

Leading Together

2021 CCATT Annual Conference | Board of Trustees Institute

September 16-18, 2021



Community College
Association of Texas Trustees



Texas Success Center



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Westin_Conf
Passcode: !college!

Purpose

The CCATT Annual Conference and Board of Trustees Institute provides an opportunity to:

- Convene board and CEO delegates from Texas community colleges to share and elevate knowledge of how effective governance contributes to student success and completion leading to transfer and/or career with labor market value for all students;
- Develop institutional capacity to introduce, foster, and sustain a comprehensive student equity, success, and completion agenda;
- Enhance understanding of board/CEO roles and responsibilities in establishing policies;
- Contribute to a community of board members and CEOs as lifelong learners and advocates for improving student equity, success, and completion.

Theme

Leading Together

Objectives

Trustees will commit to action that will:

- Support a Culture for Change
- Monitor What Matters
- Set the Strategic Direction for Student Success

2021 CCATT Annual Conference | Board of Trustees Institute

September 16-18, 2021

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Resident Faculty Meeting

11:00AM- 1:00PM
Plumeria A

Resident Faculty Meeting

Pre-Conference

12:00PM- 1:45PM
Primrose B

New Trustee Welcome Luncheon

**by invitation only*

Plenary Session

2:00PM- 2:25PM
Primrose C

Welcome

Overview of Conference

Message from TACC

Dr. Cynthia Ferrell

Vice President, Texas Success Center,
Texas Association of Community Colleges

Jacob Fraire

President & CEO,
Texas Association of Community Colleges

Carol Scott

Chair, CCATT
Chair, Del Mar College Board of Regents

2:25PM- 2:30PM

Introduction of Dr. Byron McClenney

Dr. Brenda Hellyer

Chancellor, San Jacinto College,
Past Chair, Texas Association of Community
Colleges



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2:30PM - 3:20PM
Primrose C

Trustee Leadership: Actions of Effective Boards

1. Support a Culture for Change
2. Monitor What Matters
3. Set the Strategic Direction for Student Success

Q&A

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Dr. Byron McClenney

Immediate Past Chair,
Colorado State Community Colleges Board of
Regents and Founder of the BOTI

Concurrent Session 1: Support a Culture for Change

3:30PM - 4:30PM
Verbena AB

Student Success through Pathways: What Trustees Need to Know

A discussion with an emphasis on changing college culture, equity, actions of AACC Pathways College boards, and the new CCCSE report on pathways measures.

Dr. Kay McClenney

Senior Advisor to the President/CEO,
American Association of Community Colleges

Introduced by: Clint Kingsbery,
Alamo Colleges District

3:30PM - 4:30PM
Camelia AB

The Opportunities for Strengthening Student Success at Rural Community Colleges

ACCT will present the findings from national report and committees for rural colleges will share the opportunities for strengthening student success for board members.

Jee Hang Lee

Incoming President,
Association of Community College Trustees

Introduced by: Mike Hembree,
Trinity Valley Community College

3:30PM - 4:30PM
Plumeria AB

Diversity and Equity

Discussion of the role of trustees in changing college culture and promoting equity and diversity

Dr. Eileen Baccus

National Student Clearinghouse Board
Member,
AACC 2021 Outstanding Leader Award,
Achieving the Dream Leadership Coach

Introduced by: Bonnie Najera,
El Paso Community College



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PROGRAM AGENDA

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Reception & Dinner

5:00 - 7:30 PM

Foyer/
Pre-Function Space

Reception (cash bar)

**Music from Temple College
Jazz Ensemble**

Primrose C

Dinner

**Introduction of
Jee Hang Lee**

Carol Scott

Chair, CCATT

Chair, Del Mar College Board of Regents

Jee Hang Lee

Incoming President,

Association of Community College Trustees

**Introduction of
Dr. Belle Wheelan**

Dr. Brenda Kays

President, Kilgore College

**A Conversation with
Dr. Wheelan on Trustees
and Accreditation
with Focus on Board
Self-evaluation**

Dr. Belle Wheelan

President, Southern Association of Colleges
and Schools Commission on Colleges

7:30 PM

Adjourn



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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

7:00AM - 9:00AM

Breakfast

(Guests Invited)

Primrose C

Plenary Session

9:00AM - 9:15AM

Primrose C

Student-Centered Governance:

Impact report

Dashboard

Overview of the Day

Dr. Cynthia Ferrell

Vice President, Texas Success Center,
Texas Association of Community Colleges

Krstina Flores

Director of Research and Evaluation,
Texas Success Center,
Texas Association of Community Colleges

