



TJCSGA Bulletin

Lead, Follow or Get Out of the Way. iLead!

2008-2009 Edition

Volume 5

January 31, 2009

Greetings from TJCSGA President

As you may know, Texas Junior College Student Government Association (TJCSGA) has been an advocate of Community College Day since its conception in 2005. During that time we have joined forces with Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC) and Texas Community College Teacher's Association (TCCTA) in communicating to our legislators the dire needs that all community colleges have in this great state. 2009 is the biennial year for Community College Day, and as the President of TJCSGA I would personally like to invite you to join the TJCSGA Executive Board in Austin on February 4th, 2009.

This event is and will continue to be a vital step for all two-year state supported institutions in increasing funding for both community colleges and their students. As it stands right now, the state funds significantly more for universities than they do for our community colleges, yet our institutions educate over 80% of all students in higher education in Texas today! For example, when it comes to the funding of our grants, community colleges get 90% of their funding from the federal government and the other 10% is funded by the state. Universities, on the other hand, receive 50% of their funding from the federal government and 50% from the state. This ratio gives the universities a much larger pool of money to offer to their students. We feel that students at the two-year level are just as deserving and quite possibly have a greater need.

In Texas, local taxation for the funding of community colleges has maxed out. This means that the taxpayers in the counties supporting their community colleges will not pay more taxes. This puts the burden back on the student to make up the difference that the state originally said it would bear. As we all know, our students' resources are also maxed out, and students everywhere are going deeper into debt just to pay

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Fall Conference—Nothing shy of Amazing!



Jason Hartline
Region I President

The Region I Fall Conference was nothing shy of amazing. Passing a new amendment into our constitution, team building with an introductory ice breaker and amazing support from our fellow Student Government Association members were some of the events covered in the Region I Fall Conference.

If not for the ice breaker program I feel confident saying that our regional SGA would not have created the friendship and family type attitude that is necessary to accomplish great things. We fell together as friends, worked together as a team and left accomplished as a family.

My appreciation goes out to Amarillo College for putting the whole thing together as host representative and to everyone who worked very hard to make our region meeting a success.

I am proud to be a part of Region I and honored to lead the group as Region President.

Member Colleges

- Amarillo College
- Clarendon College
- El Paso Community College
- Frank Phillips College
- Howard College—Big Spring
- Howard College—San Angelo
- Midland College
- Odessa College
- South Plains College
- Texas State Technical College—Abilene
- Texas State Technical College—Breckenridge
- Texas State Technical College—Brownwood
- Texas State Technical College—Sweetwater
- Vernon College
- Western Texas College

Officers

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Vice President Rebekah Karth
Midland College

Secretary Jose Venegas
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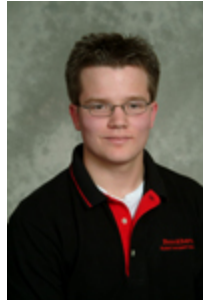


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Hello TJCSGA,



This is Ben Nystrom, President for Region II from Brookhaven College. As you all are aware this year has been filled with things to do, but I just wanted to take a few moments of your time and elaborate as to what Region II has accomplished with our time thus far.

Our Fall Conference was November 15th and that sure was a day to remember, but before anything is said a big thank you needs to go out to Mountain View College for once again proving to be excellent host, their efforts really helped to bring the day together. First things first, thanks to the contribution from Brookhaven College, Susan Leahy, a registered parliamentarian and highly praised speaker from California, who was flown in and the whole region was given a very thorough understanding of the basic rules behind parliamentary procedure. Next, we broke into our committees to make some very important decisions as to the direction of Region II.

Chief among those decisions came from the Resolution Committee. That committee elected to support two bills in the Texas Legislature that together would help to lower

(Region II Continued on page 10)

Member Colleges

- Brookhaven College
- Cedar Valley College
- Cisco Junior College
- Collin County Community College
- Eastfield College
- El Centro College
- Grayson College
- Mountain View College
- North Central Texas College
- North Lake College
- Richland College
- Tarrant County College—Northeast
- Tarrant County College—South

Officers

President Benjamin Nystrom
Brookhaven College

Vice President James Dickens
North Central Texas College

Secretary/Treasurer Daniel Palacios
Cisco Junior College

Parliamentarian Perla Ortega
Eastfield College

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Mountain View College



Region III News

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Hey, Hey, Hey!

I know y'all had a Region III conferences with frozen shirts and all. How do I know? I read the forums but only *one* person posted anything about Region III's conference. Personally, I want to see a picture of Shane putting on a frozen shirt. It must have been a sight. So, people of Region III, **START WRITING!** Send in an article or pictures of what y'all are doing and I'll make sure it gets in the next bulletin.

