



TEXAS RURAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Leadership | Advocacy | Sustainability



MEMBERS ONLY

SPONSORS

JOB BOARD

BLOG



As we welcome the new year, we extend heartfelt wishes for a Happy New Year to the entire TREA membership, sponsors and friends! The upcoming year will be filled with exciting events and opportunities, so mark your calendars for each of them. This month we have the Members Appreciation Dinner during Midwinter which is a chance for us to express our gratitude for your support and contributions to TREA. We have the Spring Rural Schools Conference in collaboration with ESC 13 in late February. The end of June will be an exciting month with TREA's Annual Conference at Kalahari, offering a platform for learning and networking. Together, let's make 2024 a year filled with growth, inspiration, and shared successes. Wishing you all a prosperous and joyful New Year!

Get Registered | Scholarships | Nominations

Start making plans now for the TREA Annual Conference. Bring your school board members, staff, and bring the families. We have so much planned for the few days we are at Kalahari.

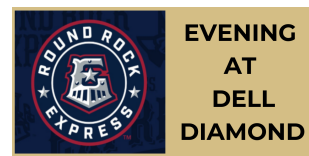
Conference Registration, Hotel Reservations, Golf Tournament, and the Night at the Ballpark Event & RR Express game are now open. Submit entries for the [Student Scholarships](#), [Of the Year Nominations](#), [Student Art Contest](#), and [Session Proposals](#) for Conference. We will offer the Research Symposium again on Wednesday and also engaging education sessions during conference. [Submit proposals](#) for the Research Symposium, Board Trainings or Continuing Education by using the call for presentations form. The scholarship link was emailed to Superintendents from current TREA member districts. If you didn't receive the scholarship link, click the graphic below to reach out to [Kasey Hyde](#). Information about all of these items is on their respective forms. Questions? Contact [Bonnie Walker](#).

Save the Date | Mark Your Calendars | Deadlines

- 1/28 TREA/TREAF Board Meetings
- 1/28 Members Appreciation Event
- 1/29 Bill Tarleton | Panel Speaker @Midwinter
- 2/28-3/1 Rural Schools Spring Conference
- 3/1 Scholarship Application Closes
- 3/1 OTY Nominations Close
- 6/23 TREA/TREAF Board Meetings @Conference
- 6/24 Golf Tournament
- 6/24 Scholarship Banquet
- 6/25 OTY Awards Luncheon
- 6/25 Innovation Lab
- 6/25 Evening at Dell Diamond

- 3/4 Early Bird Conference Registration Rate Ends
- 6/26 Superintendent Mentor Training
- 3/26 Art Contest Closes
- 6/26 Research Symposium

We are preparing for the upcoming *TREA Annual Members Appreciation Dinner* to be held during MidWinter. If you are a current TREA member or Diamond Sponsor and did not receive your invitation, contact [Bonnie Walker](#).



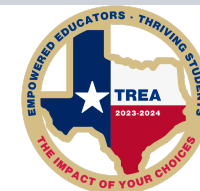
UPCOMING EVENTS



TASA Midwinter | Austin Convention Center | January 28-31



Sharing Rural Solutions
Sheraton Austin Georgetown
February 28 - March 1



TREA Annual Conference
Kalahari Round Rock | June 23-26



No Kid Hungry reports on the 2022-2023 Texas Rural School District Cohort. [Click here](#) to read about success of its \$180,000 investment in six rural school districts across Texas!