9:15AM - 9:20AM

Primrose C

Introduction of Speaker

Nicole Eversmann

Austin Community College District

9:20AM - 9:55AM

Primrose C

Diversity and Equity

Dr. Luis Ponjuan

Associate Professor, Higher Education
Administration, College of Education and
Human Development, Texas A&M University

9:55AM - 10:00AM

Primrose C

Quick Transition & Introduction of Plenary

Dr. Martha Ellis

Senior Pathways Lead,
Texas Association of Community Colleges and
Aspen Prize Site Evaluator



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10:00AM - 10:30AM
Primrose C

Aspen Prize for College Excellence Winner - San Antonio College

Dr. Mike Flores
Chancellor, Alamo Colleges District

Dr. Gene Sprague
Board Chair, Alamo Colleges District

Dr. Robert Vela
President, San Antonio College

10:30AM - 10:35AM
Primrose C

Overview of Team Strategy Time & Concurrent Sessions

Dr. Cynthia Ferrell
Vice President, Texas Success Center,
Texas Association of Community Colleges

Team Strategy Time 1

10:45AM - 11:55AM

Breakout Rooms
per Breakout Room
Sheet

Monitoring What Matters

College teams breakout with
resident faculty

CCATT Lunch and Business Meeting

12:00PM - 1:30PM
Primrose C

CCATT Annual Business Meeting

Dr. Manny Gonzalez
CCATT Director,
Texas Association of Community Colleges

Carol Scott
Chair, CCATT
Chair, Del Mar College Board of Regents



Concurrent Session 2 - Monitor What Matters: Discussions with Aspen Prize Pathways Award Winners

Award winning college CEOs and Trustee(s) will share how they have collaborated to support pathways changes, board actions that have made a difference, and how boards are using data.

1:30PM - 2:30PM
Verbená AB

Alamo Colleges (San Antonio College)

Presentation on student data and
supporting a culture of change

Group discussion

Dr. Mike Flores

Chancellor, Alamo Colleges District

Dr. Gene Sprague

Board Chair, Alamo Colleges District

1:30PM - 2:30PM
Camelia AB

San Jacinto College, Top 5 Finalist

Presentation on student data and
supporting a culture of change

Group discussion

Dr. Brenda Hellyer

Chancellor, San Jacinto College District

Dan Mims

Board Chair, San Jacinto College District

1:30PM - 2:30PM
Plumeria AB

Amarillo College, Rising Star Award

Presentation on student data and
supporting a culture of change

Group discussion

Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart

President, Amarillo College

Johnny Mize

Board Chair, Amarillo College



Team Strategy Time 2

2:45PM - 3:45PM

Breakout Rooms
per Breakout Room
Sheet

Supporting A Culture of Change

College teams breakout with
resident faculty

87th Texas Legislature

4:00PM - 5:00PM

Primrose C

Legislative Update

Dustin Meador

Senior Director of External Relations
Texas Association of Community Colleges

Honorable Florence Shapiro

Shapiro Linn Consulting

5:00 PM

Adjourn - *Dinner on your own*



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

7:00AM - 8:30AM

Breakfast

(Guests Invited)

Primrose C

Plenary Session

8:30AM - 8:35AM

Opening

Dr. Cynthia Ferrell

Vice President, Texas Success Center,
Texas Association of Community Colleges

Primrose C

Carol Scott

Chair, CCATT
Chair, Del Mar College Board of Regents

8:35AM - 8:40AM

Introduction of Speakers

Armin Cantini

Galveston College

Primrose C

8:40AM - 9:25AM

COVID-19 Lessons Learned

Bob Browder

Board Chair,
Temple College

Primrose C

Board Members and CEOs Panel

Dr. John Hansen

Board Chair,
Houston Community College District

Dr. Cesar Maldonado

Chancellor, Houston Community College
District

Dr. Christy Ponce

President, Temple College

Moderator: Dr. Martha Ellis

9:25AM - 9:30AM

Overview of Team Strategy Time & Concurrent Sessions

Dr. Cynthia Ferrell

Vice President, Texas Success Center,
Texas Association of Community Colleges

Primrose C



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Concurrent Session 3 - Set the Strategic Direction for Change Post COVID 19

College CEOs and Trustee(s) will share how they have collaborated to support pathways changes, board actions that have made a difference, and how boards set the strategic direction to make change happen.

