



TEXAS RURAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Leadership | Advocacy | Sustainability

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Texas Rural Education Association's Annual Conference: Reflecting Back, Leading Forward



TREA hosted its highly anticipated Annual Conference in Round Rock at Kalahari Resort and Convention Center, June 25-28. With 550 registrants and guests gathered it was again a record-breaking year for the event. The conference was filled with enriching education sessions, networking opportunities, and celebrations of the exceptional talent present in rural Texas. As TREA continues its mission to empower rural school districts in Texas, the success of this event serves as a testament to the dedication and support of the members, sponsors, and partners.

For those who couldn't attend the conference in person, the printed [program](#), golf and conference [photos](#), and [scholarship video](#) are available online, offering an opportunity to catch a glimpse of the incredible moments that took place at this year's TREA Annual Conference. Enjoy a few photos from Conference and view the album [here](#).



Membership Renewals and Conference Payments

Please make sure that conference invoices are are paid in full. Membership renewals were sent mid-May. If you have not received your renewal, need it reprocessed or resent, please contact [Kasey Hyde](#).

Continuing Education Credits and Board Training Hours

Continuing Education credits and Board Training hours have been loaded into our online system. [Login here](#) to access the information. The username should be the one you used for the conference app. If you have never accessed this system, you'll need to go through the RESET PASSWORD steps first. Please email [Kasey Hyde](#) if sessions are missing or you need help logging in.



THANK YOU ANNUAL & CONFERENCE SPONSORS!



More Students Have Access to Free School Breakfast!

School breakfast provides the consistent nutrition kids need to learn, grow and reach their fullest potential. No Kid Hungry Texas is proud to announce that thanks to the 88th Texas Legislature, new investments in school meals are expanding access to free school breakfast for eligible students. Starting September 1, 2023, students who are eligible for reduced priced meals at school will receive school breakfast free for the next two school years (2023-2024 and 2024-2025). Now more than ever, it is important to encourage families to fill out the free and reduced price meal application to ensure that eligible students can receive free breakfast. Learn more about how you can help spread the word using this [website](#).



TREA Executive Director, Bill Tarleton, attended the Capitol press conference that was held to celebrate the allocation of 3.3 million to pay for reduced breakfast costs. TREA is proud to partner with No Kid Hungry on administering grants to rural schools and advocating for supporting school districts food service programs. Thanks to Representatives Toni Rose and Armando Walle for supporting this legislation.

TREA Attends Rural Tech Project Finalist Showcase in Washington, DC

Last month, TREA's Director of Operations, Bonnie Walker attended the Rural Tech Project Showcase in Washington, DC. Texas had a team in the finals from The Rural Schools Innovation Zone (RSIZ) which is made up of TREA member district Freer ISD, Brooks County ISD and Premont ISD. All five finalist teams traveled to Washington to present their technology education programs at the White House. For this showcase event, the Rural Tech Project convened the challenge judges and education leaders to hear the teams' presentations. The event was a culminating moment of this \$600,000 challenge to advance technology education in rural high schools. [>>>Read More](#)

The Rural Schools Innovation Zone (the RSIZ) is a first-of-its-kind partnership made up of three school districts and two institutions of higher education in South Texas. The RSIZ is a nonprofit organization designed as a sustainable collaborative to provide rural students high-quality opportunities for postsecondary success. [Learn More about the RSIZ](#) and the great work they are doing in Texas.

TREA would like to thank the The U.S. Department of Education and Dr. Howard Wills, University of Kansas/CW-Fit for the opportunity to attend this event supporting rural education. [More Photos from the Showcase>>>](#)



Will McIntee, Senior Advisor for Public Engagement at the White House



RSIZ Leaders
Claudette Garcia & Michael Gonzalez

Blended Learning Professional Development | Fall Cohorts Enrolling Now!



