

# TACRAO NEWS

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# Message from the President

## Reed's Ramblings

Howdy All,

I'd be remiss if I didn't start out by thanking everyone involved in planning the summer meeting. Our first time outside of Austin had its challenges but attendance and participation were amazing and I for one thought it was one of the best meetings in years!

Now to the future! I've realized in looking back over my last few articles that I have a bit of a habit of opening them by lamenting that I can't believe how fast the time has flown. That being said, I'm going to change it up a bit and be excited about the fact that time flying means that TACRAO El Paso 2025 on November 9-12 is just around the corner!

I do want to highlight a few things to expect this year in El Paso. First and foremost, we're going to continue to deliver on epic Tuesday Night Big Events. We're taking over the ballpark where the El Paso Chihuahuas baseball team and the Locomotive soccer team play. Expect three stories of food and fun along with live music from Fungi Mungle! For anyone who was in El Paso last time, you know the music alone will be worth the trip.

We're also going to shake things up regarding the traditional "hospitality" experience. Instead of the typical hospitality suite, we're adding a second all TACRAO event. On Monday night we'll be taking over La Nube. We'll have full use of this interactive science museum where we'll have food, drinks, **KARAOKE**...and some unique activities as we conduct Battle of the Regions right there in the venue.

Add to all this an incredible slate of presentations, powerful workshops and transformative speakers, TACRAO 2025 is something you will not want to miss.

Head out to the TACRAO webpage to view schedules, sponsorship opportunities, and most importantly registration info. See you in El Paso!

Chris Reed

TACRAO President



Chris Reed  
President

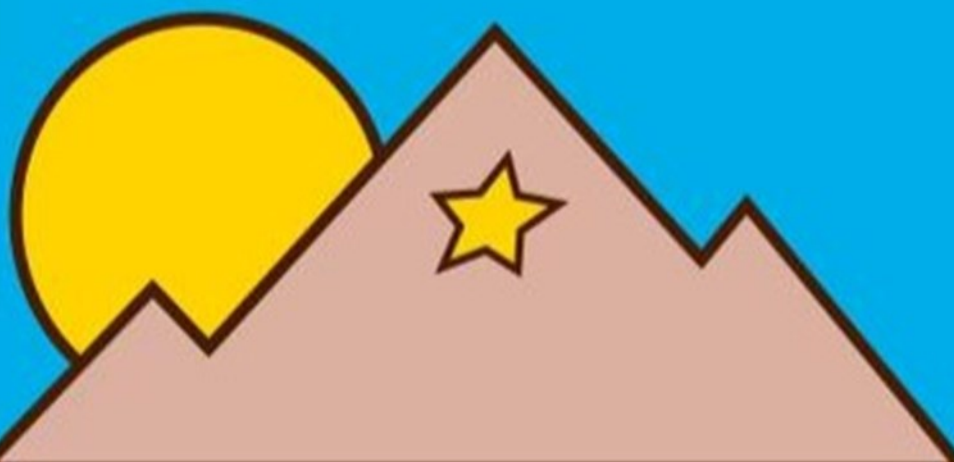
Texas A&M University



**NOV. 9-12, 2025**

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**EL PASO, TX**



**TACRAO**  
**EXPANDING OUR**  
**HORIZONS**

**Southwest University Park** is El Paso's premier sports and entertainment venue, home to the **El Paso Chihuahuas** (Triple-A affiliate of the San Diego Padres) and **El Paso Locomotive FC** (USL Championship soccer club). The Chihuahuas offer family-friendly fun and unforgettable baseball experiences, while Locomotive FC brings top-tier soccer and community pride to the Borderplex region. Together, they deliver world-class sports entertainment in the heart of downtown El Paso.

Join us for a **unique 5K run** inside the iconic **Chihuahuas Baseball Park** during the conference on **Tuesday, November 11th!**

✳ **Experience the thrill** of running through the stadium

📍 **Location:** Southwest University Park, El Paso, TX

🕒 **Time:** 4:30 PM

📋 Open to all fitness levels – walk, jog, or race!

**Register now and be part of this unforgettable event!**

Sign up for the conference and the 5k here: [TACRAO CONFERENCE](#)





# Lori's Launchpad

## Sunny Summer Greetings!

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer thus far, and has been able to catch moments of relaxation with family and friends!