9:45AM - 10:45AM
Plumeria AB

Understanding Your Students to Increase Enrollment

Overview of strategies
Group Discussion

Dr. Eugene Giovannini & Board Members

Tarrant County College

Introduced by: Bill Greenhill

9:45AM - 10:45AM
Camelia AB

Linking to the Workforce to Increase Enrollment

Overview of strategies
Group Discussion

Dr. Glendon Forgey & Jackie Brand

Frank Phillips College

Introduced by: Jesus Heredia Jr.

9:45AM - 10:45AM
Verbena AB

Guided Pathways to Increase Enrollment

Overview of strategies
Group Discussion

Dr. Steve Thomas & Board Members

Midland College

Introduced by: Paul Morris



Team Strategy Time 3 – Commitment to Action

11:00AM - 12:00PM

**Breakout Rooms
per Breakout Room
Sheet**

Action Planning

How will the board:

1. Support a Culture for Change
2. Monitor What Matters
3. Set the Strategic Direction for Student Success

**College teams breakout with
resident faculty**

Noon

Adjourn

Please provide us with feedback on the CCATT and BOTI Annual Conference. We appreciate your opinions and will use them to improve both our processes and our offerings.

Click here for this brief survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RB89B5Z>



Team Strategy Room Assignments

Eileen Baccus

Room: Camelia AB

- Galveston College
- Grayson College
- Lee College
- Midland College
- Houston Community College District

Martha Ellis

Room: Verbena AB

- Coastal Bend College
- Kilgore College
- McLennan Community College
- Temple College

Maria Harper-Marnick

Room: Primrose D

- Del Mar College
- Laredo College
- South Texas College
- Texas Southmost College

Byron McClenney

Room: Primrose C

- Alamo Colleges District
- Austin Community College District
- Dallas College
- El Paso Community College
- Paris Junior College

Kay McClenney

Room: Plumeria AB

- Amarillo College
- Brazosport College
- Tarrant County College
- Victoria College
- San Jacinto College

Ted Wright

Room: Lantana AB

- Alvin Community College
- Central Texas College
- Northeast Texas Community College
- Trinity Valley Community College
- Frank Phillips College

Westin Hotel Map



*** Parking for this event is on a first-come, first-served basis.**

If the parking at the Westin is full, please use the Macy's lot across the street. Thank you!

Actions of Effective Boards

Dr. Byron McClenney

Set the Strategic Direction for Student Success

1. Do you have a collective vision of your potential future?
2. Have you made student success with equity a central priority?
3. Does your vision/plan address the needs of your service area?
4. Do you conduct regular reviews of policies to support student success?
5. Do you use retreats and study sessions to review results and focus on future priorities?

Create the Culture for Change and Transformation

1. Are you aware of the major transformative developments in community colleges?
 - *Transformation of basic skills/developmental education
 - *Math pathways
 - *Guided Pathways
2. Do you link priorities to the allocation/reallocation of resources (budget)?
3. Do you have strategic alliances with K-12 districts and universities?
4. Is the Board ready to support prescriptive practices (orientation, advising, student plans) to increase success outcomes?
5. Do you provide the support for your CEO to lead courageous work?

Monitor What Matters

1. Are you willing to create a culture of inquiry, evidence, and accountability?
2. Have you adopted a limited set of metrics to monitor what matters?
3. Do you understand the characteristics of new students?
4. Do you hear and discuss reports on the progression of students through the college?
5. Do you periodically discuss results on leading indicators of student success with equity?

Resident Faculty



Eileen Baccus, Ph.D.

Eileen Baccus serves as a consultant to institutions of higher education and continues coaching a significant number of Achieving the Dream colleges in their efforts to improve the retention and graduation rates of low-income students and students of color since the initiative's inception.

Previously, Eileen was the president of Northwestern Connecticut Community College and the former Thames Valley State Technical College. She also held administrative positions at the University of Connecticut. Having served on numerous Boards, Commissions, and Advisory Committees for AACC, ACE, and the College Board, she is currently in her second term on the Board of the National Student Clearinghouse and NSC's Research Center Board of Directors.



Martha Ellis, Ph.D.

Martha Ellis is the senior pathways lead for the Texas Success Center, Achieving the Dream Leadership Coach, leadership development consultant and professor in residence at the University of Texas at Austin bringing deep experience, substantive knowledge, and research-based innovation to leaders as they confront the challenges and opportunities facing higher education today and in the future.

Martha has 35 years of experience in a variety of leadership positions at universities and community colleges in Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. Martha was Managing Director for the Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas at Austin and Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs for the University of Texas System. She was president of Lee College and Texas State Technical College. Ellis has won numerous teaching awards, has scholarly publications, served on national boards and is an invited presenter at national conferences. Ellis was recognized by the U. S. Congress and Texas House of Representatives for her leadership in community colleges.



