

# TACRAO NEWS

## SUMMER 2023



### Did you know?

The 2023 conference marks the first time TACRAO has held its annual meeting in not only the city of Denton, but in all of Denton County.

Denton is the 20th different city to host the annual conference.

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# Melinda's Message



**Melinda Carroll**  
President  
North Central Texas College



## Greetings TACRAO!

I hope your summer is going well. It has truly been an honor to serve our organization as TACRAO President. I am honored and appreciate the support from the amazing TACRAO organization.

Your Executive Committee has been hard at work preparing for **TACRAO 2023 Annual Conference: Inclusive Innovation for Student Success** and will meet again August 6-8 for the last meeting prior to the annual conference. I truly admire the TEC members' enthusiasm while serving the TACRAO organization. The Executive Committee has worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the organization, and I am grateful for their service and commitment to the membership.

## Legislative Update: 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session

The Texas Legislature concluded its session in May/June 2023 and the Legislative Issues Committee Chair, Jodie Rexroat, has kept the membership informed through the TACRAO listserv as well as during the Summer Meeting with a detailed list and outstanding presentation of all the bills passed and pending guidance. Be sure to watch for related topics and breakout sessions during the annual conference.

## Summer Meeting

Over 250 TACRAO members along with the National Student Clearinghouse team and various colleagues from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board attended the TACRAO 2023 Summer Roundtable Meeting from July 10-12, 2023 in Austin, Texas at the Doubletree Austin once again this year. The Summer Meeting allowed colleagues to network and discuss future changes impacting all institutions. A special thank you to the Summer Meeting Committee members, including **Maggie Cano**, **Angie Taylor**, **Stephanie Stephens**, **Elizbeth Adamson**, **Cindy Blanco**, **Lorena Rios** and **Ashley Fleeks** for their hard

work and dedication in planning a great summer meeting.

The Summer Meeting began with a reception sponsored by MedProctor leading into great presentations, including topics on residency, an excellent legislative update, Birds of a Feather by institution-type and student information system or CRM as well as roundtable discussions for the entire membership. Thank you again to everyone who presented and your willingness to support TACRAO during the Summer meeting sharing your expertise with the organization.

Summer Meeting session presentations may be accessed by visiting: <https://www.tacrao.org/summer-meetings>.

## TACRAO Annual Conference

It is hard to believe the TACRAO Annual Conference is a little over three months away. The Denton Local Arrangements Committee co-chairs, **Samantha Taylor** and **Kate Richardson**, have been hard at work planning a memorable conference for you. Registration is now open for the TACRAO 2023 Annual Conference by accessing <https://www.tacrao.org/2023-annual-conference>.

Your President-Elect, Bobbie Brown and Vice Presidents, Scott Branum and Chris Reed, have planned excellent sessions that you will not want to miss. If you haven't already registered to attend the [conference](#) October 29-November 1, please make plans to do so soon. The TACRAO Executive Committee can not wait to host you, and I hope you are ready to experience a great conference when you visit Denton.

I hope you each have a successful start to your Fall semester, and I cannot wait to see you in October!

**Melinda Carroll**  
TACRAO President

# A Word from the President-Elect

Not only is the temperature hot, but so is **TACRAO!** And I'm so proud to announce that 41 of you volunteered to serve TACRAO in some capacity for 2023-2024!

Remember... if you have a longing to become a TACRAO volunteer, complete the "I'm Available" form. It is never too late. I'll step down from my VOLUNTEER TODAY box, now. I know how rewarding it is and hope to give each of you an opportunity to feel the same.

TACRAO volunteers assist on standing and session planning committees. Volunteers are also extremely valuable on Ad-Hoc Committees. The conference is important, but TACRAO business throughout the year is equally paramount to our success.

It takes a village, and we all make a wonderful TACRAO team! We are working on the 2023 TACRAO Conference sessions and those should be released sometime in August. Keep your eyes on [tacrao.org](http://tacrao.org), and we will keep you updated!

Stay cool and I'll see you all very soon!  
Bobbie

**Bobbie Brown**  
**TACRAO President-Elect**



**Bobbie Brown**  
*President-Elect*  
*Texas Tech University*





# Bussell's Banter

Hello TACRAO members!

Can you believe it is only a mere three (3) short months until we meet October 29 in Denton for the [2023 Annual Conference](https://www.tacrao.org/2023-annual-conference). It is always fun when it hits around Halloween so be thinking of those crazy costumes I know some of you will be wearing!

