



Community College  
Association of Texas Trustees

## North Texas Trustee Leadership Seminar

May 17, 2024 | Speaker Biographies

### Eric Ban

Throughout his extensive career, Eric has made an impact in education, from strategically linking high school reform to economic development in Greater Chicago to leading statewide initiatives for Dallas County Promise. In 2020, Eric founded EMS as a coalition under the Commit Partnership. Prior to his leadership role with Dallas County Promise, Eric was Senior Vice President of Program Innovation at Academic Partnerships, where he developed programs and solutions for universities to better serve students through online programs around the world.

As principal of Crown Point High School in Greater Chicago, Eric founded the College Acceleration Network, linking high school reform to economic development. During his tenure, he led the school in a remarkable transformation, using college readiness instruments and data that gained Crown Point High School the designation of the first ACT college acceleration research high school in the country. His innovations to produce next-generation affordable, accountable, and accessible dual credit classes with Indiana University Northwest and Purdue University Calumet were featured in Ed Week.

Before serving as a high school principal, Eric worked to build scalable models of K-12 and university programming with Dallas-based Higher Ed Holdings, where he served as Vice President of Research and Development and Executive Director of University Partnerships. Eric began his career as a high school chemistry teacher and basketball coach in Bloomington, Indiana. He moved into administration and then into a visiting professor role at the Indiana University School of Education where he reinvented the university's student-teacher performance system, launched the Indiana Reading Academy, and developed the teacher leadership master's program.

Eric received a BS in Science Education, MAT in Chemistry, and Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from Indiana University.



**Community College  
Association of Texas Trustees**

## **Jay Barrett**

Jay has 40 years of experience in public education. He has been a principal in Amarillo ISD for a total of 30 years, with stops at Forest Hill Elementary, Travis Middle School, and Amarillo Area Center for Advanced Learning. He has also served as assistant principal at Tascosa High School and associate principal at Palo Duro High School. Before that, Jay taught English and coached tennis at Pampa after doing his student teaching in Rota, Spain. In June 2021, Jay became the principal of the nationally recognized AmTech Career Academy.

Jay has been recognized for numerous awards including being named the “Citizen on the Move” for the City of Amarillo in 2023, winning the 2022 First Tech Challenge Robotics Compass Award, the 2022 Tech & Learning Magazine’s Leadership Award, the 2019 HEB North Texas Secondary Principal of the Year, and the 2019 Elbert K Fretwell Outstanding Educator of the year by the Golden Spread Council of Boy Scouts.

In May 2023, Jay won re-election to the national award-winning Amarillo College Board of Regents for the 2nd consecutive time, now beginning his 9th year of service to the Board. He is currently Vice-Chair of the Board of Regents for Amarillo College. Jay is also beginning his 2nd year as Chair of the Community College Association of Texas Trustees Board of Directors. His other work includes serving on the Chamber of Commerce Governmental Advisory Council and the Executive Committee of the Panhandle Workforce Development Board of Directors. He is also the Vice-President of Maverick Boys' and Girls' Clubs in Amarillo and Co-Founder of Gateway to Health Careers, as well as a Deacon of First Baptist Church in Amarillo.

## **Melinda Carroll**

Melinda Carroll serves as the Vice Chancellor of Student Services at North Central Texas College (NCTC), where she leads a committed team dedicated to enhancing the student experience. In her role, Carroll oversees various aspects, including admissions, recruitment, testing services, advising and counseling, completion center, career services, and graduation, as well as spearheading initiatives related to student engagement.



**Community College  
Association of Texas Trustees**

Bringing with her more than two decades of experience, Carroll has devoted her professional journey to serving and bolstering the communities associated with NCTC. At the helm of the student services division, she directs a regional strategy aimed at advancing student support. This strategy is characterized by the utilization of impactful campaigns, strategic partnerships, and tools, all with a focus on the counties contributing to NCTC's student body throughout north Texas.

## **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 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.

## **Linda Garcia**

Linda García is the Executive Director of the Center for Community College Student Engagement (CCCSE) at The University of Texas at Austin (UT). Prior to this role, she served as the Assistant Director of College Relations at CCCSE. Previously, Linda was Vice President of Community College Relations at the Roueche Graduate Center at National American University, and she has worked at



**Community College  
Association of Texas Trustees**

Lone Star College, Maricopa Community Colleges, and The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College.

Linda's experience includes student development, instructional support, grant writing, and teaching. She served as a coach for the American Association of Community Colleges Pathways 2.0 and continues in this same role for the Texas Pathways Project. Linda earned a Bachelor of Journalism with a concentration in broadcast and a doctorate in higher education administration with a specialization in community college leadership from The University of Texas at Austin. Her Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies degree is from The University of Texas at Brownsville.

## **Karla Metzler**

Karla Metzler, originally from Nocona, Texas, holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas Woman's University. She is the owner of Strategic Technology Partners of Texas, a Xerox Corporation Document Technology Partner. Karla has demonstrated strong leadership in the community, serving as Past Board President of the North Texas Medical Centre and currently as Board Chair of North Central Texas College. She resides in Gainesville, Texas, with her husband, John Metzler.

## **Barbara Stanley**

Barbara Stanley is the Director of the Red River Promise and an integral figure in the implementation of the program beginning Fall 2021. She has accumulated nearly fifteen years of experience working with students at North Central Texas College in areas including tutoring, TRiO, disability services, advising, academic and career-technical dual credit, and academic coaching. Her experiences provide a unique perception and understanding of the needs within the communities. A first-generation, low-income student herself, Mrs. Stanley understands the challenges facing many students. With limited resources but the desire to pursue a degree, Stanley first attended North Central Texas College where she earned her Associate's degree before attending Texas Woman's University for a Bachelor's in Sociology, and later Texas A&M University to earn her Master of Science in Educational Human Resource Development.



**Community College  
Association of Texas Trustees**

She has presented at various state and national higher education conferences such as the RCCA National Convention, Achieving the Dream, and Texas Pathways Institute. Program success has seen a 67% increase in enrollment in the first year retention and completion rates and received awards from the Salesforce Educational Summit for Excellence in Recruitment & Admissions Innovation.

## **Dr. Brent Wallace**

Dr. Brent Wallace assumed the duties of the 11th President and 1st Chancellor of the North Central Texas College District in August 2014, after serving as the Chief Academic Officer for the North Central Texas Community College District.

Dr. Wallace currently serves as Vice Chair of the Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC) as well as the Past Chair of the Community and Technical Colleges Joint Formula Funding Advisory Committee. He is a member of the TACC Legislative Committee and The TACC Business Advisory Council. Dr. Wallace serves locally on the Gainesville Economic Development Board and the Gainesville Texas Hospital Inc. Board. He also serves as a member of the Community Colleges Standing Advisory Committee.

Dr. Wallace has a research background in conflict and strategic planning in higher education. He has been a presenter at state and national higher education conferences and has been a member of multiple state higher education groups, including the Texas Community College Instructional Administrators, Board of Directors of the Texas Association of Career and Technical Educators, Texas Community College Teachers Association, Texas Association of Community Colleges, and the Texas Association of Community Colleges executive and legislative committees.

Dr. Wallace holds a Bachelors in Business Administration from Hardin Simmons University, a Master of Arts in Human Communications from Abilene Christian University, a Graduate Certification in Conflict Resolution and Mediation from Abilene Christian University, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Higher Education Administration from Texas Tech University.