Maria Harper-Marinick, Ph.D.

Maria Harper-Marinick served the Maricopa Community College District in Arizona for almost 30 years in a variety of leadership roles, including nearly four years as chancellor. Maria has served on the boards of the American Council of Education, American Association of Community Colleges, Excelencia in Education, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, and many other organizations. She chaired the Federal Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance and is an Aspen Institute Ascend fellow and a distinguished fellow of the Arizona State University Morrison Institute for Public Policy.

Diverse: Issues in Higher Education named Maria one of 25 exceptional women leaders who have made a difference in higher education.

Maria is originally from the Dominican Republic and came to the U.S. as a Fulbright Scholar.

Resident Faculty



Byron McClenney, Ph.D.

Byron McClenney has served 57 years in higher education, with nearly 33 years as a community college CEO, including 14 years at the Community College of Denver. During his 10-year tenure as director of Student Success Initiatives at the University of Texas at Austin, he acted as national director of leadership coaching for Achieving the Dream and founded the Texas Board of Trustees Institute in 2007.

In 49 years as a consultant, Byron has advised institutions, state higher education systems, state governments, and professional associations in 47 states and internationally. Byron's publications and presentations have focused on student success, institutional effectiveness, leadership, strategic planning, and organizational transformation. In partnership with the Association of Community College Trustees, he developed the Governance Institute for Student Success. Currently chair of the Colorado State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education and member of the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative, Byron remains active in higher education.



Kay McClenney, Ph.D.

Kay McClenney serves as a special advisor to the president of the American Association of Community Colleges and founding director of the Center for Community College Student Engagement. Kay McClenney serves as a consultant and partner with Mc2 Consultants.

For over 10 years, Kay served as vice president and chief operating officer of the Education Commission of the States. A frequent keynote speaker, she has authored numerous publications on education issues, strategic planning, accountability, student success, and leadership, and has been recognized with honors including the 2011 National Leadership Award from the American Association of Community Colleges. Kay earned a Ph.D. in Educational Administration from the Community College Leadership Program at The University of Texas at Austin.



Ted Wright, Ph.D.

Ted Wright currently serves as a Data Coach for a variety of colleges and universities participating in Achieving the Dream. Dr. Wright began his work with Achieving the Dream in 2004 as the Data Team and Core Team Leader while at Broward Community College, a Round One institution. Beginning in 2006, Dr. Wright was invited to consult as a Data Coach for the University of Houston–Downtown and Prairie View A&M University in Texas.

Dr. Wright brings 35 years of higher education experience to this role having served as an institutional researcher, administrator, and adjunct faculty member prior to retiring from his position as special assistant to the president for Broward Community College in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida in 2007. In addition to his current work with Achieving the Dream, Dr. Wright serves as a resident faculty for the Board of Trustees Institute.

Plenary Speakers



Bob Browder

Bob Browder has served on the Board of Trustees of Temple College since 2012 and is its current Chair. Bob led a Political Action Committee supporting two successful Temple ISD bond elections and one successful Tax Ratification Election. Most recently, Bob helped provide leadership as board chair on the passing of the successful Temple College Bond.

After several years with a national accounting firm, Bob began a long career in the commercial construction industry. He served in numerous executive capacities with BFW Construction in Temple until it was acquired in 2003 by Skanska, a Swedish-based international construction firm. Bob served as Executive Vice President and Management Partner of

Skanska, with responsibilities for its Texas operations until he retired in 2006.

Since retiring from Skanska, Bob has provided consulting services to construction companies in Texas and has been involved with numerous real estate, banking and manufacturing companies. Bob has served on many local boards and committees, including as Chair of the Temple Economic Development Corporation and Chair of the Temple Reinvestment Zone.

Bob is a graduate of Baylor University and is a CPA. He has lived in Temple since 1978. He and his wife, Debbie, have two adult children and two grandchildren.



Cynthia Ferrell, Ph.D.

Dr. Cynthia Ferrell is Vice President of the Texas Success Center, which is housed at the Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC) and supports the scaling of student success strategies and policies for Texas community college districts. She is directing Texas Pathways which is designed to provide opportunity and support for all Texas community college districts to implement guided pathways at scale. Dr. Ferrell also directs the Board of Trustees Institute aimed at supporting trustees in their role in enabling student success. Texas Success Center strategies provide training and ongoing support for community college trustees, chancellors, presidents and leadership teams to implement data informed policies and practices to improve the success of all students.