Member Colleges

- Angelina College
- Jacksonville College
- Kilgore College
- Lon Morris College
- Navarro College—Corsicana
- Navarro College—Ellis
- Northeast Texas Community College
- Panola College
- Paris Junior College
- Texarkana College
- Texas State Technical College—Marshall
- Trinity Valley Community College
- Tyler Junior College

Officers

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Vice President Rarielle Starks
Navarro College—Corsicana

Secretary
Panola College

Parliamentarian
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Host
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Advisor Phil Sims
Navarro College—Corsicana



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Region IV News

TSTC-Waco Hosts Fall Conference

TSTC-Waco hosted Region IV Fall Conference in November. We had an absolute blast. Our breakout sessions included Brandon Franke and his infamous Leadership Session, Sarah-Jane Sanders speaking about “Getting the Word Out” and TSTC’s very own Blindfolded Build Off.

Please note that TSTC-Waco WON the Region IV Cup for beating the heck outta of Blinn-Bryan in the final round of Volleyball during Unity Night. However, Blinn-Bryan took the Blinn Cup beating the heck outta of Blinn-Brenham. Wharton County Junior College-Fort Bend Tech Center had Lady Luck on their side as they absconded with the majority of Bingo prizes. The prizes included everything from college t-shirts to games to a \$50 gift card.

Saturday morning began with a light breakfast that consisted of dough-nuts, kolaches, and juice. We followed that up with breakout sessions. There were three rounds of breakout sessions. Franke’s breakout session “really put the word ‘leader’ into perspective and pointed out the different levels of leadership,” said attendee, Broderick Wilson of Blinn-Bryan. C.J. Garrett of TSTC-Waco said, “The blind-folded build-off really made teams talk to each other and focus on communicating effectively.”

General Assembly was an intense meeting. Mr. Vincent Taylor of TSTC-Waco was elected as Advisor-Elect for Region IV. Teddy Collins of Blinn-Bryan submitted a resolution that will be voted on at the Spring Convention that recommends all of Region IV come together to support a single a single cause to help unite Region IV. The T-shirt Committee had a difficult time settling on one design and therefore, chopped and screwed several designs to create one unified design. Overall, General Assembly went pretty smoothly.

TSTC-Waco would like to thank Dr. Edward-Borens for being the guest speaker, Coca-Cola for donating Full Throttle and Minute Maid Juice, and our Advisors, Mr. Vincent Taylor and Alvania Blackmon for supporting us in our endeavors.

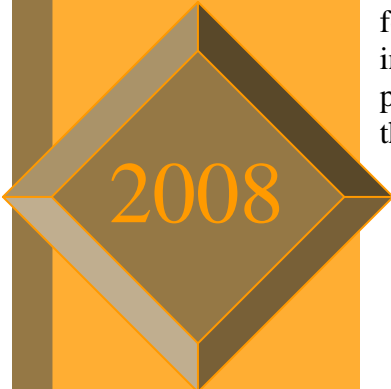


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Region V Fall Conference

TJCSGA Region 5's Fall Conference took place on November 7, 2008 at Houston Community College Central Campus. The meeting first began with a pleasant breakfast followed by an icebreaker to get all the members representing different colleges to merge and become acquainted with each other. After the icebreaker lightened the atmosphere up a bit, all the members were split into groups and went on a tour of the unique HCC-Central Campus which was a neat experience to see the differences among the campus life. After the campus tour, we headed back to the conference room where a delicious lunch was served, compliments of Chick-fil-A and then the business meeting began.

The meeting first began with the introduction of the Region V's Executive Board, followed by a welcoming from the Executive Board officers and each of their reports including information about the coming events. The special committees gave their reports including information about the coming events. The special committees gave their reports followed by unfinished business from the previous meeting which dis-

(Region V Continued on page 10)

Member Colleges

- Alvin Community College
- Brazosport College
- College of the Mainland
- Galveston College
- HCCS—Central College
- HCCS—Northeast College
- HCCS—Northwest College
- HCCS—Southeast College
- HCCS—Southwest College
- Kingwood College
- Lamar University at Orange
- Lee College
- Montgomery College
- San Jacinto College—Central
- San Jacinto College—North
- Tomball College

Officers

President Dayna Hargrove
Brazosport College

Vice President

Secretary

Parliamentarian

Host

Advisor
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Please send us your Regional Information. Include information on your officers and your regional conferences. Thanks.



