

TEXAS ALTERNATIVES

TEXAS ASSOCIATION FOR ALTERNATIVE
EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

TAAE NOW HAS...

Medical....

Dental....

Vision....

& Much, Much More!

Step Number 1

Go to www.taee.org and find the orange "Click On" button and you will be entering the newest and far reaching family of MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS for 2007 this association has ever seen. This website was designed especially for the association market and it allows for a wide variety of services, benefits and even vacation packages. They are all packaged under one click-on button on your TAAE association home page website. *Before you get started...* I would *highly suggest* that you spend your first 15 minutes or so reading the **GREEN**

GREEN BUTTON SECTION – PROGRAMS AND OVERVIEWS.

This section helps you better understand how the various membership benefits differ and how they can be combined for increased satisfaction. This section is somewhat essential for better navigation and understanding, so please take the time and read this section first.

ARE THESE NEW BENEFITS ALL ENCOMPASSING?

The benefits for medical and dental are most likely not the answer to all your individual needs Let's face it... total health care coverage today is simply not affordable for most employers and individuals. Okay, the secret is out now about health care. What these individual plans offer is a variety of

2008 Conference Theme

"TAAE: Changing Lives, One Student at a Time"

Continued on page 5...

2007 TAAE Officers

PRESIDENT

(2007 -2009)

Keith Adams

Mesquite Academy
2704 Motley
Mesquite, Tx 75150
Work: 972-882-7571
Fax: 972-882-7579
kadams@mesquiteisd.org

TREASURER

(2007 – 2009)

Rudy Herrera

Mercer-Blumburg Learning Ctr
1205 E. Kingsbury
Seguin, TX 78155
(830)401-8690
Fax:(830)379-1362
rherrera@sequin.k12.tx.us

PRESIDENT-ELECT

(2007 - 2009)

April Coker

Work: Operation Graduation
Mesquite Learning Center
230 Pioneer
Mesquite, Tx 75149
Work: 972-882-7150
Fax: 972-882-7169
acoker@mesquiteisd.org

CHAPTER LIAISON

(2006-2008)

Kay Panamarenko

Academy @ Hays
4950 Jack C. Hays Trail
Buda, Texas 78601
Wk: 512-268-6478
Fax: 512-268-4152
kaypanamarenko@hotmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

(2006 - 2008)

David Young

Bryan ISD
1901 Villa Maria
Bryan, TX 77845
W: 979-209-2785
Fax: 979-209-2704
dyoung@bryanisd.org

PAST PRESIDENT

(2007-2009)

Linda Kelly

1206 Coyote Lane
Baytown, TX 77521
Cell: 713-416-1962
281-420-9610 (Fax)
lkelly@academicplanet.com

SECRETARY

(2006-2008)

Leslie Schueckler

Timber Academy
College Station ISD
105 Timber St.
College Station, TX 77840
979-764-5540
Fax: 979-764-5564
lschueckler@csisd.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Joe McCullough

1306-A West Anderson Lane
Austin, TX 78757
Off: 512/454-8626
877/258-8223(toll free)
Fax: 512/454/3036
jmccullough@assnmgmt.com



Contents

TAAE Benefits	1
Presidents Message	3
Legislation Call to Action	3
House Committee on Public Education	3
By Madden HB N.O. 3302	4
New TAAE Officer Swearing - in Ceremony	4
Kevin Sweeney TAAE Key Note	5
TAAE Executive Directors Report	5
TAAE Conference in Pictures	8
School Tours	10
TAAE Garza Tour	10
TAAE Members Have Fun at Events	11
Exhibits and Art Auctions	12
Motivation, The Heart of Self Improvement	13
TAAE Exhibitors	14
TAAE Banquet Awards	14
TAAE Annual Conference	15

Editorial Statement

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Editorial & Advertising Contact: Joe McCullough

Direct all correspondence and address changes to: TAAE, 1306 A West Anderson Lane, Austin, TX 78757, (Toll free) 1-877-ALT-TAAE, or e-mail: jmccullough@assnmgmt.com

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TAAE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Keith Adams, Mesquite Academy

Together... we make a difference

Wow! What a tremendous conference at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Austin. The conference was well attended and enjoyed by all who participated in the "pardon our dust" activities. Special thanks are given out to Joe McCullough, Executive Board, April Coker and the Conference Committee for an outstanding job organizing the 2007 conference. I am very proud to follow in the footsteps of Past President, Linda Kelly in working with alternative educators across the state in developing positive learning environments for at-risk students. I have been a member of TAAE for 12 years and involved in Alt Ed for 16 years as a teacher and administrator prior to accepting the position as President of TAAE. The presidents before me have represented this organization well and I intend to continue the fight for the at-risk students we all teach each day by staying involved in the academic and legislative process. Thanks goes out to the membership for electing a strong Executive Board where every member is committed to the success of TAAE.



TAAE Conference 2007 was a success because a large army of volunteers gave time and effort towards the organization, planning and execution of the diverse programs and opportunities offered to participants. Thank you TAAE membership and committee members for helping us reach our goal of including a more diverse group of presenters and participants. Activities started at the conference with bus tours to schools in the Austin area. The faculty and staffs from Austin Learning Center, Hays Academy and Austin Garza opened their doors to buses loaded with eager teachers/administrators ready to experience the success of these campuses. It is always good to learn from others and I want to thank these campuses for opening their doors to TAAE. A "Hot Topics" panel of experts from TEA, TJCP and The Center for Safe Schools met us in the afternoon for a very lively discussion on issues affecting TAAE and Alternative Ed. Participants were given an opportunity to ask questions and have those responded to in a very professional way by all of the panel members. The first evening brought excitement as the Texas A&M Aggie Wranglers performed at the banquet, WHOOP! Tim Hawkins entertained us with a great comic act combining music and hilarity while inviting guests to share in the antics.