Partnerships for Local Agriculture & Nutrition Transformation in Schools (PLANTS)

- Deadline: **January 22, 2024**
- 8 projects will be awarded grants between \$500K - \$600K.
- Projects must aim to transform school food supply chains and/or build relationships among community-based food system stakeholders and SFAs.
- [Visit the PLANTS grant webpage here to learn more and apply.](#)

Supporting Community Agriculture & Local Education Systems (SCALES)

- Deadline: **January 26, 2024**
- Up to 35 rural SFAs will be awarded up to \$150K grants.
- SFAs must be engaging in projects to increase local procurement.
- [Visit the SCALES grant webpage here to learn more and apply.](#)



Every month, K-12 educators enroll in UTeach PD's most popular course, [Foundations of Blended Learning](#). In this course, participants are introduced to

UTeach Professional Development

Course Details:

- 30 hours of CPE credits (including 6 hours of GT credit)
- Self-paced
- Facilitated by blended learning experts
- \$1,000 per participant*

Support Elements:

blended learning through job-embedded activities that deepen their understanding of blended learning with the guidance of expert facilitators and collaborate with blended learning educators from across the state of Texas. *Foundations of Blended Learning* supports teachers to create more personalized learning experiences for their students.

- Access to UTeach PD's online community of hundreds of blended learning educators
- Access to UTeach PD's Blended Learning Resource Library
- Opportunities provided twice a month for virtual collaboration

**Course fee qualifies for reimbursement upon completion by the [Texas Education Agency](#).*

Welcome NEW Annual Sponsors



Empire Finance

Empire Finance is a diversified financial services and consulting firm, serving clients since 1988. Through our capital acquisition and deployment programs, we help organizations solve their capital needs. Empire primarily serves public schools and municipal entities, as well as small-to-medium sized commercial companies with a nationwide reach. We engage and prepare our Clients by understanding their Needs and matching them with optimal Financing Solutions.



Stride Learning Solutions

Stride Learning Solutions creates modern learning for any learner, anywhere. As a 20+ year leader in online and blended learning for grades pre-K through 12, we've partnered with school districts of all sizes to improve student outcomes and solve complex challenges for educators. Through state-certified teachers, award-winning digital content, high-dosage tutoring, online pre-K programs, and personalization, we aim to build a better future for every learner.



Texas Tech University K-12

TTU K-12 is an accredited Kindergarten-12th grade school with an "A" rating from TEA. Now offering tuition to TX residents, the online diploma track, individual courses and CBE options meet TEKS requirements. TTU K-12 also partners with districts to alleviate staff shortages.

NEW Benefit Opportunity from Sheridan Wealth Advisors



Sheridan Wealth Advisors

**New Partnership &
BRONZE Sponsor**

TREA is always looking for ways to support and add value to our member districts. In our continuous effort to bring you resources that can aid in the financial well-being and sustainability of your institutions, we are pleased to introduce Sheridan Wealth Advisors (SWA), a firm specializing in Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERC) filings. To date they have helped over 3,200 organizations nationwide file for benefits, amounting to more than \$300 Million in benefits.

SWA has established itself as a reliable resource in navigating the complexities of ERC. They offer tailored services to ensure colleges explore every potential benefit available under the ERC program. Their team of experts is well-versed in the intricacies of the process and is committed to guiding colleges through each step...[READ MORE](#)

Watch for an email in the next few days with even more information regarding the Sheridan/TREA partnership and how it can benefit your district and the small universities and colleges you partner with.
Questions? Contact [Bonnie Walker](#)

Update Your Membership Record & Check Your Address

Take a few minutes to login and review the information we have in our system for your ISD, ESC, or company. Make updates when staff changes, enrollment numbers change, and keep up with invoices. ISDs/ESCs click [here](#) and Sponsors/Exhibitors click [here](#) for instructions. Also, please double check [TREA's address and W9](#) with your business office. Contact [Kasey Hyde](#) with any questions.



Checkout the Blog

Great Opportunity for Principals!

Applications for the 2024 Raising School Leaders cohort open on January 12 and close on March 15. For the 2024 cohort, we are selecting principals who serve in rural schools, rural districts, and/or districts with 5,500 students or less. Sponsorships for cohort members include tuition, airfare, hotel accommodations, and a stipend.. [READ MORE](#)

TEXAS RURAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
7415 Southwest Pkwy Bldg 6, Ste 500 #243 | Austin, TX 78735

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



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



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



TREA DIAMOND SPONSORS



CONNECT WITH TREA