In addition to online courses, UTeach PD provides comprehensive support for districts implementing blended learning:

- Synchronous, virtual professional development opportunities for coaches, teacher leaders, and administrative staff
- In-person, customizable professional development
- Access to our online community of 3,000+ blended learning educators
- Access to a library of blended learning lesson plans and resources created by Texas educators from all grades and content backgrounds

Fall cohorts are forming now!

Contact pdinfo@uteach.utexas.edu or [schedule a meeting](#) with Dixie Valdez, UTeach PD Manager, today.

UTeach PD provides courses to support educators throughout their entire blended learning journey, starting with our most popular course, Foundations of Blended Learning. Once educators complete Foundations, they can grow their blended learning expertise through our other course offerings. Below is a list of our PD course offerings:

- Foundations of Blended Learning
- Advanced Blended Learning
- Blended Learning Coaching and Collaboration
- Designing Project-Based Instruction in the Blended Classroom
- Implementing Project-Based Instruction in the Blended Classroom
- Personalized Blended Learning (new offering starting September 2023)

Make sure to check out the [UTeach Professional Development website](#) for more information on each of these courses, along with testimonials, course lengths and CPE hours, and more.

Unique Opportunities Available



TCEQ's Take Care of Texas Video Contest for Texas students currently in grades 6–12. This contest is ideal for students in STEM programs, but also theater arts. Students can win scholarships and prizes for their 30-second video about taking care of the environment. This year's contest begins September 11 and details will be posted at

<https://takecareoftexas.org/education/take-care-texas-video-contest>. To stay up to date on this contest, as well as other upcoming events with Take Care of Texas, please sign up for our newsletter at <https://takecareoftexas.org/form/contest-updates>.



Stephanie Dempsey M.Ed.
Education & Outreach Specialist
Take Care of Texas Program
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
512-239-3115
MC-118



The SMART (Surface Magnetic Assessment in Real-Time) Project invites schools nationwide to participate in network magnetic field observations during upcoming solar eclipses in October 2023 and April 2024.

SMART is a National Science Foundation-sponsored science and engineering project headquartered at UCLA that builds and operates a network of ground-based magnetometers in the United States for space weather observations. The project comprises groups in hardware, software, observatory operation, space weather science, big data, and education, continuing the heritage of UCLA as a national leader in related areas.

With the upcoming solar eclipses in the continental United States, we would like to set up small and easy-to-operate magnetometer devices at more than 50 locations to investigate how solar eclipses can affect the electric current system in the geospace.

If we partner with a school, the school will set up and operate the device over three days to ensure proper data collection during the solar eclipse event. Our team will send a kit and operating instructions and aid in troubleshooting or provide any other assistance the school may need.

Please fill out this Google form to help us determine whether your school would be a good location for our Three-Day Magnetometer:

<https://forms.gle/YeKe1NBSNxkaHNGy6>



With over 30 years of unwavering leadership, advocacy, and sustainability for rural schools, TREA maintains a steadfast commitment to supporting staff, students, and administrators in rural districts. Our members are part of a dynamic community that fosters collaboration and innovation. We are a network of like-minded individuals committed to enhancing rural education, sharing best practices, and overcoming challenges together. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to be part of a group that is making a lasting impact in the lives of students and the future of rural education. Join TREA today and experience the power of unity and progress!

TREA Job Board

Don't forget to use TREA's [Job Board](#) for any and all of your district/ESC postings. Use the code MEMBERJOB10 when entering your postings so you aren't charged for them.

Legislative Update

If you are a current TREA Member District Superintendent and are not receiving the Legislative Update emails, please contact [Bonnie Walker](#).

TEXAS RURAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

7415 Southwest Pkwy Bldg 6, Ste 500 #243 | Austin, TX 78735 | www.txrea.com

Bill Tarleton
Executive Director
tel:254.602.2056
btarleton@txrea.com

Bonnie Walker
Director of Operations
tel:512.415.1646
walker@txrea.com

Kasey Hyde
Coordinator of Member Services
tel:877.567.8732 ext. 3
khyde@txrea.com

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