Keynote speaker Lt. Colonel Kevin Sweeney led off Friday morning with his presentation "Pressure Cooker Confidence" in which he discussed how to handle the pressures we face as educators in schools. Using his experiences in Vietnam and Desert Storm, Lt. Colonel Sweeney showed us how to stay strong even when we are in the "Hot Seat" during our school experiences. The workshops during the day Friday were outstanding and involved a large number of volunteers making all of the presentations possible for a wide range of topics. Executive Director Joe McCullough kept the breakfast food and coffee supplied so everyone was able to be refreshed as they moved from one venue to another experiencing the different sessions. Round table DAEP discussions finished off the afternoon schedule with many members discussing relevant issues related to DAEP instruction, legal issues and school structure which provided some clarity of the overall DAEP picture. Saturday morning workshops were well attended and the conference came to a close after a successful three days. Thanks to all of the membership for another outstanding conference and the hope that we do make an impact on the kids we teach. See you in Austin for Conference 2008 at the Crown Plaza.

HB 3202 – TAAE- Legislative "Call To Action" Notice.

Below is a bill the TAAE Board has termed very important to our alternative education community. This bill, HB 3202 encourages new and beneficial funds towards our disciplinary communities to engage our youth participants in significant behavioral modifications and by doing so aims them towards a successful career path. Immediately following this paragraph is a calling list for key legislators whereas you're support could be guided by a simple phone call.

Texas Legislator Call List For HOUSE BILL 3202 – DISCIPLINARY AT-RISK YOUTH PROGRAM

Telephone contacts should be made with members of the House Committee on Public Education; and later with the House and Senate Appropriations Committee. Most members will be in Austin on work days, therefore, Austin telephone numbers are provided along with the district office telephone contact numbers.

***Talking Points During Your Call:** Far too many School Districts in Texas, including our district, lack the resources, to effectively provide life skills training and problem solving skills training for troubled and troublesome youth who come to our attention, in our School District Disciplinary Alternative Education Program and In School Suspension settings.

We need your vote in supporting House Bill 3202 for Disciplinary At-Risk Youth sponsored by Representative Jerry Madden (from Plano). This House Bill will provide much needed financial support for programs for these difficult youth, who in the absence of these DAEP/ISS programs, will very likely graduate to our very costly juvenile and criminal justice system.

House Committee on Public Education

The Woodlands – Rob Eissler, Ch. Dist. -512-463-0502 - Austin 512-463-0502
Arlington – William Zedler, Vc. Ch.-Dist. 817-361-7755- Austin 512-463-0374
Dallas – Dan Branch – Dist. 214-745-5888- Austin 512-463-0367
Temple – Dianne White Delisi- Dist.254-774-9888- Austin 512-463-0630
Houston- Harold V. Dutton Jr. – Dist. 713-692-9192- Austin 512-463-0510
Houston – Scott Hochberg- Dist. 832-252-7336- Austin 512-463-0492
Fort Worth – Anna Mowery - Dist. 817-732-1372- Austin 512-463-0608
Rosenberg – Dora F. Olivo - Dist. 281-208-8806- Austin 512-463-0490
Arlington – Diane Patrick - Dist. 512-463-0624- Austin 512-463-0624

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT relating to the provision of a competitive grant program at the Texas Education Agency funding disciplinary programs for at-risk youth.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
SECTION 1. Section 37.0082, Education Code, is enacted to read as follows:
Sec. 37.0082. **Funding for Innovative Disciplinary At-Risk Youth Program Grants.**

- (a) From funds appropriated for that purpose, the agency shall award grants for funding to conduct youth violence prevention, drug abuse prevention, or delinquency prevention programs for at-risk youth in in-school suspension or disciplinary alternative education program settings.
- (b) A grant under this section shall be used to develop a case management system for at-risk youth assigned to disciplinary alternative education programs or in-school suspension settings in grades six through twelve. A district may not reduce funding for existing programs supporting students in disciplinary alternative education programs or in-school suspension settings by use of funds awarded under this section.
- (c) A school district may contract with a private provider, another public school, or a regional education service center for services to implement a grant under this section. A school district must agree to participate in trainings, technical assistance and evaluations, as required by the agency.
- (d) School districts awarded a grant under this section will implement programs that:
- (1) target students who demonstrate abusive conduct and behaviors including assault, abuse, aggression, insubordination, bullying, sexual harassment, intimidation of others, destruction of school property, sale or possession of dangerous drugs, and/or possession of weapons;
 - (2) provide services to students selected by campus principals for behavioral intervention;
 - (3) utilize documented violence prevention, drug abuse prevention or delinquency prevention programs, including group skills training, individual behavioral counseling, and community service learning projects;
 - (4) use a case management system for a 12 month period of time with each student to assure a successful transition to the regular education program; and
 - (5) work closely with the student's parents, guardian or other person or agency standing in parental relation to the student or having control of the student under a court order.
- (e) The agency shall provide for a grant application, review and award process on a competitive basis and may use one or more education service center for that purpose and for training and technical assistance. An education service center participating in a grant proposal with a school district may not participate in activities under this subsection.
- SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2007-2008 school year.
- SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article 111, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

New TAAE Officer Swearing-in Ceremony



TAAE annually elects officers for expiring terms and this year in Austin was no exception. Outgoing President **Linda Kelly** of Baytown presided over the new officer induction oath of office to incoming TAAE President **Keith Adams** of Mesquite Academy, **President Elect April Coker**, Mesquite Academy, and second term **Treasurer Rudy Herrera** of Mercer-Blumberg Academy in Sequin, Texas. All were inducted at the Saturday morning TAAE General Business Meeting on February 10th, 2007. One position was left unfilled this year by the fact that Board members moved up the ladder, if you will, and that position being left open was that of Vice President which the President per the bylaws is filling as an “appointed position” with **David Young** from Bryan College Station to finish that term of office. David has served on TAAE Conference Committee in the past and will be a great asset to the Board. David will finish out the office term started by April Coker who moved up to the President Elect Officer position.