Your local arrangement co-chairs have been hard at work planning the conference. **Samantha Taylor** and **Kate Richardson** have some very exciting plans in the works. **Chris Reed**, **Scott Branum** and **Bobbie Brown** have been busily solidifying sessions and I know you all cannot wait to get a sneak peak of what our colleagues have to share!

Registration is now open so if you have not already registered, here is the link: <https://www.tacrao.org/2023-annual-conference>! Book your room and register soon! We absolutely cannot wait to see everyone again!

The **Newcomers session** was moved to an 8:00 am breakfast last year and we will continue that format this year with breakfast and a special gift for our newcomers! In addition, the hotel serves up a delicious full breakfast buffet for every morning so if you are a breakfast person be sure to get there early to eat before your first session.

Elections will be coming out soon for the new officers so please be sure and vote! Every vote matters and you the membership, play an important part in the process!

I would say the next few weeks will be busy busy busy but when is it not? The TACRAO Executive Committee will meet for the last time before the conference August 6-8 and it floors me how fast these last 3 years have gone.

**Melinda Carroll** has done a phenomenal job of keeping us all on track and moving us forward as an organization. It has been a true pleasure serving alongside her and all of the TEC members.

Until next time TACRAO, I hope everyone survives the August heat as we move into the fall semester and welcome new students for fall 2023!

**Paige Bussell**  
**2022-2023 TACRAO Past President**



**Paige Bussell**  
**Past President**  
*Texas A&M Commerce*





# TACRAO Summer Meeting

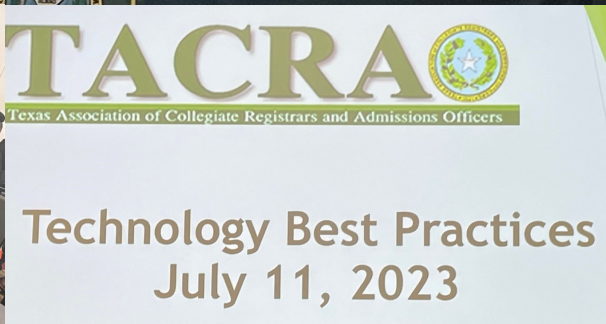
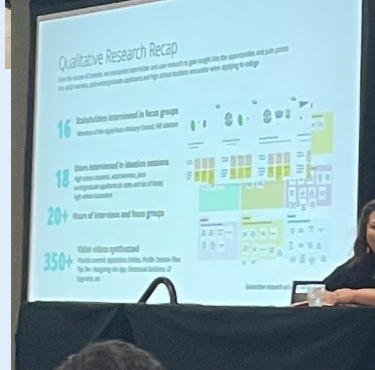
July 10-12

Welcome to  
Austin!



**TACRAO 2023**  
SUMMER MEETING

happy hour  
sponsored by:  med+proctor  
medproctor.com





## Reed's Ramblings

Howdy All!

Howdy all. I write this to you from lovely College Station hoping you're all having the same quiet summer I am completely devoid of any unsavory news stories or abrupt leadership shifts... Fun times right? Here's what I've got for you in this addition.

We're inching ever closer to locking down the final session list for the November conference. If you've been contacted about presenting please let the committee member who pinged you know of your availability ASAP. If you're still struggling with whether to submit an idea or not, DO IT! We're still taking session ideas via the "[I'm Available](#)" form at [tacrao.org](http://tacrao.org). You can also just let us know you'd like to present and we'll give you some of the ideas we already have in hand!

We hosted our **second annual Residency Webinar** on Wednesday 8/16 and had well over 100 people show up. It was a great experience and I thank everyone who contributed. I'm looking forward to making this a continuing tradition!

Finally, earlier this month you should have received the invitation via email to apply for the **Fred Russell Strategic Enrollment Management Scholarship** which will provide up to \$600 to 5 individuals to cover conference costs. The **application closes on August 31<sup>st</sup>** so if you or someone you know plans to apply there is still time! I hope everyone's summer finishes strong and I'll see you soon in Denton!

**Chris Reed**  
**TACRAO VP for Records and Registration**



**Chris Reed**  
*Vice President for Admissions*  
*Texas A&M University*



# Vice President Updates



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

## Scott's Scribbles

Happy Summer, TACRAO!

Hopefully everyone made it home safely from the summer conference in Austin. Kudos to the planning committee for making it a successful and informative conference. Also, a huge, "Thank you," to **Jodie Rexroat** and the entire **Legislative Issues Committee** for their hard work during this "interesting" legislative session. You all made it easier to understand the dizzying amount of changes coming to higher education in the near future.