Prior to serving at the Texas Success Center, Dr. Ferrell served as the Director of Student Success Initiatives at The University of Texas at Austin, which included serving as the National Director of Leadership Coaching for Achieving the Dream, Director of the Board of Trustees Institute, Director of Gulf Coast Partners Achieving Success, and, in partnership with ACCT, the UT Director of the Governance Institute for Student Success—all projects aimed at supporting the student success strategies of community college leaders.

She earned her Ph.D. in higher educational administration from the Community College Leadership Program at The University of Texas at Austin.



Kristina Flores

As the Director of Research and Evaluation, Kristina supports the mission of the Texas Success Center by implementing all research and evaluation processes. She manages internal and external collaborations to ensure projects are high quality, action-oriented, equity-focused and aligned with the Texas Pathways Knowledge Development Agenda. Additionally, Kristina manages Center databases and performs and supervises quantitative and qualitative analyses. She composes reports and other research deliverables, communicates findings with stakeholders, and informs the creation of training, technical assistance, and professional development for Texas Pathways colleges.

Prior to her roles at the Texas Success Center, Kristina taught mathematics for 15 years in high school and community college classrooms. During her 11 years at Austin Community College, she served as assistant dean of academic courses, developmental math advisor, and campus math contact to support improvements in the student experience. Kristina holds a baccalaureate degree in Mathematics from Georgetown University and a master's degree in Mathematics from New York University. She is a Ph.D. candidate in STEM Education at the University of Texas at Austin.

Plenary Speakers



Mike Flores, Ph.D.

Dr. Mike Flores has served as chancellor of the Alamo Colleges District (ACD) since Oct. 1, 2018. With more than 20 years of service to the ACD, Dr. Flores possesses the distinction of being the first Hispanic chancellor in the district's history.

As chancellor, Dr. Flores led the ACD and its five colleges to be the only community college system awarded the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the nation's highest presidential honor for performance excellence through innovation, improvement, and visionary leadership.

Flores' vision for the ACD – eliminating poverty through education – is based on his experience as the child of migrant farmworkers who pursued education to gain economic and social mobility. Through his leadership, the ACD has launched AlamoPROMISE, a tuition-free college program for graduating high school students in Bexar County and one of the most significant initiatives implemented in the region.

He is nationally known as a former coach for Achieving the Dream and as a fellow for the American Council on Education, Aspen Pahrara Institute, and the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. He conducted postgraduate studies at the Harvard University Institute for Educational Management and is in demand as a speaker at national higher education conferences.



Jacob Fraire

Jacob Fraire serves as President & Chief Executive Officer of the Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC). Since 2016, Mr. Fraire has provided leadership to TACC, an advocacy organization whose core mission is to advance state policy, institutional practice, and research in support of Texas community colleges. He serves as chief advocate and strategist for Texas community colleges and their unified policy agenda before the Texas Legislature and policy leaders. In addition to TACC, Mr. Fraire further provides leadership to the Texas Community College Education Initiative (TCCEI), which operates the Texas Success Center, and the Community College Association of Texas Trustees (CCATT), an organization of locally elected trustees and regents.

Mr. Fraire serves as Board Chair of the Institute for Higher Education Policy and on the Advisory Board for the Community College Research Center. He has previously served on multiple state and national boards to include, Texas Transfer Working Group, Texas Dual Credit Task Force, Grantmakers for Education, Corporate Advisory Committee of the Council for Opportunity in Education, and the federal Advisory Committee on the Measures of Student Success. He serves as Ex-Official of the TACC Business Advisory Council.

Mr. Fraire holds a Bachelor of Science degree from St. Edward's University and a Master in Public Affairs degree from the University of Texas at Austin.



John Hansen, Ph.D.

Dr. John P. Hansen represents District VI and was elected to the Houston Community College Board of Trustees in November 2015. Trustee Hansen served on the Board of the Alief Independent School District for 22 years, including three terms as Board President. During his tenure, Alief ISD passed three bond issues, which resulted in the construction of 17 new schools and laid the groundwork for such District improvements as the Career and Technology Education (CTE) Center and Pre-Kindergarten pods at each elementary school.

Trustee Hansen has served for 20 years on the Alief ISD Education Foundation Board of Directors, including numerous terms as President of the Foundation Board. During his tenure, the Alief ISD Foundation has increased fundraising by a factor of 15. In addition, Trustee Hansen serves as the Chairman of the Boy Scouts of America Tatanka (Alief) District. He also served as Co-Chair of the successful capital campaign to build the Alief YMCA.