Presidents Exchange the Gavel

During this year’s Board/General Session the Past President’s Award was presented to long time Board member and now immediate past **president Linda Kelly**. Linda then tossed the ceremonial gavel a fast flying twenty feet or so and Keith snatched it out of the air (very impressively I might add) and started his reign as TAAE President.

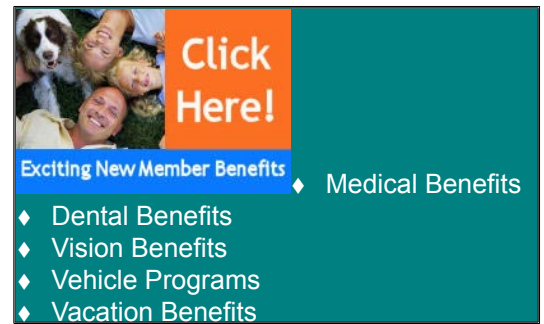
Linda Kelly, as you may know, is quite special to all those that know her and or have worked with her. Dedication to TAAE does not seem an appropriate accolade in that she is way beyond a dedicated and caring person regarding the kids and missions of TAAE. Linda’s single minded focus has always been to help the students of alternative education in Texas. Linda is now on the Board for two more years as Past President so she has not gone or escaped just yet. TAAE will continue to heed her advice and move progressively into the next few years of our building processes. Thank Linda for a great job next time you see her. **Thanks... Linda for always being there for the kids!**



Pictured here Linda Kelly receives her VERY DESERVED President plaque from incoming President Keith Adams.

Continued From Front Page

great medical and dental insurance models. Some models are more comprehensive and some are set up as discount plans that address basic needs. You can pick your model depending on your individual medical issues. There are a couple of basic medical plans set up like menus, where you pick and choose benefits according to your needs. You pick your payment and you pick your benefit level. The medical coverage is through A+ rated Champion Life and should be looked at pretty seriously by those without any coverage for their family and or even your office staff as a company benefit plans and retention plan. These plans offer FLEXIBILITY at affordable prices and they offer SECURITY to you and your family. The medical and dental plans, while multi-purpose and flexible, also have the added value sections found by clicking on the **SILVER, GOLD AND ADDITIONAL ADD-ON BENEFITS IN BLUE**, which can be added to your basic plans. By clicking on the blue buttons you will be able to review the numerous benefits that each of these sections brings to the table. Again, you pick and choose any program that fits your business and or lifestyle needs. If you need none of the add-ons now and wish to utilize them later, that is what these plans are about—flexibility and additional services to you as a member of TAAE!



“Other Areas of TAAE Benefits Offered”

Discount Medical Enhancement Options

This is a package of discount medical services that provide savings on a variety of medical needs. You will have access to the most extensive network of health care providers for each of the discount medical services available in the marketplace today. The discount medical services available in this package include discount vision, discount hearing, discount dental care, doctor/hospital network discount, and diagnostic imaging and lab discounts.

ID Theft and Recovery

ID Theft & Recovery Program is a powerful benefit that gives you the help you need when identity theft destroys your good name. You'll have it all taken care of, usually in just a few days. Your good name restored, and your credit record, too!

Personal Counseling Service

The counseling service allows members to seek professional clinical assistance in order to resolve numerous personal problems. A professional counselor will work directly and confidentially with the member or family member to help resolve the problem.

Home Assistance Services

This service provides our members a personal helper to assist them in getting the answers and services they need. For pennies a day, your personal helper gives you peace of mind with outstanding saving values and services from health care services to help around your house. You can be secure in the knowledge that we have screened everyone we recommend, saving you the hassle and worry.

Walk In Pharmacy

Visit one of over 35,000 participating pharmacies nationwide, present your membership card and you may save up to 40% on brands and up to 70% on selected generics.

Diabetic Supplies Discount

Benefit members can receive special discounts from a leading national mail order company, capable of shipping within 24 hrs.

AD&D / AME Insurance

As a member you will receive \$10,000 of Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance, and \$ 5,000 of Accidental Medical Emergency Insurance with a \$250 deductible.

Mail Order Pharmacy

You can choose 90-day Mail Order supplies for maintenance medications and receive great savings. Our mail order medication provider utilizes many different suppliers to deliver aggressive value pricing to our subscribers.

Discount Vitamins/Mineral Supplements

Benefit members can obtain a wide range of vitamins and mineral supplements through our mail order program at savings of 2 %- 0% below suggested catalog prices.

Durable Medical Equipment Discount

The medical supplies and equipment benefit offers a broad selection of products and has a long-standing relationship with most major manufactures.



24hr Nurse Hotline

Registered nurses are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to provide members with advice on a wide range of issues.

