



Community College
Association of Texas Trustees

Central Texas Trustee Leadership Seminar

May 17, 2024 | Speaker Biographies

John Bailey

John Bailey has been a licensed financial advisor since 1997 and has earned the designation of CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ Professional (2003). He started John Bailey Financial in 2004. A native of Temple and a graduate of Texas A&M University, John specializes in planning and investing for retirement.

Prior to becoming a Financial Planner, John worked in Human Resources at Scott & White Hospital and for the Texas Employment Commission.

John has served on the City of Temple's Reinvestment Zone No. 1 Board, the Temple Chamber of Commerce Board, the Temple Economic Development Corporation Board, Temple Parks and Leisure Advisory Board, as President of Temple Lions Club Parks and Charities, Inc., and as President of the Temple Founder Lion's Club. He currently serves as a trustee on the Temple College Board and the Cultural Activities Center Board.

Elizabeth Chivers

Elizabeth Chivers serves as the Senior Director of Strategy & Policy Analysis at the Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC). Ms. Chivers works to help advance the mission of our colleges and the association through data insight and analyses. As a key member of TACC's policy team, she supports data-informed policy advocacy and strategy for our public community colleges.

Before joining TACC, Elizabeth spent almost four years with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, where she served in several roles, including program director as part of the data team and most recently as the Senior Director of Strategy & Major Projects. She was involved in helping execute strategic priority planning and engaged in several key agency projects, including the 60x30TX Regional Advisory Groups, SB 25 Recommend Course Sequences, New Texas Transfer Framework, and metric development for the newly adopted Building a Talent Strong Texas strategic plan. She also served as District Director



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of Institutional Research and a member of the college leadership team at Navarro College.

Elizabeth holds a Bachelor of Arts from Central College, a Master's in Sociology, with a focus on criminology and quantitative and qualitative methodologies from the University of Northern Iowa, and additional doctoral-level coursework related to furthering her expertise in qualitative methods, work & organizations, and social psychology from North Carolina State University.

Dr. Jenna Cullinane Hege

Dr. Jenna Cullinane Hege serves as Vice Chancellor of Institutional Research & Analytics at Austin Community College. In this position, she leads the college's collection and analysis of data to support data literacy, informed decision-making, and strategic planning.

Cullinane Hege came to ACC from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board where she served as the deputy assistant commissioner for strategic planning. She has worked extensively with the state's vast data resources to inform policy and improve student success and educational equity in Texas.

In addition to her role as Vice Chancellor, she serves as the co-chair of the ACAN Data and Technology Committee. She also serves as a member of the ACC Administrative Services Council, has been a leading contributor to the Chancellor's priorities, and also teaches mathematics for the Adult Education Department.

Outside of ACC, Dr. Cullinane Hege was a fellow in the Aspen Institute's Community College Excellence program and is an assistant professor of Practice in Education Leadership and Policy at the University of Texas-Austin (UT-Austin). She advises the University of Maryland Global Campus Community College Policy and Administration doctoral program and the Texas Association of Community College Knowledge Development Steering Committee. Previously, she served as the higher education policy and strategy lead and as a research scientist at the Charles A. Dana Center at UT-Austin.

Dr. Cullinane Hege holds a Bachelor's in Legal Studies from UC Berkeley and earned her Master's degree in Public Affairs and Ph.D. in Philosophy from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas.



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Jeffrey Fritz

Jeff Fritz serves as the Dean of Health Professions and Chair of the Department of Emergency Medical Services at Temple College. He has 25 years of experience teaching in the field of EMS. Before teaching full-time, Jeff worked as a Paramedic and Supervisor for ten years in the north Houston area. Though not in the classroom as much, Jeff still has a passion for teaching and helping students succeed.

Mike Hembree

Mike Hembree was elected to the Trinity Valley Community College Board of Trustees in 2020. He is currently the Vice Chair of the Board and Chair of the TVCC Foundation Board. Mike is a dedicated advocate for students and an avid supporter of TVCC's nationally recognized athletics programs. Mike serves on the CCATT Board of Directors as a representative for Medium-Sized Colleges and has been the Chair of the CCATT Engagement Committee since 2022.

DeDe Griffith

DeDe Griffith, an experienced business owner, workforce, and technical education administrator, is now the Vice President of Workforce Development for Temple College.

Griffith focuses on expanding the College's workforce development programs, growing business and industry partnerships, and developing short-term workforce training and technical degree programs.

Griffith earned an Associate of Science and Technology degree in Drafting Technology from Lee College and owned her own drafting business for 10 years. She later returned to Lee College to teach computer-aided drafting. She served as Chair of the college's Computer Aided Drafting and Design and Engineering Technology Division from 2009 to 2012 before being named Director of Student Success and Access in 2012 and Vice President of Instruction in 2016.

Griffith has received numerous awards for her work as an educator and administrator, including the Faculty Excellence Award from Lee College, the John



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and Suanne Roueche Excellence Award from the League for Innovation in Community Colleges, and the Texas Star Award from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. She also helped Lee College earn top honors with the American Association of Community College Excellence Award in Student Success. She has participated in both the Aspen College Excellence Presidential Fellowship program and the Future Leaders Institute sponsored by the American Association of Community Colleges.

Griffith holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Technical Leadership & Supervision from the University of Houston, as well as a Master of Education degree in Higher Education Administration. She is finalizing her Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree at the University of Houston.

Dr. Christy Ponce

Dr. Christy Ponce has been President of Temple College since January 2019. Prior to that, she served as Executive Vice President at Lee College in Baytown, Texas. She also has held teaching and administrative positions at El Paso Community College and Austin Community College.

In 2016, Dr. Ponce was selected as a part of the inaugural Aspen Presidential Fellowship for Community College Excellence among the top 40 up-and-coming college presidents. This enabled her to participate in a year-long executive leadership program designed by The Aspen Institute and Stanford University to develop leaders who can help community colleges achieve higher levels of student success while maintaining broad access.

In 2021, she was one of 25 community college leaders selected for the 2021-22 class of the Aspen New Presidents Fellowship.

Dr. Ponce serves on the Board of Directors of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), the primary advocacy organization for the nation's 1,200 community colleges.

Dr. Ponce earned a 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 The University of Texas at Austin and a master's degree in political science from Texas State University.



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Lydia Santibanez-Farrell

Lydia Santibanez-Farrell has been a dedicated servant leader. Lydia has been a passionate advocate for student success and has advanced critical student success work. She has been a member of the Temple College Board of Trustees since 1990 and served as chair of the Board from 2000-2002. She served on the ACCT Board of Directors from 1994-2000 and also served as board chair of the National Association of Latino Community College Trustees. Lydia also served as the Chair of the Community College Association of Texas Trustees.

Lydia has received numerous other awards, including the Women of Distinction Award from the Girl Scouts of Central Texas, the American Association of Women in Community Colleges Leadership Award, the Rotary International Award for Service, and the United States Veterans Affairs' most distinct Secretary's Award for Excellence in Chaplaincy. She also has been honored with ACCT Lifetime Membership as well as the ACCT Trustee Western Regional Award and the ACCT National M. Dale Ensign Trustee Leadership Award.