Trustee Hansen holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama and Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Economics from Rice University. A resident of the Alief area since 1980, he has lengthy experience as a college professor at the University of St. Thomas, Ohio Wesleyan University and Houston Baptist University, where he was President of the Faculty Assembly. He also has extensive experience as a business consultant and has served on a number of corporate boards.

Plenary Speakers



Cesar Maldonado, Ph.D.

In May of 2014, Dr. Cesar Maldonado joined Houston Community College as Chancellor of the six-college system. Under his tenure, HCC has restructured to focus on student success resulting in an increase of graduates by more than 12 percent per year. Under Dr. Maldonado's leadership, HCC has expanded to 19 campuses and facilities, and created 14 new Centers of Excellence.

As Chancellor, Dr. Maldonado has created academic partnerships that ensure students can seamlessly transition to specified four-year university programs at Texas A&M University, the University of Texas at Tyler, Stephen F. Austin and others. He has also fostered partnerships with private industries that created additional pathways for students eager to enter the workforce after obtaining their associates degree or certificate.

With Dr. Maldonado at the helm, HCC has been nationally recognized as the #1 college for international students, #1 for granting associate degrees to minorities, #2 in granting associate degrees in all disciplines, #2 for granting degrees to African American students, #3 for granting degrees to Hispanics, and #4 for granting degrees to Asian Americans.

Dr. Maldonado holds Bachelor and Masters of Science degrees in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M University, a Doctorate in Systems and Engineering Management from Texas Tech University, and is an alumnus of the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business.



Christina Ponce, Ph.D.

Dr. Christina Ponce became Temple College's 11th president in January 2019. Prior to becoming president of Temple College, Dr. Ponce held positions with Austin Community College, El Paso Community College, Lee College and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Dr. Ponce received her Ph.D. in educational administration from the Community College Leadership Program at The University of Texas at Austin. She also holds a bachelor's degree in education from UT and a master's degree in political science from Texas State University.



Luis Ponjuán, Ph.D.

Dr. Luis Ponjuán is an Associate Professor of Higher Education Administration and the Research Director of the IDEAL (Investing in Diversity, Equity, Access, and Learning) research project in the Department of Educational Administration and Human Resource Development in the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) at Texas A&M University.

He has a comprehensive research agenda focused on Latino students, Latino male students, and faculty members of color. He is co-editor of the book, "Ensuring the Success of Latino males in Higher Education: A National Imperative" and co-author of the American Council on Education national policy brief, "The Texas Education Consortium for male students of color".

He has spoken at the White House for the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics, the United States Congress, and institutions across the nation to raise awareness about his research agenda. He has earned research grant funding from the Greater Texas Foundation, The Trellis Foundation, National Science Foundation, and Texas A&M University. Dr. Ponjuán has been recognized as the 2016 CEHD Faculty Climate Award, the 2014 CEHD Outstanding New Faculty member, and the 2014 CHED Commit to Transforming Lives Administrative Fellow.

He earned his Ph.D. in Higher Education from the University of Michigan, Master's degree from the Florida State University, and Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of New Orleans.

Plenary Speakers



Carol Scott

Carol A. Scott, APR, Fellow PRSA is chairman of the Community College Association of Texas Trustees.

Carol was first elected to the Del Mar College Board of Regents in November of 2014 and re-elected in 2020. She is serving her second term as DMC Board Chair. She also serves as the State Coordinator for Association of Community College Trustees.

Carol is a public affairs consultant from Corpus Christi serving a variety of business sectors including energy, manufacturing, refining, financial, retail and government. She has a long history of public service for numerous civic, social and professional associations in the region.

Carol is a graduate of Texas A&M University – Kingsville. She is past president of the Javelina Alumni Association, serves on the President's Leadership Council and is a Distinguished Alumni from the University. Previously she was elected to the Corpus Christi Independent School District Board of Trustees and served three terms as president of the board. She is a past president or chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, League of Women Voters, and the Arts Council among others. She is a graduate of Leadership Corpus Christi and Leadership Texas.



Gene Sprague, Ph.D.

Dr. Gene Sprague, a Professor of Cardiology at the UT Health San Antonio (UTHSCSA) for 43 years, has served on the board for 27 years. He was first elected to the board in 1994.

Sprague holds a Ph.D. in pharmacology from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, a master's in reproductive biology from Colorado State University and a bachelor's in biology from Northwestern University.

He is the recipient of numerous awards in his field and has authored many articles for scientific publications. Dr. Sprague was instrumental in the establishment of the Alamo Community College District's, Northwest Vista College and currently serves as board chair for Alamo Colleges District.