Worldwide Condo Discounts

SAVE, SAVE, SAVE, on one, two and three bedroom condos worldwide. You now have access to over 35,000 weeks of surplus condominium inventory worldwide at some of the world's most beautiful resort locations at deep discounts. When searching for a desired destination, start your search on a Saturday or Sunday for best results. You can reserve your selection at NO COST for 24 hours. Please contact member services toll free (877- 571-6900) to confirm and complete your reservation. New inventory is added on a regular basis, if a desired location is not available when you search you may wish to check back at a later date.

Hotel Discounts

Now you can save on rooms at over 6,000 participating hotels worldwide with the Wyndham Hotel Group. You will receive a discount of 10% off the "Best Available Published Rate" at participating locations. You must book online or through our toll free reservation # to receive these savings. Your membership ID number will be provided in your fulfillment packet.

Credit Enhancement Program

This program provides positive reporting to the credit bureaus on a regular basis. Enjoy having your monthly membership dues billed to our Credit Enhancement Program, powered by MasterCard, and then paying your MasterCard bill through the convenience of automatic withdrawal from your checking account.

Vehicle Assistant

All the pains of your next vehicle purchase are gone. Just submit your detailed request and let our vehicle service representatives take over. We locate your vehicle, new or used and we then use our national buying power to negotiate on your behalf. You test drive the car and write the check, we take care of the rest. Your membership ID number will be provided in your fulfillment packet.

Easy as 1-2-3:

1. Select your purchase



2. We locate and negotiate

. You receive what you want at the price you want to pay!

Auto Care Center

Meineke Auto Centers are pleased to offer a 10% discount on all auto services at the over 900 locations nationwide. A discount of % will be given for all purchases of tires and batteries. Please present your membership ID card to be recognized for these discounts.

Moving and Storage

Atlas Van Lines is proud to offer the very best in moving and storage. You will realize savings of up to 61% bottom line discount regardless of season You

also have a discount of up to 4 % on storage in transit. All this comes with up to \$ 50,000 Value Replacement in Transit Protection.

AND MORE!

These new TAAE "Membership Benefits" are yours for just being a member of this association. We hope you will take the time to explore your new personal options and the unique and affordable opportunities offered by these plans. Questions can be answered by qualified plan administrators within each section so please refer to those website numbers should questions arise.

**Your TAAE association membership dollars are unmatched
by any association you know.**

Click Here!
Exciting New Member Benefits
Medical Benefits
Dental Benefits
Vision Benefits
Vehicle Programs
Vacation Benefits

Kevin Sweeney – TAAE Keynote

How well do you handle pressure?

Does pressure make you nervous?

Do your students handle pressure well?



Our TAAE Friday keynote speaker Colonel Kevin Sweeney demonstrated to our audience that in fact... he clearly understood and had indeed personal knowledge of and experienced pressure situations. Kevin Sweeney has flown combat missions in both Viet Nam and Desert Storm. He has been awarded numerous decorations including the Air Achievement Medal, multiple Air Medals and the United States Air Force Distinguished Flying Cross.

So ... Mr. Pressure Cooker, himself... simply amazed this year's audience as he defined pressure and related pressure situations to competition issues, to the classroom, to peer situations and all the time Sweeney intertwined these kinds of daily pressure cooker situations with his real life "life and death" situation while at 30,000 feet. Sweeney was keen to talk about the very important situations of teamwork and the impact the team plays in day to day pressures of life in the classroom by giving examples or personality types within the team structure. Everyone left this keynote address in awe as Kevin revealed his "pressure cooker" situation while at

30,000 feet and his miraculous recovery of his aircraft which has never been duplicated before or since. Anything...can be accomplished if your heart is in the desired outcome of your mission.

Kevin Sweeney can be contacted at SweeneySpeaks.com Kevin@SweeneySpeaks.com 817-251-8767

TAAE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

By Joe McCullough

Let me start with a **BIG THANK YOU**...to all of the teachers, administrators, counselors, and conference presenters, who made this year's 2007 TAAE Annual Conference one of the biggest and best yet. The combination of JJAEP/Balancing Education Conference along with TAAE's regular conference seemed to please everyone this year that attended. TAAE presentation topics were designed by this year's TAAE Conference Committee to incorporate a strand of JJAEP/Discipline/Counselor/Special Education topics throughout the day on Friday and there we designed hi-light feature workshop presentations either side of Friday. TAAE is one of the premiere AT-RISK conferences in the US. It is the one time a year annual event in Texas which brings together all of the alternative programs under one roof to rejuvenate skills and plant the seeds of inspiration on new techniques and information which can be applied the following Monday at your school.

The TAAE Annual Conference is about networking, sharing and communicating information that works in the classroom. There is simply not a "HOW TO BOOK" when it comes to mentoring, dealing with, teaching and guiding kids who are in trouble and reaching out with multitudes of various social and home grown family structure issues. Our alternative education community teachers are truly the lifelines, benchmarks of stability, and friends when those kids leave home everyday and come to school. That's why our conference is so unique each year because our alternative education teachers are always evolving, adaptive and engaged in the ever mobile attitudes of the day and kids at school.

Well, as to the conference this year, that ADAPTIVE attitude was called on right off the bat when we arrived and the hotel had NOT met their construction

deadline leaving the hotel without...a real restaurant and the bar was set-up as a make shift restaurant.

Yea...not real pretty with what I describe as the DMZ whereas you had to navigate painters, construction crews, dust, and occasional banging noise in the lobby area as you walked

to presentations on that side of the hotel.



The good news ...for next year is we will be at the same hotel location (so you can find it easy) and the Crowne Plaza lobby and restaurant areas are... now simply beautiful and ready for business! Thanks to all who adapted and can deal with hotel adversity also.