We had a fantastic Summer Meeting in College Station, and I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our Summer Meeting Committee Co-Chairs Hector Cerda Dyer & Troy White, and their entire committee, for putting on one of the best Meetings in recent memory.

As the calendar moves swiftly towards fall, the TEC and LAC are busy driving preparations for the Annual Conference towards the finish line. Some of us are even in full planning mode for next year already!

As President-Elect of TACRAO, I'm tasked with ensuring all committee positions are filled for the November 2025–November 2026 year. Among Standing Committees, Session Planning Committees, and the Local Arrangements Committee, there are approximately 200 positions with varying levels of engagement and responsibility. It takes more than a village to keep TACRAO running!

I'm working my way through volunteer forms and recommendations I've received, confirming appointments to committees; however, there's still time to submit your name! Review descriptions on the [TACRAO Committees website](https://tacrao.org/committees), see what attracts your interest, then send an email to: [president.elect@tacrao.org](mailto:president.elect@tacrao.org). If you're unsure or have questions, I'd also be happy to discuss with you.

There are spots open on notable Standing committees like:

- Communications (North and West regions)
- Corporate Relations
- Graduate & Professional School Relations
- Resolutions
- Summer Meeting

There are also available positions on these important Session Planning Committees, as well as others:

- Certification & Legal Issues
- Student Access & Opportunity
- Student Success
- Technology & Data Collection

Win a free registration to the Fun Run at the Annual Conference in El Paso!

The first two (2) correct answers to hit my inbox win! [President.elect@tacrao.org](mailto:president.elect@tacrao.org)

*What TACRAO committee am I?*

We work behind scenes, with numbers we play,  
Ensuring the truth in what ledgers say.  
No spotlight or fame, but trust is our aim –  
Guardians of records, always the same.

See you in El Paso!

**Lori Zerr**  
**TACRAO President-Elect**



**Lori Zerr**  
*President-Elect*  
*University of Texas Health Science*  
*Center at Houston*

# Past President Post



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

Now that the Texas Weather has settled back to oven temperatures, I know we are all praying for rain again. Wasn't that a nice change this summer?

TACRAO 2025 in El Paso is speeding toward us! If you know or have new TACRAO members who will join us for the first time in November 2025, encourage them to attend the New Member breakfast! We will have great information and have a great time giving it out! The Membership Engagement Committee has been working on ideas to engage all members through the year. Look for opportunities to network with TACRAO colleagues. More information will come soon!

The Site Selection Committee also conducted several visits in the Dallas area this summer and will announce TACRAO 2027 soon. Get excited!!

But before we head to the Metroplex, we have an awesome conference in El Paso and then Houston in 2026. Make sure and mark your calendars.

I can't wait to see you all in El Paso!



# Jason's Jottings



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

As the sun rises over the Franklin Mountains, so too does our collective opportunity to grow, learn, and expand our horizons. This fall, TACRAO heads west to beautiful El Paso, Texas - where stunning landscapes and rich cultural history set the stage for meaningful professional development and connection.

Under the 2025 theme **“Expanding Our Horizons,”** our dedicated Session Chairs have been hard at work curating a slate of powerful, relevant, and forward-thinking sessions designed to help us all navigate the ever-changing terrain of higher education. Whether you’re grappling with new technologies, shifting demographics, or evolving legislative landscapes, this year’s sessions are built to equip you with the insight and tools needed to move forward with confidence.

A heartfelt thank you to all of our Session Chairs for the time, coordination, and care they’ve poured into this year’s program. Their work helps make TACRAO more than just a conference - it’s a launching point for innovation, collaboration, and progress.

If you’ve submitted a session or were nominated to present, we anticipate sending out confirmations in the coming weeks. Our chairs are currently finalizing session descriptions, and we’re excited to unveil a program that truly reflects our mission of leadership and learning.

## **Conference registration is now OPEN!**

If you haven’t registered yet for this year’s conference, we highly recommend you do so soon by visiting: <https://www.tacrao.org/annual-conference>

Join us in El Paso as we expand our perspectives, share our experiences, and chart new paths forward together. We can’t wait to see you on the horizon!