Region VI News

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Thank you, Region VI

I would like to thank Region VI for submitting their information for the bulletin and the website. TSTC-Waco is working hard to come up with a way to update the look of the TJCSGA website and make the Region pages more uniform. Please look for your information to be updated on the website soon.

—Charity Wilson, TJCSGA Editor of the Bulletin

Member Colleges

- Coastal Bend College—Beeville
- Del Mar College—East Campus
- Del Mar College—West Campus
- San Antonio College
- Southwest Texas Junior College—Del Rio
- Southwest Texas Junior College—Eagle Pass
- Southwest Texas Junior College—Uvalde
- Texas State Technical College—Harlingen
- University of Texas—Brownsville/Texas
- Southmost College
- Victoria College

Officers

- President Alexandria Saldivar**
Coastal Bend College—Beeville
- Vice President Georgeann Calzada**
Texas State Technical College—Harlingen
- Secretary Julia Mahoney**
Del Mar College—West
- Treasurer Stephanie Cavazos**
Southwest Texas Junior College—Del Rio
- Host Rosanna Ramon**
Southwest Texas Junior College—Del Rio
- Parliamentarian Lenora Hernandez**
Victoria College
- Bulletin Andrew Scarbo**
Southwest Texas Junior College—Del Rio

Meet the TJCSGA Parliamentarian

Hi guys, my name is Edwin Mariano. It is my pleasure to serve as the representative for El Centro College as the TJCSGA Parliamentarian. I have been attending El Centro College for three semesters now. My first semester, we created a student government body, where I served as Treasurer. This semester, I am serving as the Parliamentarian. My main goal as Parliamentarian this year is to help all new members of our SGA have an easier time learning the essentials of Robert's Rules of Order. I plan to major in Mechanical Engineering. I am currently applying to SMU, UNT, UTA, and Texas Tech. I intend to transfer to one of these schools by next fall. I enjoy playing any kind of sports, and I also like comedy movies. I will do my very best to serve TJCSGA, and I also wish everyone a great and happy year!



"Great

leaders inspire

greatness in

others."

(Greetings...Continued from page 1)

for their basic studies. We are asking the legislation to increase their funding to the community colleges to allow more students the opportunity to receive an education.

At Community College Day we again want to swarm the capitol steps with our students who want to see change occur! We will also hear from some key legislators and have a chance to break into groups to see the House and Senate floors. We encourage you to schedule an afternoon meeting with your local legislators to ensure that they understand all of our needs. TJCSGA want to show the legislation that community colleges deserve more funding to better educate the future work force of Texas. We invite every school to choose a student to share a personal story with your legislation about the struggles of affording a college education, as well as the important role community college plays in his or her life! TJCSGA wants to see all our community colleges at this event. When we unite, we will have a strong voice that the Texas Legislation will be forced to hear.

—Shane Scott
TJCSGA President

Blast from the Past

This is an article that you will see time and time again. Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines history as a branch of knowledge that records and explains past events. Some people believe that history helps define who we are and guides us if we choose to learn from the past. I believe this is true for our organization as well.



Did you know TJCSGA wasn't always TJCSGA? Do you know how long this organization has been around or who the first President was? Well, we don't have all the answers but someone, somewhere has an answer to these questions. Therefore, pick the brains of people you know who have been involved with TJCSGA. Check your local libraries for information, the librarians will be happy to help you locate information. Any article, picture, or small fact is greatly appreciated. We want to know more about our past. Please send all submission to

Community College Day

February is fast approaching which means show time is in six short weeks. There is about six to seven weeks until love is on the air, however Valentine's Day is not the only important event in February. Community College day, of course, is right around the corner; therefore it is time to amp up preparations.

If you have not yet heard, Community College Day for TJCSGA has been moved up to February 4th, 2009. Every year TJCSGA collaborates with TACC (Texas Association of Community Colleges) and TCCTA (Texas Community College Teacher's Association) during the month of February to coordinate Community College Day and its platform. All three organizations work together as a unified voice for a common cause. This year, however, there has been a mishap with dates and the two organizations we support have planned for two different days. Therefore, the TJCSGA Executive Board had to make a difficult decision about which date to choose. After discussions with both organizations the decision is as follows:

TJCSGA will recognize February 4th as Community College day with TACC, the platform being Affordability. The Executive Board strongly encourages all Community Colleges to come out on this day. Lunch will be provided. February 19th the Executive Board will return to support TCCTA in its efforts for the common cause. The Executive Board and TCCTA welcome any Community Colleges that can

return on this day. We understand the confusion and have made efforts to resolve future conflicts as such.