Thursday prior to the conference TAAE offered our ever popular TAAE school bus tours and this year we visited 3 schools with a couple of schools having multiple site trips with their campus facilities.



2007 Conference in Pictures



Top of Texas – Team , Perryton, TX at banquet



Conference workshop attendees



Deborah Johnson presides over Q&A "Hot Topics" Panel Seminar



Discipline Alternative Education – Round Tables – A hit!



Unlimited Hands/Exhibitor – A big hit with the ladies!



A&M Wranglers – Burning up the floor!



Thanks to our TAAE scholarship helpers!



TAAE President Linda Kelly addresses the Conference



Tim Hawkins – Going Crazy!



April Coker – Conference Chair - Announcing drawing winners.



Exhibitor – The Learning Springs – Visiting with members.



Board members enjoying the banquet

TAAE 2007 Conference in Pictures



Exhibitor – Pearson Digital Learning – Making a Difference!



The hotel restaurant DMZ



Winner!!! Gets Free Conference Christine Jackson



Past President Lynn Lee and Pam Kinnon – Saturday Workshop



Paula Ellis Winner!!! – Student handmade art print



Nomination Chair – Lynn Lee announcing officer runoff results



Great food in the exhibit hall



Keith Adams – Addressing TAAE members



Great signs made by – Paula Ellis/Baytown



Thinking about retiring? We had you covered.



Art Auction Selections + More!



Lisa Metzler – Receives "Life Member Award" from President Kelly



Nancy Rinehart – TEA Education on Performance Reporting



Winner!!! Gets DVD!



April Coker and Linda Kelly- oversee membership booth



Keynote Col. Kevin Sweeney – Landing his keynote points.

School Tour: Hays CISD 2007 School Tours

On Thursday, February 8, two tour buses along with several private vehicles brought over 100 educators to the Hays CISD alternative schools as part of the 2007 pre-conference activities. The Academy @ Hays entertained the entire group for about an hour and then bussed 50 of the guests to IMPACT/JJAEP/The Ranch.

The tours were a tremendous success. Members participated in science demonstrations, visited classrooms, watched videos, and viewed art and displayed projects. Members also had time to interact with both students and staff of the host schools. Some highlights on the campuses included a chemistry demonstration at the Academy and a hands-on physics demonstration at IMPACT (DAEP).

Speaking for the students and staff of Hays CISD alternative services, we extend our sincere appreciation to all members involved with our pre-conference tours and allowing us to take part in the 2007 TAAE Conference. If we can be of any service to you or your school, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mark Stedman, Principal, Academy @ Hays



Science was the subject and Exploding Sand was the demonstration. Jacob Bowne (Fish) and Rudy Herrera (Chip) donned their protective eye gear for the interesting demonstration.



With help from hostesses Andrea and Kim, Mr. Herrera gets the royal treatment at the Academy refreshments table.

TAAE Garza School Bus Tour



Saray and Kim, students at the Academy @ Hays, anxiously await TAAE visitors on the morning of February 8.

On the morning of Thursday, February 8th, a busload of teachers, administrators, and other staff members from alternative education organizations across the state had the opportunity to visit Gonzalo Garza Independence High School in the Austin Independent School District. Garza is a school of choice that offers its students an opportunity to complete their high school education in a non-traditional setting. Students and visitors alike are immediately immersed in a nurturing learning environment predicated on three simple guiding principles: 1) Demonstrate personal honor and integrity at all times, 2) Choose peace over conflict, and 3) Respect ourselves and others. This code of honor is modeled by the faculty and staff, embraced by the students, and extended to outside families and the community. After a general session with Assistant Principal Sam Watson and Principal Vicki Baldwin, the TAAE group was divided into three smaller tour groups led by members of Garza's administrative or counseling staff. These groups were treated to demonstrations of innovative teaching techniques, genuine testimonials from both students and teachers, and the opportunity to view a vast array of student work and success. Garza is characterized by innovative programs such as multi-credit courses, integrated curriculum across academic disciplines, and a wildly successful partnership with Austin Community College. Gonzalo Garza Independence HS presents students with a solution-focused approach where students are truly in control of their own destiny and that their future does not have to be determined by their environment or previous educational experiences.

TAAE MEMBERS REALLY... HAVE FUN AT FUN EVENTS...

Thursday evening this year the Conference Committee put into play a fun filled opportunity to kick-back and enjoy lots of big laughs during the TAAE Annual Conference banquet as well as some fantastic dance



performances. The first banquet entertainment of the evening came with a dance group from Texas A&M College Station known as the Texas A&M Wranglers dance troop. This organization has many performances around the state of Texas each year and when you first see them you get the impression you are going to be watching a square dancing

performance. NOT! The Wranglers put on a square dancing performance packed with incredible athletic feats of agility, courage, all in one of the most unique and incredibly stylized performances this audience has ever



witnessed. Absolutely astonishing acrobatics mixed with precision dancing these three young college student team



couples lit up the floor for about 45 minutes with dazzling moves. The audiences was worn out and still holding their breath at the end of the

Wranglers performance. If you ever have an event of any size the Wranglers are sure to be a crowd pleaser.



Next came a comedian which we invited to our TAAE conference almost six years ago named Tim Hawkins. Well, from those fond memories we booked Tim again and his act has gotten even better. Tim's performance and songs were clean and absolutely hilarious. To top it off, he made mad escapades into the audience and did some comical mingling with the

banquet crowd of 200+ members at this years banquet.