**Jason Hale**  
**Vice President for Admissions**



# Kristin's Korner

**Kristin McDonald-Willey**  
Vice President for Records  
& Retention  
Amarillo College



## Greetings!

As a reminder, this year's TACRAO conference slogan is *"Expanding Our Horizons"*. Of course, we sincerely hope you will attend the conference and embrace every opportunity you are presented to grow your own knowledge and broaden your perspectives.

## Personal Challenge!

However...

**You** have talents. **You** have knowledge. **You** are uniquely blessed with a skillset, personality, and viewpoints that only **you** can offer. Whether this is your first year in higher education, you have been involved with higher education 20+ years, or you fall somewhere in between, we need **you**.

Please consider using your unique attributes to help make us all better. We have a range of opportunities that require little commitment to being very involved; whatever your availability or desires might be, we have a spot for you.

Highlighted Opportunities	Notes	How Do I Get Involved?
Session Facilitator	<b>Who Should Consider this Opportunity?</b> Do you plan to attend the annual conference? Do you want to commit to something short-term? Do you want to be assigned a task that requires very limited training, work, and is easy to complete? <b>Basic Details:</b> Please view the <a href="#">Facilitator Guidelines</a> .	Please let us know of your interest!  <a href="#">Session Facilitator Application</a>
Committees	<b>Who Should Consider this Opportunity?</b> Anyone with a little time and a big desire to help with session and/or standing committees. Anyone looking for a "gateway" into more involvement with TACRAO. Anyone looking to help make connections with like-minded people. <b>Basic Details:</b> Lori Zerr, President Elect, will be THRILLED to talk to you about any/all committee involvement opportunities, potential time commitment, etc.	Please indicate your interest on the <a href="#">I'm Available Form</a> .
Session Presenter	<b>Who Should Consider this Opportunity?</b> Anyone with ideas/information to share! <b>Basic Details:</b> Our session planning committees have done excellent work and we've already had a lot of wonderful session ideas presented. However, if you have an idea, we encourage you to go ahead and submit that idea. Believe it or not, we're already planning for Houston (next year's TACRAO!) Even if you are not tapped to present this year, we very likely will put you at the top of the list for next year!	<a href="#">Visit the TACRAO site and submit your proposal!</a>
Not Sure Where You Fit?	If you ever feel like the odd man out or that you're not sure you do fit or where you fit then consider this your message...  You <b>do fit</b> and we <b>do have</b> a place for you. The <a href="#">I'm Available Form</a> will allow you to leave open availability. Also, if you'd prefer to further discuss your availability, concerns, dreams, cats, dogs, etc. prior to committing, just reach out to me and I'll be here to listen and help connect you with the right opportunity!  <a href="mailto:vp.records@tacrao.org">vp.records@tacrao.org</a>	

**Kristin McDonald-Willey**  
**Vice President for Records and Registration**



# Rexroat's Rhetoric



**Jodie Rexroat**  
*Vice President of Technology*  
*Southern Methodist University*

Summer is in full swing, and things are heating up both outside and in higher education.

If you haven't perused the re-vamped [TCCNS.org](https://tccns.org) website, you are missing out. The website is an excellent resource for our peer institutions, the THECB, our students and their families. In fact, several new enhancements have recently been rolled out on the site. A new field was added where institutions can indicate if a course satisfies the Component Area Option (CAO) requirement. This field can be selected if a course satisfies both a Foundational Core Area (FCA) and the CAO 090 requirement or if it fulfills on the CAO 090 requirement. This addition provides better clarity regarding how courses are fulfilling core components.

Another update seeks to provide greater transparency into how courses transfer from one institution to another. Each institution will indicate how courses are mapped to their institution in relation to the TCCNS course. The first option is 'Course as taught by Institution'. If your institution offers a course that is directly equivalent to the TCCNS course in terms of content and credit hours, this would be your selection. However, if your institution does not offer the specific course as described by the TCCNS, either because you don't offer the course or because it is delivered in a different format, you would select the 'Articulation Placeholder' option. You can read more details about these enhancements [here](#).