As stated above the platform for Community College Day on February 4th is affordability. With that, our main goal is to get more funds from the State of Texas to Community College students. According to TACC, only four percent of Community College students in Texas who are qualified for the Texas Educational Opportunity Grant Program (TEOG) actually collect these monies. Basically, Community Colleges are putting out more students as nurses, first responders, and technicians than Universities. Yet, Community Colleges receive the lower end of the stick in regards to funding. Our tuition is going up, books are unreasonable, and the funding received by the state does not reflect such. For more information please visit the following websites: www.tacc.org and www.tccta.org.

We understand the main, immediate issue for students is the cost of textbooks. This was in fact the platform of this Executive Board. Although we still support this issue we will not, however, deal with textbooks at the state level during Community College Day. Please understand that we are still working diligently on the issue of textbooks, but it will be at the local level where we feel we can make the most impact. We hope you understand that when you cannot change something at the top, you must try at the bottom. With that

said, the Executive Board has been talking to an Instructor at one of the Community Colleges who negotiates directly with publishers to lower the cost of textbooks to the students. Once we have more detailed, unified information we will pass that on to you to continue the hard work against the rising cost of this necessary classroom material. Understand that your Executive Board has closely looked and debated on this important issue and has deemed this approach the best action for TJCSGA and its member to take at this time.

The Executive Board has decided to use anecdotal stories as a strategy this year. We are asking that all students write personalized letters to their legislatures prior to Community College Day. We are also looking for individuals to tell these stories the day of. If you are interested and/or need additional information please contact the President or State Advisor at president@tjcsga.org or advisor@tjcsga.org.

If you have any questions/comments/suggestions about the information provided please feel free to contact the State Secretary at secretary@tjcsga.org.

"Belief is not a matter of choice, but of conviction."

(Region II Continued from page 3)



the costs of textbooks and raise the status of higher education in Texas. Both resolutions have a petition to support their respective

issues that will be signed by the various schools in Region II and then presented to various Congressmen and Senators later in the year. Region II is dedicated to helping students all across the state of Texas and this is one way that we get that done.

In addition to our resolutions and parliamentary training, students led by North Central Texas College met to discuss legislative issues of importance to students including the six-drop rule that has been re-

cently applied. Students also met to go over the various ways that we as a group can grow and include more schools. On a similar note I am very happy to say that North Lake College rejoined the ranks of TJCSGA, thanks largely to efforts by both North Lake and our region's chief recruiting school Eastfield College.

Last but not least, Region II gave back to its community through the Red Cross. They shipped in a ton of shirts and clothes for us to sort through, saving the Red Cross valuable time and letting us provide a much needed service for them as well.

The year is more than half way over for Region II but by no means does that mean that we are halfway done. There is still a lot to come out of Region II yet as we continue to do our best for our region and our

state. Before I finish though I would like to leave you with a cheer developed by Cisco College, they really know how to show our Region II spirit.

**All the Region II
Dedicated, Dedicated,
Down Right Motivated,
Region II**



(Region V Continued from page 6)

discussed the Region V and TJCSGA membership fee dues. The new business then carried on where information was discussed about the preparation of the State Convention such as the 2008-2009 TJCSGA Convention theme: iLead: 'Lead, Follow or Get Out of the Way' and how each campus should suggest one topic on something that needs to be brought up at Community College Day, where three topics need to be expressed from each local Student Government Association. The rest of the new business agenda consisted of discussion of the Region V Convention t-shirts, Region Inity Chants, requirements for state positions and the Legislative Committee, the TJCSGA awards and the Region V award nominations to be held at the spring meeting. The agenda also included information about Region I's generous effort to help Region V students who were victims affected by Hurricane Ike.



The meeting was adjourned after a few announcements from the different campuses including information for the spring business meeting and a couple closing remarks. Overall, the meeting went exceptionally well as the members from the different colleges that make up Region V came together and became well-acquainted so quickly to discuss and prepare for upcoming important events as a union.



An Advisor's Spouse

When you think of someone involved with education, you probably think of “summer vacations and long evenings!” This could hold true for elementary, junior high, and even high school instructors, however, once you enter into the college level, it becomes a whole different ball game. Narrowing down that educators list even further to the duties of a Student Government Advisor, they are in a category all by themselves. This is no nine to five job, and offers little down time. This is a profession where you are truly at the student's disposal. There really is no “open door policy”; rather it is more referred to as a revolving door.

