



TEXAS JUNIOR COLLEGE  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Summer  
Issue

## Voice of TJCSCGA Is Heard in Austin

Volume II

July 18, 1998

On Wednesday, June 24, 1998 the Financial Aid and Oversight Agency Subcommittee of the Texas House of Representatives Higher Education Committee met in Austin to hear testimony regarding financial assistance to needy college students in Texas. TJCSCGA President Trey Morris was the only student testifying before the subcommittee, making TJCSCGA the sole representation

for college students throughout the State of Texas. The committee was very receptive to Trey's testimony (printed on page 4) and the chair commented several times that he was pleased to have student testimony. After testifying and answering several questions from the subcommittee Trey knew he had done more than merely give a speech; he had taken the voice

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Also: Trey's Testimony in Austin



In our last issue of the bulletin we omitted the name of our Host Representative from Frank Phillips College. Well, after meeting LaShana Taylor I can assure you she will never be omitted again! LaShana is the perfect choice as Host Representative. She is vivacious, hard working, fun loving, and dedicated. I look forward to working with her throughout the year.

LaShana Taylor  
1512 Yows  
Borger, TX 79008  
lashana69@hotmail.com

### *Executive Board*

#### President

Trey Morris  
Midland College

#### Vice-President

Charlie Hueber  
Panola College

#### Parliamentarian

Sarah Wagner  
Blinn College - Brenham

#### Secretary

Shauna Williams  
Trinity Valley Community College

#### Treasurer

James Cantu  
Victoria College

#### Editor of the Bulletin

Teresa Brock  
Kingwood College

#### Host

LaShana Taylor  
Frank Phillips College

#### State Advisor

Sharon Vaclavik  
Victoria College

#### State Advisor-Elect

John Green  
Frank Phillips College

# TJCSGA Bulletin Submission Form

Please include a brief description of the activity or item you are submitting for publication in the TJCSGA Bulletin, as well as the contact information for the individual the editor should speak to for further information. Attach the article and/or any other documentation you feel might be helpful and forward this to the TJCSGA Bulletin School Representative. Submission deadlines for each issue are as follows:

**Issue:**

**Fall 1998 I**  
**Fall 1998 II**  
**Spring 1999**  
**Convention**

**Receipt Deadline:**

**September 30, 1998**  
**November 5, 1998**  
**February 10, 1999**  
**March 15, 1999**

**Please Print Clearly**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**School:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

Description of item submitted:

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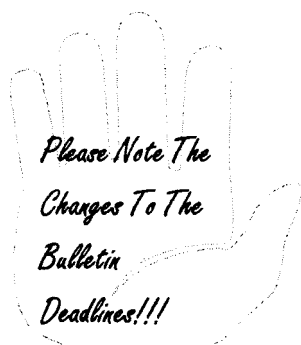
Submit to:  
Teresa Brock  
PO Box 2488  
New Caney, TX 77357  
or TRES9897@aol.com  
(281) 312-1440 fax

of TJCSGA, the voice of Texas students, to Austin and made that voice heard. Afterwards people from the Texas Association of Community Colleges, from Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation, and from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approached him and expressed an interest in working together. This gives TJCSGA a foot in the door with several powerful organizations, which can only mean good things for everyone involved.

### An Unexpected Farewell

The executive board has accepted the resignation of State Advisor Matthew Veach from HCC-SW. Mr. Veach was not present at the meeting but had mailed his resignation sighting various personal reasons for leaving TJCSGA as State Advisor. We are sure that Mr. Veach has done what he feels is best for himself and the organization. The executive board wishes to thank him for his past contributions and wish him the best for his future.

Due to this unexpected turn of events Advisor Elect Sharon Vaclavik will now complete the year as State Advisor.



### Executive Board Meeting

May 17-18, 1998

Austin, Texas

#### Roll Call:

Trey Morris

Charlie Hueber

Sarah Wagner

Shauna Williams

James Cantu

Teresa Brock

LaShana Taylor

Sharon Vaclavik

*The executive board had its first meeting and accomplished a great deal of work while getting to know one another. State Advisor Sharon Vaclavik provided the icebreakers by giving everyone personality test and having them share the results. You may be interested in these tidbits derived from the test: Trey is useful but dangerous, Charlie is a tad emotional, LaShana will be spreading love and joy, Sarah will be enjoying Christmas, Shauna is apparently stable, James lives in the past but leans toward the future, and Teresa is also a bit emotional and suffering from some unknown trauma. You'll be happy to know that despite these somewhat curious findings the board members work well together and seem to be dealing with their various quirks.*

## Let's Talk.



How does your SGA promote student involvement in campus and local politics?