Registration for the annual conference in Denton is officially open. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.tacrao.org/2023-annual-conference>. I encourage you to register early to take advantage of the "Early Bird" discount for the conference. **LAC Co-Chairs, Kate Richardson** and **Samantha Taylor**, are working closely with their committee chairs to plan a memorable conference for you. This year, the big event falls on **Halloween** – so dust off those costumes and prepare for a spooky good time!

**VP for Admissions, Chris Reed**, and I are working hard to tidy up our list of proposed sessions for the conference. We are still in need of session presenters and facilitators, so if you are willing to help out, please go to <https://www.tacrao.org/get-involved> and fill out the "TACRAO I'm Available Form." Please let us know your area of expertise/interest, and we will do our best to match you to a session.

As we approach the end of the summer and prepare for the upcoming fall term, I wish you a successful new academic year. Remember to take time to take care of yourself, and I look forward to seeing you in Denton soon!

**Scott Branum**  
**TACRAO VP for Records and Registration**





# Vice President Updates

Hello fellow TACRAOnians!

I don't think anyone is escaping this heat in Texas! It's so hot, cows are giving evaporated milk!

The LAC and TEC have been working up a sweat to prepare for the **Annual Conference in Denton**. By the time you read this, there will be less than 85 days until the conference, so start planning your Halloween outfit for the big event and maybe consider doing a group costume!

The **Discussion Forums** have picked up steam and there has been some great participation and discussion. In addition to the Enrollment Reporting, Residency, and College Fairs forums, we have added a new TCCNS one! I highly encourage you to check them out. Log in, click Discussion Forums at the bottom of the Quick Links and start a conversation!

Speaking of TCCNS, this is hot off the presses! They now have a specific email address- [tccns@tacrao.org](mailto:tccns@tacrao.org). If you need to update contacts, have questions about rolling your courses, etc, please use this address.

Thank you to those using the **TACRAO's Job Board**. It continues to have strong postings and if you haven't checked it out, do so today. Those looking for a cooler locale, Michigan and Illinois have postings... but let's face it, there's no place like Texas! If you are a job seeker, be sure and enter your email address in the upper right part of the page under Job Alerts so you don't miss out on your dream job!

From April 1 to August 1, things heated up and we had 96 total posts! **As a reminder, posting and the email distribution are both FREE for TACRAO members**—you just need to be sure to log in prior to posting and use the **EMAIL discount code** when you select to distribute the post. If you need assistance with posting, please don't hesitate to contact me or use the nifty [FAQ on our website](#).

Before it got so hot that chickens were laying hard-boiled eggs, we held an **Enrollment Reporting Webinar on May 22**. There were 56 members in attendance. The webinar was recorded and the video is posted on the website [here](#). There was such hot discussion, we will have another one Oct 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:00- 11:00am. Information will be sent out later (let me get past census day!)

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).

One more before you go... It's so hot, I saw a bird pull a worm out of the ground with an oven mitt! Stay cool my friends!

**Melissa Hyatt**  
Vice Present for Technology

## Melissa's Message



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



# 2023 Conference Keynote Speaker

## *Frederick Shegog*

**Frederick Shegog**, Founder/CEO of The Message LLC, inspires, educates, and creates healthy lifestyles for all as a motivational speaker.

Dumpster diving, panhandling, and drinking were once everyday activities for Shegog. Despite a decade of alcohol abuse and time spent homeless, Shegog transformed himself into a graduate with high honors.

As a motivational speaker, he is on a mission to help others combat substance use disorder and mental health. Experienced in creating and facilitating workshops to address the community's needs in collegiate recovery, substance use disorders, and mental health, he is changing how colleges serve/educate students in recovery and dealing with mental illness.

Frederick was recently selected as a keynote for **The Achieving the Dream Conference**, which is "Celebrating over 15 years of work, Achieving the Dream, Inc. leads the most comprehensive non-governmental reform network for community college student success in higher education history."

He was voted as a Philadelphia Region's Black Men Icon of 2020 and was the selected commencement speaker at his graduation. Frederick graduated Summa cum laude from West Chester University.

Lastly, Frederick was featured on Fox 29 segment For Goodness Sakes show with Bill Anderson.

To learn more about Frederick, visit his website, [www.freddyshegog.com](http://www.freddyshegog.com)



# Secretary & Treasurer Updates

## Brandy's Beat



**Brandy Piner**  
**Secretary**

*The University of Texas Health  
Science Center at San Antonio*

Greetings from San Antonio!

