



Community College
Association of Texas Trustees

Collaborative Connections:

Community College Governance & K-12 Partnerships

September 12-14, 2024
Amarillo, TX



Welcome to Amarillo!

Thank you for joining us at the 2024 Community College Association of Texas Trustees Conference, *Collaborative Connections: Community College Governance & K-12 Partnerships*.

We are thrilled to welcome you to three days of learning, connections, and important conversations, with a focus on community partnerships and collaborations. We hope you find the programming timely and relevant, and that you feel supported by our team as you navigate the weekend.

Conference Wifi Network: Hilton Honors
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This workbook belongs to: _____

A Message from the Chair of the CCATT Board

I am honored to welcome you to Amarillo for this year's conference, themed *Collaborative Connections: Community College Governance & K-12 Partnerships*. As we gather here, we stand at a pivotal moment in education, where the power of partnerships between community colleges and K-12 schools is being realized like never before.

Our opening plenary session will highlight these partnerships with a dynamic panel discussion focusing on the pathways being forged between Amarillo Independent School District, Amarillo College, and industry leaders in the Panhandle. These esteemed panelists will share insights into how collaborative efforts are driving positive economic outcomes, benefiting not just students, but society and taxpayers as well. This is a testament to the work being done to make Amarillo a hub for business and a community where people want to build their futures.

Throughout this conference, you will have the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations with peers from across the state. Our College Cohorts breakout session will delve into trustee perspectives on the first year of House Bill 8 implementation. This will be an invaluable chance to explore what compliance means for your institution, share successes and challenges, and discuss opportunities for continued improvement.

We have a robust lineup of breakout sessions, including topics such as Teacher Preparation Programs, Early College High Schools, Co-Enrollment Programs with Universities, Ensuring High-Quality Dual Credit Pathways, and Prison Education Programs. Each session is designed to deepen our collective understanding of the key issues and innovations in community college governance.

The conference will conclude on Saturday, September 14, with a closing plenary panel that will provide a comprehensive overview of the impact of House Bill 8. We will discuss the importance of a forecasting approach to funding, the expansion of state support for community colleges, and how House Bill 8 is influencing dual credit programs and college access, particularly for historically underserved students.

This is an invaluable opportunity for us to come together, strategize, and shape the future of higher education governance and cross-sector collaboration in Texas. I encourage you to fully engage with the sessions, share your insights, and leave inspired to continue the critical work we do in our communities.

Thank you for your dedication to the success of our students and our colleges. I look forward to the conversations we will have and the progress we will make together.



Warm regards,
Jay Barrett
Chair, Amarillo College Board of Regents
2022 - 2024 Chair, Community College Association of Texas Trustees

Agenda-at-a-Glance

Thursday, September 12

- 12:00 PM** Pre-Conference: New Trustees Luncheon
- 2:00 PM** Pre-Conference Sessions:
- New Trustee Orientation
- Data & Advocacy Workshop
- 5:35 PM** Welcoming Reception at Hodgetown Ballpark

Friday, September 13

- 8:00 AM** Sponsor Expo
- 9:00 AM** **Forging Futures: Education & Workforce Synergy in Amarillo**
- 10:45 AM** Breakout Sessions: Regional College Cohort Conversations
- 11:45 AM** Lunch Buffet
- 12:15 PM** **Legislative Update & CCATT Annual Business Meeting**
- 1:45 PM** Breakout Sessions: (A) ACCT: Kids on Campus Initiative; (B) ACC: Co-Enrollment Partnerships with Universities; (C) TEA: College & Career Readiness School Models
- 3:00 PM** Excursions: Amarillo College, the Innovation Outpost, & AmTech Career Academy
- 6:00 PM** Dinner Buffet
- 6:30 PM** **Fostering Dignity in Higher Education**

Saturday, September 14

- 9:00 AM** Breakout Sessions: (A) Attorney Roundtable; (B) Ensuring High Quality Dual Credit Pathways; (C) Board Retreats & Data-Informed Governance
- 10:00 AM** Breakout Sessions: (A) Chairs Council Meeting; (B) Teacher Preparation Programs; (C) Expanding Prison Education Programs in Texas
- 11:00 AM** **Navigating the Future of Performance-Based Funding**

Program Agenda

Thursday, September 12

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM | Pre-Conference Lunch

Sanborn B

New Trustees Luncheon

Join us for the New Trustees Luncheon, a valuable networking opportunity offered specifically for Texas community college trustees who are attending the CCATT Annual Conference for the first time. Network with peers, engage with seasoned leaders, and gain insights to navigate the role of trusteeship effectively.