It was always a scary thing when Tim came bouncing your way but, it was always in fun. Even I ...had to dance with this crazy guy. Tim brought an hour and half of fun, lots of laughter, good music and quality entertainment to the Thursday evening banquet and everyone left with a fond memory or story to tell about Tim Hawkins.

Exhibits and Art Auctions are Hi-light Events at TAAE Annual Conference

There is simply something new you can learn every time when you go to the TAAE exhibit hall. Either a new exhibitor, product or process which can help you as a teacher place another tool in your tool box. This year we had some “for fun” exhibitors with our jewelers booths just in case some of the lady’s needed a few little bling, bling items for the road home.



The 2007 exhibitors spent some quality time with our members this year in Austin and TAAE feels they are a very important learning portion of our annual conference. TAAE likes to support their presence with food functions in the exhibit hall, multiple exhibit hall times and post conference recognition. Please support those who help support our alternative education profession. Pick up the phone and contact one of our exhibitors in this post conference newsletter edition and tell them they are appreciated. Better yet ... make a purchase!



Winner! Nancy Rinehart

This year TAAE held some raffles for unique prizes such as the the coveted print won by **Nancy Rinehart**, Manager of Performance Reporting at TEA.



Rudy Herrera has been our annual TAAE auctioneer for the past few years due to his charm, wit, character and some say his big loud mouth/voice that is...but, Rudy always comes through for TAAE. Thanks Rudy!



Each year people purchase tickets and in the afternoon on Friday they get their tickets out and we start the process by announcing the numbers chosen for 30 plus prize options. Participants anxiously await their magic numbers and many go home with the items they wanted.



These TAAE auction participants take away some very special art brought to the conference annually by **Joanne Frimel, Art Specialist with Spring Branch School of Choice**, worked with her students across the curriculum in language arts and art classes on the theme of the 2007 TAAE Conference. Students created pieces of original art work that reflect communication and connection using visual instead of written methods. This year student work consisted of block prints, puzzle art pieces and ceramic pins and medallions which were unique and inspirational works of art.



MOTIVATION, THE HEART OF SELF IMPROVEMENT

Do not wait; the time will never be “just right.” Start where you stand, and work with whatever tools you may have at your command, and better tools will be found as you go along. - Napoleon Hill

Pain may sometimes be the reason why people change. Getting failing grades make us realize that we need to study. Debts remind us of our inability to look for a source of income. Being humiliated gives us the “push” to speak up and fight for ourselves to save our face from the next embarrassments. It may be a bitter experience, a friend’s tragic story, a great movie, or an inspiring book that will help us get up and get just the right amount of motivation we need in order to improve ourselves.

With the countless negativities the world brings about, how do we keep motivated? Try on the tips from A to Z.

- A** – Achieve your dreams. Avoid negative people, things and places. Eleanor Roosevelt once said, “the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”
- B** – Believe in your self, and in what you can do.
- C** – Consider things on every angle and aspect. Motivation comes from determination. To be able to understand life, you should feel the sun from both sides.
- D** – Don’t give up and don’t give in. Thomas Edison failed once, twice, many, many times before he came up with his invention and perfected the incandescent light bulb. Make motivation as your steering wheel.
- E** – Enjoy. Work as if you don’t need money. Dance as if nobody is watching. Love as if you never cried. Learn as if you’ll live forever. Motivation takes place when people are happy.
- F** – Family and Friends “ are life’s greatest treasures.” Don’t lose sight of them.
- G** – Give more than what is enough. Where does motivation and self-improvement take place at work? At home? At school? When you exert extra effort in doing things.
- H** – Hang on to your dreams. They may dangle in there for a moment, but these little stars will be your driving force.
- I** – Ignore those who try to destroy you. Don’t let other people to get the best of you. Stay away from toxic people – the kind of friends who hates to hear about your success.
- J** – Just be yourself. The key to success is to be yourself. And the key to failure is to try to please everyone.
- K** – keep trying no matter how hard life may seem. When a person is motivated, eventually he sees a harsh life finally clearing out, paving the way to self-improvement.
- L** – Learn to love your self. Now isn’t that easy?
- M** – Make things happen. Motivation is when your dreams are put into work clothes.
- N** – Never lie, cheat or steal. Always play a fair game.
- O** – Open your eyes. They see things in 2 ways – how they want things to be, and how they should be.
- P** – Practice makes perfect. Practice is about motivation. It lets us learn skills and ways on how can we recover from our mistakes.
- Q** – Quitters never win. And winners never quit. So, choose your fate – are you going to be a quitter? Or a winner?
- R** – Ready yourself. Motivation is also about preparation. We must hear the little voice within us telling us to get started before others will get on their feet and try to push us around. Remember, it wasn’t raining when Noah build the ark.
- S** – Stop procrastinating.
- T** – Take control of your life. Discipline or self control jives synonymously with motivation. Both are key factors in self-improvement.
- U** – Understand others. If you know very well how to talk, you should also learn how to listen. Yearn to understand first, and to be understood the second.
- V** – Visualize it. Motivation without vision is like a boat on a dry land.
- W** – Want it more than anything. Dreaming means believing. And to believe is something that is rooted out from the roots of motivation and self-improvement.
- X** – X Factor is what will make you different from the others. When you are motivated, you tend to put on “extras” in your life like extra time for family, extra help at work, extra care for friends, and so on.
- Y** – You are unique. No one in this world looks, acts, or talks like you. Value your life and existence, because you’re just going to spend it once.
- Z** – Zero in on your dreams and go for it!!!

To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe. - Anatole France

Thank you for reading this newsletter!