The 2025-2026 TCCNS data is live **now** as are these enhancements. Make sure your school has rolled over their courses. If you aren't certain who your school contacts are you can go to <https://tccns.org/contacts/> and select your school. If you have any access issues or questions, please email [tccns@tacrao.org](mailto:tccns@tacrao.org).

The newly minted Enrollment Reporting Committee has been busy as well. Make sure to visit their new resource page on the [TACRAO website](#). They are working diligently to put together documentation and resources for the benefit of the whole membership. Check back often as they continue to add new content. You must login with your TACRAO credentials to view the site. Once logged in, click on the Resources tab and select Enrollment Reporting.

Don't forget between those Saturday afternoons by the pool and squeezing in those last few days of vacation before the Fall rush to register for our Annual Conference in El Paso this November. Georgina, Cassandra and the rest of the LAC are hard at work to provide us a unique and memorable conference.

**Did you know?** The Hotel Paso Del Norte (one of our conference hotels) has hosted the likes of Gloria Swanson, General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing, Will Rogers, Enrique Caruso, Amelia Erhardt, Eleanor Roosevelt, then Vice President Richard Nixon and President Lyndon Johnson and of course, TACRAO!!!!

**Jodie Rexroat**

**Vice President of Technology**



# Kate's Currency



## Hello from North Texas!

As summer winds down and the Fall term is right around the corner, I hope you've been able to take some much-deserved time off to recharge! Here's to feeling energized and ready for another great semester.

I want to remind everyone that TACRAO has a new mailing address. The old address in Plano is no longer accepting our mail, and anything sent there will be returned to sender. Please update your records with our **new address**:

### TACRAO

**4400 State Hwy 121 Suite 300 #1225  
Lewisville, TX 76056**

I'm happy to report that TACRAO is financially strong, and the TACRAO Executive Committee continues to be diligent in ensuring that we stay cost-conscious. Currently, we are processing payments for Day/Night subscriptions, membership renewals, and the 2025 Annual Conference registration. It's a busy time for our bank accounts!

This past April, the San Marcos 2024 Annual Conference LAC Co-Chairs Brandy Garcia and Martha Cuellar-Fraire, with LAC Treasurer Lori Zerr, successfully completed a thorough audit of all conference related-transactions. The review was conducted by the Audit Committee, chaired by Rachel Fernandez and supported by members Jamie Hansard and Connie Garrick. I want to commend everyone involved for their hard work and for managing such a fantastic and fiscally responsible conference. Great job!

In addition, as part of the approved motion by TEC for TACRAO to undergo a third-party audit every two years, we've officially begun our work with an external accounting firm. We have submitted the requested documentation and narrative materials, and the firm is currently reviewing our financial records. Their feedback will help us identify opportunities for increased efficiency and ensure TACRAO's continued financial strength. We look forward to sharing their recommendations with the membership once the review is complete.

I enjoyed seeing so many of you in College Station this July during the Summer Meeting – I always enjoy the opportunity to connect, catch up, and share a few laughs. I hope to see even more of you this November in El Paso for our 2025 Annual Conference. Until then, stay well and don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions related to TACRAO finances – I'm only an email away!

**Kate Richardson**  
**Treasurer**

**Kate Richardson**  
**Treasurer**

*North Central Texas College*



***Don't let your mail take a round trip!***

TACRAO has a **new mailing address**, and anything sent to the old one will be **returned to sender**.

**Send all correspondence to:**

TACRAO

4400 State Hwy 121 Suite 300 #1225

Lewisville, TX 76056



# Beal's Blabber



**Jennifer Beal**  
**Secretary**

*North Central Texas College*

## Hello TACRAO!!

It was so great to see many of you at the Summer Meeting! A big thank you to everyone who took the time to answer those extra questions about your membership profiles at the registration table—we know it's not the most exciting part of the day, but your responses really help us serve you better.

For those who didn't get the chance to stop by the table or update your details—no worries! You can still personalize your membership profile online. If you'd like to let us know what kind of communications you want to receive from TACRAO (like college fair emails), just log in at [www.TACRAO.org](http://www.TACRAO.org) and head to the **Profile** section to make your updates.