Robert Vela, Ed.D.

Robert Vela, Ed.D. currently serves as the 12th President of the San Antonio College in San Antonio, Texas. One of the largest single-campus community colleges in Texas, and one of the biggest in the nation, San Antonio College is the flagship institution in the Alamo Colleges District, which is made up of five distinct colleges. Vela assumed the role of President in August 2014, after serving as the Dean of Student Affairs, Vice President of Student Affairs, and Vice President for Student and Academic Success for nearly six years. During that time, he also served as the Interim District Director for the Alamo Colleges District Center for Student Information in 2010.

With more than 20 years in higher education administration, Vela brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the position as President. Before moving to San Antonio College, Vela held the position of Dean of Student Development at San Jacinto College – North Campus in Houston, Texas from 2005-2008. As well, he served as a Coordinator/Advisor at Coastal Bend College. Earlier in his career, he held several positions at Texas A&M University – Kingsville, Texas A&M University – San Antonio, Texas State University, University of Texas Pan American, Sam Houston State University, and the University of the Incarnate Word, among others.

Dr. Vela's personal philosophy is grounded in servant leadership, which is evident in his involvement with numerous professional organizations.

Relevant Resources

Click on the titles below to access the digital resources.

TACC Legislative Recap

A recap of the TACC legislative priorities and their outcomes during the 87th Legislature (regular session). Produced by the TACC advocacy team.

TRUE Summary

An overview of the Texas Reskilling and Upskilling through Education project that is the basis for SB 1102.

Aspen Prize

The website detailing the Aspen Prize for community college excellence including finalists and winners.

ACCT Rural Colleges

A report provided by the Association of Community College Trustees on the needs of rural colleges.

Governance Boards and DEI

An article from August 17, 2021 in the Chronicle of Higher education: Governing boards influence DEI work.

COVID-19 Safety Considerations

Thank you for attending the 2021 CCATT Conference & Board of Trustees Institute. The recent increase in reported positive COVID cases has given us the opportunity to review and establish our internal event protocols for your safety. Please review the following email carefully as it contains information regarding event safety. Please free to contact us at success@tacc.org if you have any questions or concerns regarding the event.

COVID-19 Safety Considerations

By attending the CCATT Conference & Board of Trustees Institute, you agree to adhere to the health and safety protocols of the Westin at the Domain and Austin/Travis County public health officials.

Current CDC and hotel safety guidelines will be followed, and TACC/CCATT/Texas Success Center reserves the right to update health measures and attendance policies based on evolving health concerns and guidance from federal health agencies and local authorities. While we intend for the event to go forward as planned, the event may be impacted by evolving information from federal and local authorities and protocols will be adjusted as warranted. By attending the event, you are acknowledging that an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present and voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19.

Face Masks

The Westin at The Domain does not require vaccinated guests to wear face coverings or social distance in indoor or outdoor areas of the hotel; however, we will be asking conference attendees to keep masks on except for when seated during conference sessions/meals or when serving as a conference presenter. Presenters will be asked to maintain at least a 6ft safe social distance from audience members.

Below are additional Austin Public Health Stage 5 Risk Guideline recommendations for fully-vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals:

Recommendations in Stage 5 for fully-vaccinated people

- Wear a mask in low-risk indoor and outdoor settings
- Avoid high-risk indoor and outdoor settings
- Wear a mask for low-risk travel while high-risk travel should only be taken if essential
- Wear a mask for low-risk dining indoors. Outdoor dining is recommended for high-risk situations

Recommendations in Stage 5 for people partially vaccinated or unvaccinated people

- Should get fully vaccinated
- Should avoid indoor and outdoor gatherings in all settings
- Any type of travel should be avoided

Additional Austin Public Health COVID-19 guidance can be found [here](#).



Our StayConfident cleaning program is our commitment to you. Leveraging White Lodging's 35 years of hospitality experience and the strength of our brands, we've implemented a new, enhanced cleaning program to protect what has always been true to our hearts - the health, safety and well-being of our guests and associates.

WHAT IS THE STAYCONFIDENT CLEANING PROGRAM?

White Lodging's StayConfident commitment goes above and beyond the minimum standards from our hotel brands, government agencies and health departments, and starts well before you enter the room. Our goal is to deliver an even cleaner and more confident stay for you.

When you stay at a White Lodging property, you'll know your guest room has been cleaned with our new StayConfident standard of cleanliness and disinfection. This program upholds our rigorous 5-point protocol which takes extra safety and cleaning measures to disinfect all high-touch point surfaces using hospital-grade disinfectants.