I publish two newsletters 3P – Positive People Power! and PSL - Positive Spiritual Living Newsletter. If you want to be added to the mailing list, please forward your email address to me and I will put you on the subscriber’s list. – Thanks!

Jim Gentil - Mr. Positive P.O. Box 340108 - Austin, TX 78734
Office: 512-261-4940 Fax: 512-261-4979 E-mail: Jim@JimGentil.com
www.JimGentil.com



THANK YOU TO OUR 2007 EXHIBITORS!

TAAE's 17th Annual Conference and Exhibition • "TAAE: Together... We Make a Difference"
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AMERICAN PREPARATORY INSTITUTE
PO BOX 1800
Killeen, TX 76540-1800
Phone: 254-526-1316
Contact: Sarah Cravero
Email: sarah.cravero@ctcd.edu

AZTEX SOFTWARE
51 Commerce Street
Springfield, NJ, 07081
Phone: 973-258-0011
Contact: Eileen Horowitz
Email: Eileen@aztexsoftware.com

CC'S LITTLE GEMS
1200 Battenburg Trail
Pflugerville, TX 78660
Phone: 512-461-6724
Contact: Carlie Tilly
Email: cc.tilly@sbcglobal.net

EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS
3440 Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA, 22201
Phone: 703-243-7460
Contact: Wayne Hochberg
Email: whochberg@edoptions.com

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY LEARNING
1256 Main St. Suite 263
Southlake, Tx 76092
Phone: 817-310-3900
Contact: Larry Hutto
Ldhutto@aol.com

FIRELIGHT BOOKS, LLC
11650 CR 4215
Tyler, Texas 75706
Phone: 903-881-8500
Contact: Gaelen Singler
Email: drisand@gmail.com

McGRAW – HILL CONTEMPORARY
3009 Sherwood
Colleyville, TX 76034
Contact: Freda Ward
Email: Freda_ward@mcgraw-hill.com

ODYSSEYWARE
300 N. McKinney Ave.
Chandler, AZ 85226
Phone: 480-940-0801
Contact: Amy Thorne
Email: athorne@odysseyware.com

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Phone: 800-782-7300
Contact: Susan Yeates
Email: syeates@optionspublishing.com

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Phone: 800-216-1368
Contact: Patsy Celman
Email: patsy.celman@pearson.com

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Austin, TX 78727
Phone: 512-401-6533
Contact: Gayle Rolland
Email: grolland@proveniogroup.com

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Contact: Joe McCullough
Email: jmcullough@assnmgmt.com

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TAAE BANQUET AWARDS



Steve Marceau presents Casey Marcelino along with Awards/Scholarship Chair Monica Taylor a TAAE \$500 Taylor Marceau Scholarship Award during the TAAE Annual Banquet. Interesting enough, 4 scholarship recipients were chosen from Options @ Lamar Academy in McAllen, Texas. These individuals were all chosen in a blind voting matrix by the TAAE Scholarship Committee Members from all around the State of Texas. More than 50 scholarship applications were reviewed this year.

These lucky winners were:

1. **Casey Marcelino** Options @ Lamar Academy - McAllen, Texas (Mr. Robert Garcia)
2. **Myrna Manzano - Trovamala** Options @ Lamar Academy - McAllen, Texas (Mr. Robert Garcia)
3. **Georgina Sanchez** Options @ Lamar Academy - McAllen, Texas (Mr. Robert Garcia)
4. **Annabell Cardoza** Options @ Lamar Academy - McAllen, Texas (Mrs. Diana Trevino)

Other prestigious awards this year went to:

The \$500 Best Practice Award goes to Travis County JJAEP in Austin.



Kay Panamarenko of Hays CISD receives the "Alternative Education Teacher of the Year" award. Kay was also recently awarded the "2007 Inspired Teachers Award" by inspired software.



Vernon "Coach" Wright of Denton ISD receives the "Administrator of the Year" award.



Lisa Metzler of New Braunsfels ISD receives the prestigious "Life Member" award. This award is not an annual award and not often received. Congratulations!

TAAE COMMITTEES 2007

SCHOLARSHIP

Cox, Tonya Mesquite Academy
Metzler, Lisa The Learning Center/New Braunfels ISD
Johnson, Deborah..... HCDE
Luna, Amanda J. ACE Program--Bryan ISD
Schueckler, Leslie Alternative Ed Program Director
Coetzee, Randy Canyon ISD YCAP/DAEP/PAC
Hill, Anita..... Progressive High School
Newman, Pam Highpoint School East
Johanson, Phil Lamar Campus--Bryan ISD
Taylor, Monica Alief Learning Center

LEGISLATIVE

Tremontozzi, Annette Judson Learning Academy
Robberson, Ellen..... McKinney ISD
Hughes, John..... Learning Center/Mesquite ISD/DAEP
Burris, Marsha..... OPTIONS--Academic Learning Center
Jones, Arlieta..... Taylor County Juvenile Justice

CONFERENCE

Tremontozzi, Annette Judson Learning Academy
Young, David Bryan ISD ACE/GRAD/SOS
Martin, Ludi Top of Texas AEC
Metzler, Lisa The Learning Center/New Braunfels ISD
Pierce, Bob Mesquite Academy
Feagan, Emily ACE Program--Bryan ISD
Johnson, Deborah..... HCDE
Rath, Laurie..... Timber Academy--College Station ISD
Schueckler, Leslie Alternative Ed Program Director
Neely, Patricia Special Opportunity School