It's been a great summer, but wow – what a heat wave we have been in! As I write this, I quietly reflect that we are always in a heat wave this time of year – perhaps we will have a rain cloud or two before this newsletter hits your Inbox.

I hope you all were able to take some time to enjoy the summer before gearing up for fall semester. If not – we still have Labor Day – so take a few days and hit the beach, pool, or just relax inside before we start a new year!

### Membership Dues

As a reminder, if you've not yet paid your **2023-2024 membership dues**, these fees are **due August 31, 2023**. Your institution will need to be up-to-date on your dues payments to access the College Day/Night schedule, maintain membership voting rights, and to keep all of your other TACRAO membership perks. Your key contact should have already received the institutional invoice. You can view your key contact by visiting the Member Directory Search on the TACRAO website. You will need to be logged in to access the directory.

### Questions?

If you have any questions or need additional support, please let me know. I hope you have a great rest of the summer and I look forward to seeing you in Denton at the 2023 TACRAO conference.

**Brandy Piner**  
**Secretary**





# Secretary & Treasurer Updates

## Truman's Take

Hello from Central Texas! I hope this message finds you all happy and healthy! Summer has flown by, and I hope that each of you has been able to step away and recharge prior to Fall term!

I'm happy to report that TACRAO is financially strong, and the **TACRAO Executive Committee** continues to be diligent in ensuring that we remain cost conscious. Currently, we are receiving payments for Day/Night subscriptions, Membership renewals, and the 2023 Annual Conference registration, etc. It's a busy time for our bank accounts!

The **combined Summer Meeting** was a great success! The networking is always amazing, and the session topics were extremely informative (presentation slides found [here](#) if you care to review). We had 242 attendees this year which is up from 229 last year. The **University and the Community College Committees** did an amazing job planning, and we appreciate all your efforts!

I sincerely hope you are planning to come to Denton at the Annual Conference in the Fall. The LAC is working hard to ensure everything is wonderful, and the vice presidents have been busy securing an impressive slate of sessions. We look forward to seeing our TACRAO family in Denton soon!

Friendly reminder: **TACRAO utilizes WorkSuites in Plano** as our official mailing address, but here is a friendly reminder our address: 5700 Tennyson Parkway, Ste 300, Plano TX, 75024. If your institution mails checks for TACRAO invoices, please be sure your business office is aware. Our mail is collected at the WorkSuites facility in Plano and subsequently forwarded to me in Austin; therefore, there is a potential two-week delay in mail reaching me. Please be mindful of this if you are submitting checks for invoices.

Please do not hesitate to contact me concerning the finances of the organization or any questions that you may have. Enjoy your last few weeks of Summer!

**Truman Glenn**  
**TACRAO Treasurer**



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



# 2023 Conference Chat



Greetings from your LAC Co-Chairs!

Things are super busy as we only have a short time until we will be hosting our TACRAO membership for our annual **meeting October 29 - November 1, 2023**. We can't wait to see everyone and we have lots of Denton fun in store for you! Thank you to all who answered the call for volunteers and agreed to help us by joining our Local Arrangements Committee (LAC). It's never too late to volunteer, so if you or someone you know in the TACRAO membership would like to get involved, please fill out the I'm Available form on our website or send us an email.

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN** for our annual conference. Please sign up today! We will be at the **Embassy Suites by Hilton Denton Convention Center**. This is TACRAO's first conference in Denton and it's going to be one that you don't want to miss.

<https://www.tacrao.org/2023-annual-conference>

If you're interested in some pre-conference fun, we would like to invite you to Denton's favorite fall gathering, The Day of the Dead Festival. This is an annual tradition that includes everything from coffin races in the street, to twilight parades, and a pumpkin patch. For more information, check out the festival website: <https://dentondayofthedeafestival.com/>.

Get your costumes ready for a spooky good time on Halloween night for the Big Event. We'll have live music from **Emerald City**, a costume contest, and delicious food from around the world. This is a night you won't forget!