GUEST ROOM

- 1** Deep Cleaned & Inspected
 - Switches & Climate Controls
 - Handles & Knobs
 - Telephones & Remote Controls
 - Hard Surfaces (desks, nightstands, lamps)
 - Bathroom (sink, handles, shower/tub)
- 2** Hospital-Grade Disinfectant (left on surfaces with longer wait time to ensure effectiveness)
- 3** Removal of Non-Essential Paper Goods (menus, notepads, coasters)
- 4** Laundry Protocol (enhanced process in compliance with CDC guidelines)
- 5** Limited Housekeeping Entry (short-term stayover service eliminated, except upon request)



INSPECTION

Rooms are given a second round of disinfection on all high-touch surfaces – then inspected, approved before the next guest's stay.

STAYCONFIDENT EXTENSIONS

The goal of StayConfident program also guides additional measures throughout the property – focused on three areas – and supported by ongoing associate training and certification.

- 1. Contactless operations wherever possible**
- 2. Advanced cleaning and disinfection procedures**
- 3. Individualized – and social distanced – services**

REFINING THE GUEST EXPERIENCE

- We modified our steps of service to limit physical contact (ex: mobile check-in, where available), as well as institute crowd control procedures and distancing markers in all public spaces and elevators.
- We increased the frequency – currently every two hours – of cleaning our public areas including, but not limited to lobbies, elevators, door handles, luggage carts, public bathrooms and meeting spaces, using hospital-grade disinfectant.
- We have increased the availability of hand sanitizer and have reminders of health, hygiene and proper social distancing throughout the property.
- Restaurants, when they open, will have reduced seating capacity and procedures in accordance with current restaurant and food safety recommendations to limit contact and accommodate proper social distancing.
- Adjusted in-room dining with contactless service with all packaging and products to be single-use and disposable.

SUPPORTING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- We follow all local/national guidelines on gathering ordinances and coordinate with event planners to plan breaks and general session timing to prevent crowding of coffee breaks, restrooms and elevators.
- We adjusted seating capacities, floor plans and room configurations to comply with appropriate physical distancing guidelines.
- Items such as pens, banquet notepads and other previously physical items are removed.
- Indoor/outdoor spaces will be used as much as possible.
- Hand sanitizer will be available and present throughout the meeting experience.

EQUIPPING ASSOCIATES

- Associates at all levels will be required to complete certified disinfection and StayConfident program training.
- Associates are regularly briefed on how to identify and escalate potential health and safety issues related to COVID-19.
- Associates are equipped with face masks and required to wear that mask while on property, in accordance with local mandates.
- We increased the cleaning frequency for back-of-house areas using hospital-grade disinfectant.
- We modified schedules and back-of-house areas and pathways to increase social distancing.
- Reminders reaffirming proper hygiene throughout associate areas and offices, including reminders to eliminate handshakes, hugs, high-fives and other physical touch.

Nearby Restaurants

MEXICAN, 0.2 MILES

Gloria's Latin Cuisine

Family-friendly chain featuring Salvadoran & Tex-Mex favorites, plus mojitos & margaritas.

Open for lunch and dinner
Dress code: Casual
Phone: +1 512-833-6400

[LEARN MORE](#)

AMERICAN, 0.1 MILES

Punch Bowl Social

Where scratch kitchen meets crafted beverages.

Dress code: Casual
Phone: +1 512-368-9070

[LEARN MORE](#)

AMERICAN, 0.4 MILES

Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar

Fleming's Prime Steakhouse is an upscale restaurant that specializes in premium cuts and an extensive selection of wine.

Open for lunch and dinner
Dress code: Casual

[LEARN MORE](#)

AMERICAN, 0.1 MILES

Shake Shack

Chill out on its back patio space, decked out with a bocce ball court and lounge furniture, plus great hand-picked tunes in the background.

Open for lunch and dinner
Dress code: Casual
Phone: +1 512-717-0422

[LEARN MORE](#)

ITALIAN, 0.2 MILES

Mia Italian Tapas & Bar

Open for lunch and dinner
Dress code: Casual

[LEARN MORE](#)

ITALIAN, 0.3 MILES

Maggiano's Little Italy

Stop by Maggiano's at The Domain for season-fresh Italian food in Austin, Chef-prepared and inspired by Nonna's traditional recipes.

Open for lunch and dinner
Dress code: Casual
Phone: +1 512-501-7870

[LEARN MORE](#)

MEXICAN, 0.3 MILES

Velvet Taco

Open for lunch and dinner
Dress code: Casual

[LEARN MORE](#)