Darmstadter, Sallye Stubblefield Learning Center
Coetzee, Randy Canyon ISD YCAP/DAEP/PAC
Lane, Pamela J. DAEP--Venture Center
Bowser, Erbie Mesquite Academy
Walls, Debbie Mesquite Learning Center
Jackson, Christine G. Judson Learning Academy
Jones, Arlieta..... Taylor County Juvenile Justice

BYLAWS

Robberson, Ellen..... McKinney ISD
Martin, Ludi Top of Texas AEC
Bowser, Erbie Mesquite Academy
Hill, Anita..... Progressive High School
Steele, Karen Timber Academy CSISD
Korelich, Kathryn Judson Secondary Alternative School

NEWSLETTER

Wetterman, Ed..... Lamar--GRAD, Bryan ISD
Lockard, Lea Ann..... Spring Branch School of Choice

MEMBERSHIP

Lockard, Lea Ann..... Spring Branch School of Choice
Ashton, Kathleen..... Fred Moore High School
Skaggs, Linda..... Billy Ryan High School
Preston, Nancy Bryan ISD Lamar--GRAD program

FINANCE

Wright, Vernon..... Fred Moore High School

THANKS TO ALL OF OUR TAAE CONFERENCE FACILITATORS WHO MAKE OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE RUN SO SMOOTHLY

FACILITATORS FOR CONFERENCE 2007

A-1: Kelli Hanna, Fairview Accelerated, special education, Wall ISD.
A-2: Laurie Rath, College Station ISD.
A-3: Jack Mullen, College Station ISD.
A-4: Debra Farley, Groesbeck Alternative Learning Center, Groesbeck ISD.
A-5: Billie Carol Clary, Upshur County SSA, Big Sandy ISD.
A-6: Trevina Willis, Denton ISD.
A-7: Marsha Burris, Texarkana ISD.
A-8: Leslie Schueckler, College Station ISD.
A-9: Diana Shropshire, College Station ISD.
A-10: Pam Lane, College Station ISD.
A-11: Emily Feagan, ACE teacher, Bryan ISD.

B-1: Arlieta Jones, Taylor County Juvenile.
B-2: Karen Steele, College Station ISD.
B-3: Lisa Muzy, SOS teacher, Bryan ISD.
B-4: Leslie Schueckler, College Station ISD.
B-5: Hiawatha Godine, College Station ISD.
B-6: Albert Johnson, Fairview Accelerated, administration, Wall ISD.
B-7: Michelle Verdun, Goosecreek ISD.
B-8: Mike Zuniga III, Fairview Accelerated, Wall ISD.
B-9: David Young, BISD Director/ACE Principal, Bryan ISD.
B-10: Mary Lee Hoelscher, Fairview Accelerated, technology, Wall ISD.
B-11: Courtney Dennis, Abilene ISD.

C-1: Stacey Flanary, Fairview Accelerated, Wall ISD.
C-2: Anita Hill, Fort Bend ISD.
C-3: Bobbie Reeders, Killeen ISD.
C-4: Lisa Metzler, San Marcos ISD.
C-5: Amanda Luna, ACE counselor, Bryan ISD.
C-6: Phil Johanson, teacher/facilitator/learning specialist, Bryan ISD.
C-7: Tara Hunter, ACE teacher, Bryan ISD.
C-8: Jesus Hernandez, GRAD principal, Bryan ISD.
C-9: Ed Wetterman, GRAD teacher, Bryan ISD.
C-10: Whitney Brown, GRAD teacher, Bryan ISD.
C-11: Nancy Preston, GRAD counselor, Bryan ISD.

D-1: Dena Frieda, SOS principal, Bryan ISD.
D-2: Patricia Neely, SOS teacher, Bryan ISD.
D-3: Chad Gardner, College Station ISD.
D-4: Ludi Martin, Perryton ISD.
D-5: Rudy Herrera, Seguin ISD.

D-6: Christine Jackson, Judson Learning Academy, Judson ISD.
D-7: Deborah Johnson, Harris County Dept. of Education.
D-8: Judy Dewey, Alternative Services, Boerne ISD.
D-9: Peggy Little, Marble Falls ISD.

E-1: Several facilitators: Round Table Sessions
Erbie Bowser -Mesquite Academy
Stacy Carpenter - N. Mesquite HS
Lee Clanton- Mesquite Academy
Bob Pierce- Mesquite Academy
Kay Panamarenko- Hays Academy
Lynn Lee - Retired- N. Heights, Amarillo, TX

E-2: Keith Adams, Academy Principal, Mesquite ISD.

Saturday Workshops
Workshop #1: Lauren Wagner, Bryan ISD
Workshop #2: Debbie Walls, Mesquite ISD.
Workshop #3: Linda Kelly, Baytown, TX
Workshop #4: Michelle Williams, Nacogdoches, TX
Workshop #5: Deborah Johnson, Harris Co. - Dept. of Ed.



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2008 TAAE CONFERENCE NOTICE!

HAVE YOU PLACED TAAE ON YOUR 2008 CALENDAR YET?

Plan now to join TAAE in Austin again NEXT YEAR in 2008. The TAAE conference will be held at the same hotel...with modernized restaurant and lobby intact. Plan your calendars now with your administrators to take those dates for training and or fulfilling teacher CE.

**Crowne Plaza Hotel
6121 IH35 @ 290 East
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Hotel Reservations: 1-800-227-6963

Conference Rates: \$85 single, \$105 Double, \$115 Triple, \$125 Quad

Conference Dates: February 7-9, 2008

Conference Theme: "TAAE: Changing Lives, One Student at a Time"