*Double, double, toil and trouble;  
Fire burn and cauldron bubble.*

*By the moon we gather in Denton,  
To celebrate our annual convention.*

*When witches fly and the dead arise,  
The zombies moan with glowing eyes.*

*Registrars gather round the pumpkin's light,  
Admissions Officers party long into the night.*

*Witches' brew and bat wing stew,  
Our Big Event is just for you!*

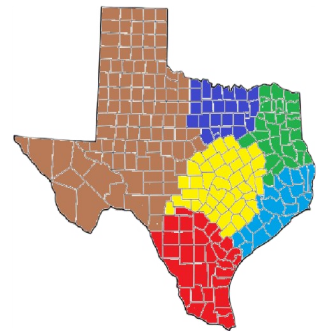
*So, disguise yourself and costume your friends,  
On Halloween the fun never ends!*



You can find us on Facebook at [Texas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers](#) and on **Instagram @tacrao\_tx1916**, where we are posting about TACRAO history and activities, the conference, and more. We'd love for you to join our online community, so give us a follow and a comment to say hi!

**Samantha Taylor & Kate Richardson**  
**TACRAO 2023 LAC Co-Chairs**  
[samantha.taylor@tccd.edu](mailto:samantha.taylor@tccd.edu)  
[krichardson@nctc.edu](mailto:krichardson@nctc.edu)

# REGIONAL NEWS



## NORTH TEXAS



The **Southern Methodist University Lyle School of Engineering** welcomed **Anam Iqbal** in May as its new Associate Director of Graduate and International Recruitment.

**Dana Mordecai**, Assistant Director of Graduate Recruitment at the **University of North Texas**, recently received the Texas Association of Graduate Admissions Professionals first ever Lifetime Service Award.



The Office of Admissions and Recruitment **University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth** has launched PATH Academy. The PATH Academy (Providing Access to HSC) offers a comprehensive pre-health and research preparation experience for college students. It focuses on molding students who embody the values of HSC through preparation and learning enrichment opportunities such as summer internships, clinical enrichment, personal and professional development sessions, and co-curricular activities. More information can be found at <https://www.unthsc.edu/students/future-students/path-academy/>

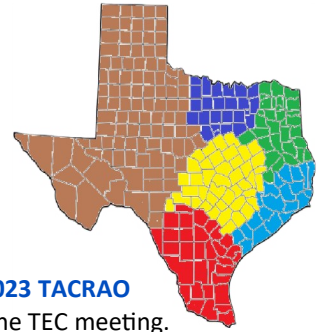
The **University of Texas at Dallas** welcomed **Serena Pontillo** in June as its new Austin Regional Counselor.

In addition, **UTD** Houston Regional Counselor **Guy Graugnard** retired at the end of July.





# REGIONAL NEWS



## NORTH TEXAS

Dallas-Fort Worth area TACRAO Past-Presidents, along with **Scarlet the Dog**, hosted the **2022-2023 TACRAO Executive Committee** at the home of Past Presidents Becky and Bobby Lothringer during their June TEC meeting.



## WEST TEXAS

West Texas doesn't have an update, but I cannot stress enough how important self-care can be. We get lost on the to-do list, on the prioritizing workloads, everyone else comes before you. We neglect our mental health by eating at our desk, or not at all that can't be right?!. Let's do something about it, if you are a mentor call your mentee or your fellow TACRAOnians to bounce off ideas on how you can improve and streamline your processes. Let's work smarter not harder. Look out for each other. Please share with me ([gantillon@utep.edu](mailto:gantillon@utep.edu)) your favorite way that you self-care. We could collaborate on a possible conference session at Denton. Cheers.

Georgina



# REGIONAL NEWS

## Your 2022-2023 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



**Mickey 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  
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### WEST TEXAS



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



# 2022-2023 TACRAO Executive Committee



<b>President</b>	Melinda Carroll	North Central Texas College	mcarroll@nctc.edu
<b>President-Elect</b>	Bobbie Brown	Texas Tech University	bobbie.brown@ttu.edu
<b>Past President</b>	Paige Bussell	Texas A&M University - Commerce	paige.bussell@tamuc.edu
<b>Vice President for Admissions</b>	Chris Reed	Texas A&M University	creed@tamu.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>	Brandy Piner	The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	piner@uthscsa.edu
<b>Treasurer</b>	Truman Glenn	The University of Texas at Austin	truman.glenn@austin.utexas.edu
<b>Past Treasurer</b>	Lori Zerr	The University of Texas Health	lori.zerr@uth.tmc.edu
<b>Local Arrangements Co-Chair</b>	Samantha Taylor	Tarrant County College	samantha.taylor@tccd.edu
<b>Local Arrangements Co-Chair</b>	Kate Richardson	North Central Texas College	krichardson@nctc.edu





# 2022-2023 Communications Committee

<b>Chair &amp; Newsletter Editor</b>	Bobby Lothringer	Southern Methodist University	rlothringer@smu.edu
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<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