Send your responses to:

Liz Listens  
c/o Teresa Brock  
PO Box 2488  
New Caney, TX 77357

### Welcome Aboard

*I would like to take this opportunity to welcome John Green as state advisor elect this year. It came as a surprise to all about Matt's departure and we wish him well in his future endeavors.*

*We needed another state advisor, therefore, we were very lucky to have John offer his expertise and experience to the organization. After carefully considering all their options the Executive Board welcomed the chance to bring John on board! Welcome John and we look forward to having you as a part of our 1998-99 TJCSGA Executive Board.*

Sharon

You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist.

\_\_\_Indira Gandhi

# **Testimony Given by TJCSGA President Trey Morris**

## **Wednesday, June 24, 1998**

Chairwoman Rangel and the members of the committee:

My name is Trey Morris, and I am president of the Texas Junior College Student Government Association, on whose behalf I am testifying. We are grateful to be included in this hearing since students are the primary constituency of colleges, and too often the student voice goes unheard in the legislative process.

For many community college students, the affordability of attending college is directly related to the availability of financial aid. A typical community college student is a woman in her late twenties who is supporting a family, often with more than one job. Almost half of all community college students receive some sort of financial aid, and without that aid, the vocational and professional opportunities a college degree affords will remain unattainable.

Very few would dispute that society benefits from an educated citizenry, and that it is in society's interest to increase access to educational opportunities for its citizens. The recommendations of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board recognize this fact, and its proposal to ensure \$5,000 in grant aid to needy college students will have a tremendous impact on the lives of hundreds of thousands of Texans if implemented. Because community colleges are the primary source of vocational and technical training for today's workforce, it is difficult to overstate the benefits the Texas economy would realize from a more diverse and better trained workforce. Furthermore, as many community college students are non-traditional students, supporting themselves and often other family members as well, this grant aid would facilitate increased enrollment and retention rates, substantially reducing the number of students forced to drop out of college for economic reasons.

While we strongly endorse the proposal prepared by the Coordinating Board, we as students feel very strongly that the economic need of the individual student should be the primary factor in awarding financial aid. Programs that award aid based on other factors not related to individual need, such as a school district's income level or a district's relative performance on exit-level exams, needlessly complicate the entire process, both for students and for administrators. They also penalize economically disadvantaged students from other districts and divert resources from students of all ages and backgrounds. Every dollar spent on the administration and oversight of a complicated program unrelated to student need is a dollar that could have been spent to help more students in need.

Applying for financial aid is an intimidating process for most college students. However, the forms required by the federal government have been refined by years of use, and require information on every aspect of a student's financial situation relevant to the costs of attending college. By using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, and the Student Aid Report generated by the U.S. Department of Education as a primary basis on which to allocate grant aid, little if any additional processing would be required. Additionally, allowing institutional financial aid officers to administer the aid primarily at the local level, the Coordinating Board proposal could be implemented with only minimal administrative cost while serving the greatest number of needy students.

Students realize that we must help pay for our college opportunities, and we are eager to do so. However, with limited job skills and experience, it is often difficult to find employment that will enable us to continue our education. Looking for jobs is often a "Catch 22" for low income students, who cannot get a job without experience but of course cannot get experience without a job. Many students would benefit from expanding existing work-study programs as recommended by the Coordinating Board. Work-study programs allow employers to hire and

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# Texas Representatives On Campus

by Elizabeth Hill

This year, each Student Government Association is being encouraged to invite local, state, and federal politicians to speak on campus.

Last year, Kingwood College hosted the candidates for Mayor of Houston to discuss his or her plans on issues important to Kingwood residents, voting in their first City of Houston election. This required a great deal of planning and organization, but was certainly well worth all the effort. As many of you will be hosting similar events on your campuses, I would like to share with you the steps we took to ensure a successful event.

After we discussed our plans with the college administration, we checked the availability of the facility we planned to use (in this case, our gymnasium). Then, we checked the candidates schedules, which were listed on the Internet, and found a date when all the candidates and the gymnasium were free. Immediately after determining the date, we called the campaign manager for each candidate in order to schedule our event. We also sent formal invitations to each candidates and included a map and schedule of events. A record was kept of all calls to and

from the candidates including the date and time, who made the call, and who we spoke to. In addition, we invited all area representatives (on both state and national levels) to attend.

Our schedule of events included a reception after the forum to allow the candidates to mingle with area business leaders, who had been invited to the forum and the reception. Depending upon your budget you may wish to a private reception. Talk with your administration about financial assistance, after all, you will be bringing area residents onto the campus.

Publicity was a big concern for us. Since it was Kingwood's first time to vote in a city election, it was vital to have the public aware of the candidates' position on issues affecting them. We submitted brief articles to the local newspapers and also sent invitations to the forum and reception to local business owners and managers. In addition, we handed out over 1,000 flyers announcing the event. We also invited all local media to cover the event. Also, invite other SGA's in your region (they're always willing to lend a hand!)