While you're there, be sure to explore the treasure trove of helpful content we have on the site! On the TACRAO website, you can find:

**Webinar Recordings** – Catch up on past sessions you may have missed.

**TEC Meeting Minutes** – Stay in the loop with what's happening.

**Session Planning & Standing Committee Reports** – Get the details and behind-the-scenes work that keeps TACRAO running.

**And More** – The site is packed with information that supports your professional development.

Also, just a friendly reminder: **Membership renewal invoices went out in May**, but there's still time to pay your dues if you haven't already. You can take care of that online or by PO. If you have any questions or need assistance, don't hesitate to reach out to me at [secretary@tacrao.org](mailto:secretary@tacrao.org).

Thanks for being part of what makes TACRAO such a strong and connected community. Wishing you all a fantastic summer, and we'll see you soon!

**Jennifer Beal**  
**Secretary**





## Expanding Access: A New Chapter for TACRAO

The TACRAO Executive Committee has voted to change the name of the *Access and Equity Session Planning Committee* to the ***Student Access and Opportunity Committee***.

This change comes after careful consideration of the complexities our institutions face in today's rapidly changing higher education landscape. Following consultation with legal experts, we determined this update ensures our organization remains in compliance with evolving state and federal guidance, while keeping our commitment to delivering meaningful, student-focused programming at the heart of our work.

The ***Student Access and Opportunity Committee*** will continue to develop sessions that explore how individuals and institutions create and expand pathways to growth, development, and success in education, careers, and leadership. The committee will highlight initiatives, research, and strategies that open doors to education, careers, innovation, and leadership.

Examples of future sessions might include:

- Building Pathways from High School to College
- Increasing First-Generation Student Enrollment
- Leveraging Technology to Improve Student Access
- Expanding Opportunities for Rural Communities
- Supporting Students with Disabilities through Resources and Advocacy
- Implementing Early Intervention Strategies to Improve Student Outcomes

Cs are not always so bad... College, Career, and Connection - fostering networks between students, alumni, and employers.

If you or someone on your team is enthusiastic about, or has a background in access and opportunity work, we would appreciate your involvement. Volunteers for committee chairs and members as well as any suggestions are always welcome. Please email [president.elect@tacrao.org](mailto:president.elect@tacrao.org) to share your interest or ideas.

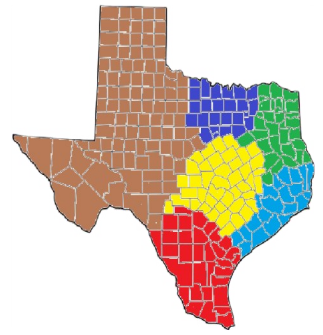
This evolution ensures our conference remains relevant, compliant, and impactful. Most importantly, it preserves our devotion to serving students while ensuring that all members can continue to fully participate in our vibrant TACRAO community.

We look forward to seeing how this committee's work will inspire and equip us all in our work.

Thank you, **TACRAO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**



# REGIONAL NEWS



## SOUTH TEXAS



Effective **September 1, 2025**, **UT Health San Antonio** and **UT San Antonio** will merge. UT Health San Antonio will no longer operate as a separate entity.

To learn more about the merger, visit: [utsanantoniogether.org](https://utsanantoniogether.org)

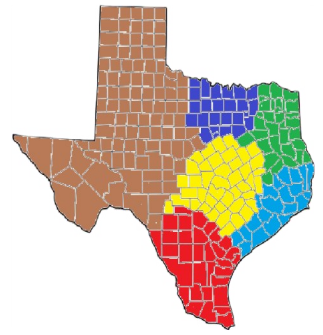
**John Baylor** has been promoted to Senior Undergraduate Admissions Counselor at **UTSA**.

The San Antonio Regional Network (SARN) hosted their annual application bootcamps and counselor card swap! These events are signature events hosted by this network of regional admissions counselors and were very well attended!! Students that attended these events attended sessions about the admissions process as well as a mini college fair





# REGIONAL NEWS



## *SOUTH TEXAS Continued*



Dear Friends,

I'm writing to share some exciting news—I've accepted a new position as Director of Recruitment at Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

This opportunity came unexpectedly, and after thoughtful consideration, I realized it was one I couldn't pass up. It's a chance to grow professionally in new ways, and I'm incredibly grateful for the path that led me here.

