better connections, new ideas, and a desire to innovate your students to success. Thank you to TEC, LAC, and Denton for a wonderful few days. Things got weird, y'all.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Your 2023 Resolutions Committee**

**Tiffany, Andi, Troy, and Mole Jennifer Beal**





# 2023-2024 Communications Committee

<b>Chair &amp; Newsletter Editor</b>	Bobby Lothringer	Southern Methodist University	rlothringer@smu.edu
<b>Central Texas Editor</b>	Eric Poch	The University of Texas at Austin	eric.pouch@austin.utexas.edu
<b>East Texas Editor</b>	Mickey Diez	Stephen F. Austin University	Mickey.Diez@sfasu.edu
<b>North Texas Editor</b>	Anam Iqbal	Southern Methodist University	ajiqbal@smu.edu
<b>South Texas Editor</b>	Melissa Chapa	Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi	missy.chapa@tamucc.edu
<b>Southeast Texas Editor</b>	Madelyne Tolliver	Victoria College	madelyne.tolliver@victoriacollege.edu
<b>West Texas Editor</b>	Georgina Antillon	The University of Texas at El Paso	gantillon@utep.edu