As the spouse of an advisor in this position, when we “tied the knot” I married more than just an educator, I married his students as well! I also take on some of the responsibilities of helping and supporting him in his work related duties. As a spouse I must be willing to take the good with the bad. There are the late night meetings, the trips out of town, and not to mention, their everyday job outside of Student Government. An advisor's spouse needs to be very understanding, and willing to pick up the slack when it comes to house work, kids, etc... because if you really get down to it, there truly is no relaxing time if their SGA is going to succeed

and have a good year. From the fall where they elect new students to join the executive board, to the winter where they are working hard on their proposals and projects, to the spring when the students are preparing for state convention there is much work to be done. Then if your school gets elected to the state executive board, well that brings on even more responsibilities. Although you are very much proud of your spouse, and his/her students, you also realize they have just added more work to what was already a full plate.

From personal experience, I have seen how this can be a hard profession to accept. One thing that keeps me looking forward to what's around the corner is thinking of my kids. I would have a peace of mind if my children were attending a college away from home and involved in SGA where there was a nice advisor who had a very understanding and welcoming family. I also use my military experience to help give me perspective. When I was stationed in Montana and eventually deployed to Pakistan I was so far from home. The welcoming families that surrounded us were the ones to help me get through good times and bad, they became my extended family that I still keep in touch with to this day. In my opinion, this is one of the biggest com-

pliments my husband and I receive, for a student to move on with their future, but to still keep us abreast of their accomplishments. My husband has students already exercising this line of communication by letting him know what is going on in their lives and expressing interest in the current year of students to see if they are living up to the example that they set. It warms his heart to know he has touched them so much that they see him worthy enough to be a part of their lives, and to let him know of triumphs, and even their tribulations. His past students still look to him for mentoring, and he has always been there for them. I am so proud of my husband, all he's accomplished, and all he hopes to accomplish in his future endeavors. These students are his resume'.

When the day is over and it's another night when your spouse will be late due to an on campus activity that ran past midnight, it gets hard to remember, but you are the true cheerleader behind it all. Because without a stable, supporting family, how can you mentor to young individuals about quality of life. Your advisor and their spouse play a vital role in this process.

—Angel Gallegos-Sims
Wife of Phil Sims,
Navarro College—Corsicana

Running for 2009-2010 TJCSGA Position?

If you are interested in running for a state position in the Texas Junior College Student Government Association then you might want to consider making your intent known. There are several ways to do this. Such as, writing an article for the bulletin, posting your intent on the TJCSGA forums, submitting the information for posting on the TJCSGA myspace and face-

book pages.

Please remember to review the guidelines for running for a state position in the revised Student Uniformity Book found online. If you have any questions feel free to ask the TJCSGA President, Parliamentarian, Advisor or Advisor-Elect.

Attention Regional Vice Presidents

The Awards Committee will be very different this year with you leading the way. The Awards Committee will be comprised of all the Regional Vice President Colleges. There will be no guessing as to who is on the committee other than the representatives from your college.

Regional Vice President Colleges will need to be in attendance on Thursday, April 2nd of the TJCSGA State Convention for an Awards Orientation. The orienta-

tion will cover all the rules, guidelines, and responsibilities.

If you would like to get a head start on your duties please take the time to familiarize yourself with the Competition Guidelines found on the TJCSGA website.

All competitions will be judged by members of the Regional Vice-President Colleges other than the one the entry is from. In other words, if an entry from Region I is being judged, it will only be judged from a member in Re-

gions II through IV. This was there is no bias towards your own college or another one in your Region.

We look forward to having the Region Vice-Presidents judge the competitions this year. More details will be given at the orientation. If you have any questions, please contact the TJCSGA Editor.

"Easy is the path to wisdom for those not blinded by themselves"

Dress Code for TJCSGA State Convention

The dress code has been updated and you can find it online at tjcsга.org in the Student Uniformity Book (SUB). The following is a small section of the guidelines.

CLOTHING NOT ALLOWED INCLUDES:

- ◆ Hats or caps.
- ◆ Halter dresses or tops; spaghetti straps or open backed shirts
- ◆ Muscle shirts, tank tops, or midriff tops
- ◆ Visible underclothing (straps included)
- ◆ Shorts or jeans of any kind (absolutely NO denim of any kind);
- ◆ Clothing with offensive messages is not appropriate for any TJCSGA activity and will not be allowed.

Please read the descriptions in the Student Uniformity Book for more details.

If clothing fails to meet the standards given in the SUB, as determined by the TJCSGA Parliamentarian, the delegate, advisor or guest will not be allowed to enter the General Assembly.

Disclaimer:

This policy is provided for guidance only. The provided information, while authoritative, is at the discretion of the TJCSGA Parliamentarian to interpret. Please seek guidance from the TJCSGA Parliamentarian if you have any questions about the TJCSGA State Convention Dress Code Policy.

Please review the complete guidelines before attending the State Convention.