Working alongside my TAMU-CC Islander Family has been a true joy. I've learned so much, laughed often, and felt proud of what we've accomplished together.

I will continue to serve TACRAO proudly!

Sincerely,

Maggie Cano

## *SOUTHEAST TEXAS*



\* Houston Community College has a new name. Effective September 5, we will be Houston City College. Transcripts and other documents will be updated with the new name.

\* We have a new Vice Chancellor of Student Services starting August 18. Dr. Lisa Alcorta will join the team at the district office.

\* Pamela Obrien, a student records specialist in our graduation department, retired July 31 after 15 years of service. She will be moving to the Panhandle area to be closer to family.



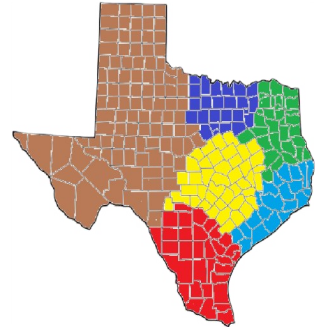
### **Retirement**

Joan Rondot, Associate Registrar, at San Jacinto College, will be retiring as of Aug. 29, 2025.



# REGIONAL NEWS

## *SOUTHEAST TEXAS Continued*



Texas Southern University recently hosted about 50 attendees from schools in the SETACRAO region to attend the SETACRAO 2025 conference on the TSU campus in late June.

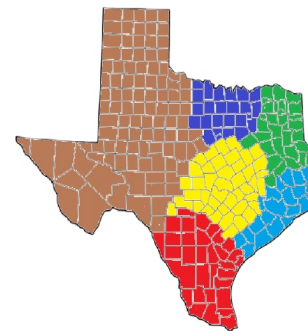
These attendees heard a vibrant keynote from Dr. Ingrid Haynes-Traylor (pictured with attendees from the conference), Associate Dean – College of Education at TSU, on cultivating excellence from the inside out.

Participants also enjoyed an interactive FERPA presentation from Dr. Melissa Flores, TSU/HEC compliance officer. Thank you to everyone that attended, and we look forward to reconnecting at Victoria College for SETACRAO 2026.





# REGIONAL NEWS



## NORTH TEXAS

### Retirement



Congratulations to David Ximenez on his retirement from Tarrant County College, September 30, 2025.

Congratulations to Tina Ellette on her retirement from Tarrant County College in October 2025.



### Promotions

Monyce Bevis has been promoted to Assistant Director of Admissions!



### In Memoriam

It is with heavy hearts that I share the passing of our dear colleague and friend, Jeanne Williams, who devoted 26 years of service to Grayson College. Her loss is deeply felt across our campus community.

Jeanne was a beloved member of our Grayson family, known not only for her professional dedication but for her warmth, resilience, and unwavering spirit. Over the years, she touched the lives of countless students, faculty, and staff — always with a kind word, a ready smile, and a willingness to help however she could. She brought not only skill and professionalism to her role, but also compassion and a steady presence that made our workplace better every single day. She was a colleague, a mentor, and a friend to so many.

In December, Jeanne faced a life-altering health challenge and faced the long road of recovery with incredible strength. Despite the immense difficulties that followed, she met her recovery with courage and grace, reminding all who knew her of the strength of the human spirit. Her courage during this time was nothing short of inspiring and her journey was a testament to her character — full of hope, perseverance, and quiet dignity.

Her legacy at Grayson College is one of service, compassion, and community. As we reflect on her life and the impact she made here, we hold her family and loved ones in our thoughts and offer them our deepest condolences. A celebration of Jeanne's life will be celebrated on Friday, May 16th at Grayson College.

Jeanne will be greatly missed, but her memory and the example she set will continue to inspire us. We are grateful for the years we shared with her and for the many ways she made Grayson College a better place.



Jeanne Williams  
Endowed  
Scholarship for  
Nursing



*Scan to donate*



# 2024-2025 Communications Committee

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<b>Chair, Newsletter, &amp; South-east Texas Editor</b>	Madelyne Tolliver	Victoria College	madelyne.tolliver@victoriacollege.edu
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