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98-99 Budget appear in the Fall 1998 I  
Due to an unexpected issue . My apologies for  
computer problem I was any inconvenience.  
unable to publish a copy of Thank you,  
the budget. The budget will Teresa

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## Testimony. . .

train students as employees while paying them only a fraction of what they must pay a non-work- study employers. By appropriating more funds to college work-study programs, the state can reap numerous benefits, from encouraging employment in philanthropic non-profit organizations and other public service agencies, increasing the skill level of its workforce, and allowing employers to help subsidize college education through matching wages, all the while allowing students the opportunity to contribute to their own education through their earnings.

On behalf of the community college students in the state of Texas, I strongly urge you to consider the recommendations of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board favorably, with modifications toward focusing them more heavily on need.

As our low unemployment rate indicates, our nation has one of the most advanced work forces in the world, if not the most advanced. Pell grants, state grants, and work-study programs are keeping us at the forefront of the global economic competition for the twenty-first century. Every low-income student helped by grants and work-study is one less adult likely to end up in welfare. Advanced job skills are our best insurance against welfare. The state and federal investments in training are repaid one-hundred-fold in taxes from earnings that otherwise could be lost in welfare and unemployment.

The American Student Association of Community Colleges has asked to be associated with my testimony. I thank you for your time.

## Representatives. . .

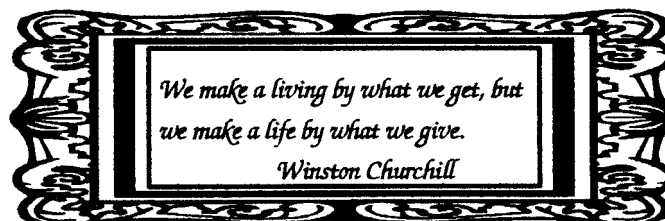
**The set-up of the gymnasium and surrounding areas as well as for the reception was coordinated through the maintenance department. They requested a layout one week before the event and one of our members was present while they set-up so last minute adjustments could be made. Our media department handled the audio equipment and student ambassadors volunteered to work as ushers at the event (so don't forget to look to other campus groups for help.)**

**On the day of the event, the SGA officers had radios so we could stay in touch. Balloons and signs were placed along walkways leading to the gymnasium and the reception area. Students were strategically placed around campus to help guest find their way and also to answer any questions about the campus. Outside of the gymnasium, candidates were allowed to distribute campaign**

**materials and set up campaign tables for one hour before the forum.**

**Since annexation was still a very hot topic in Kingwood, we decided against allowing questions from the floor. We invited the community to submit questions and then assembled a diverse panel to create questions that covered all areas of concern. These questions were kept confidential until asked to each candidate at the forum. We worked with the Forensics coach to develop the format the questions would be answered in and the time given for response and redirect.**

**Communication is the key to a successful event. We had only 4 officers and two weeks to put our forum together, we suggest you have at least one month. Think it through and be receptive to suggestions. Good luck with your events!**



# Spotlight On



## FPC

### TJCSGA: Your Passport to the Next Millenium

Frank Phillips College SGA has been meeting this summer and boy does it show! The students involved are Chad Johnson - President, LaShana Taylor - Host, Sabrina Davis - Sophomore, Becky Palmer - Freshman, and Becky Smith - Freshman to plan State Convention ideas and decorations. **Everything** is ready for the packets to be mailed in September. FPC will hold their first fundraiser on July 24th and the last weekend in September they will run the concession stand at the WTAM Rodeo in Amarillo. On October 30-31 FPC SGA will have a haunted house. This group is so organized it's **SCARY!**



#### FPC SGA

**42 Events Planned for the Fall !!!**

Events include Rock-N-Bowl, dances, skating parties, movie nights, alcohol awareness week and much more. The community project will be a banquet for senior citizens in local nursing homes.

**KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!!!**



*From The Desk Of...*

*Teresa Brock  
TJCSGA Bulletin Editor*

Dear TJCSGA,

I want to thank everyone who contributed to the bulletin, but I'm too tired to name them and they know who they are anyway. I would like to remind everyone that the bulletin belongs to every SGA chapter in TJCSGA and every member of those individual chapters. With this in mind I want to encourage each chapter to make copies of the bulletin and make sure it is made available to your members. Students tend to get involved when they are informed and feel like they are part of the larger picture. I know each chapter has their own policies about submitting items to the bulletin, but I will accept items from any SGA member. So, if you have a question, an issue you would like to know more about, an article you would like to share ( I would need copyright info), or if you want to write an article please check the dates on page 2 and send your items in on time. Remember, we cannot voice your concerns or your success without your help. I hope you all enjoy the remainder of your summer and PLEASE save me from future allnighters by sending me lots of info! May God bless and keep you safe.

Teresa Brock  
TJCSGA Bulletin Editor

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