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM | Pre-Conference Concurrent Sessions

Sanborn B

New Trustee Orientation

This pre-conference session is designed specifically for trustees and regents in their first term, focused on the changing landscape of community colleges and its impact on trusteeship. Topics will include fiduciary responsibilities, student success, and effective board governance. The session will include updates on Texas policy and equip new trustees with the essential tools and insights needed to excel in their roles, ensuring a smooth integration into the board and maximizing their contributions to the college.

Facilitator: **Dr. Martha Ellis**, Senior Pathways Lead, TSC

Sanborn C

Data & Advocacy Workshop

This pre-conference workshop provides an opportunity to delve into how colleges can leverage data and strategic tools for effective advocacy and planning. The session will cover key legislative foundations, offer an introduction to tools and strategies for grassroots advocacy, and explore how to use data to craft impactful storytelling on behalf of your college and its students. By focusing on these areas, participants will gain the knowledge and resources needed to enhance their advocacy efforts and align them with institutional goals and community needs.

Presenters: **Daniel Becka**, Principal, Integrated Advocacy Solutions
Jacob Cottingham, Senior Director of Government Relations, Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC)

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM | Welcome Reception at Hodgetown Stadium

Right Field Picnic Patio

Join us for a night of networking and fun as we kick off the 2024 CCATT Annual Conference! Connect with fellow attendees at Hodgetown Stadium, conveniently located across the street from the conference hotel. Enjoy dinner and drinks with us on the reserved patio during an Amarillo Sod Poodles baseball game! Tickets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis at the registration table inside the conference hotel.

Friday, September 13

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM | Sponsor Expo

Hallways

Explore the Sponsor Expo to connect with a diverse array of service providers and discover the valuable contributions of our sponsors. Engage directly with industry leaders, gather information on their offerings, and explore how their services and solutions can support your role and enhance your institution.

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM | Opening Plenary

Yellow Rose Ballroom C, D

Welcome

Nicole Eversmann, Director, Community College Association of Texas Trustees (CCATT)

Jay Barrett, Chair, Amarillo College Board of Regents; Chair, CCATT Board of Directors;

Mayor Cole Stanley, City of Amarillo

Ray Martinez III, President & CEO, Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC)

Forging Futures: Education & Workforce Synergy in Amarillo

The opening plenary session will feature a panel discussion focused on local partnerships, providing perspective on the pathways taking shape between Amarillo Independent School District, Amarillo College, and industry leaders in the Panhandle. The conversation will describe the robust local ecosystem of collaboration to ensure that high school graduates have the opportunity to attend college and enter meaningful careers in the workforce. Panelists will share how these stakeholders are working together to achieve a positive impact on the regional economy, making Amarillo a place where businesses want to locate and where people want to work.

Panelists: **Dr. Frank Sobey**, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, Amarillo College
Doug Loomis, Superintendent, Amarillo ISD
Sonja Clark, Amarillo Site Leader, Bell Flight
Caylar Harper, Director of Marketing & Workforce Initiatives, Amarillo Economic Development Corporation

Moderator: **Jay Barrett**, Principal of AmTech Career Academy; Chair, CCATT Board of Directors; Chair, Amarillo College Board of Regents

10:30 AM - 10:45 AM | Break

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM | Concurrent Sessions

Regional College Cohort Conversations

Together in regional cohorts, you'll dive into Trustee perspectives, hurdles, and challenges you've faced during implementation of House Bill 8 (HB 8) and participation in dual credit programs through FAST (Financial Aid for Swift Transfer). In these small groups of peers, you will have a chance to discuss what compliance means for your organization, including all the challenges, victories, and opportunities that exist.

These sessions will be facilitated by members of the TACC leadership team who are experts on higher education and this transformative legislation. A list of colleges that belong to each region is available on page 23 of this workbook.

Sanborn A

North & West Regions Breakout

Facilitator: **Ray Martinez III**, President & CEO, TACC

Sanborn B

Central & East Regions Breakout

Facilitator: **Elizabeth Chivers**, Senior Director of Strategy & Policy Analysis, TACC

Sanborn C

South & Southeast Regions Breakout

Facilitator: **Dr. Martha Ellis**, Senior Pathways Lead, Texas Success Center (TSC)

11:45 AM - 12:30 PM | Lunch

Yellow Rose Ballroom C, D

Join conference attendees and presenters for a buffet style lunch to network, catch up on notes from the morning's sessions, and refuel for the rest of the day.

12:15 PM - 1:30 PM | Plenary Session

Yellow Rose Ballroom C, D

Legislative Update & CCATT Annual Business Meeting

Members of the CCATT Board of Directors will facilitate the election process for terms expiring this year and review key accomplishments from the Focus Forward strategic plan. This plenary session will also include important legislative updates from a panel of association leaders that will discuss strategies for the Texas 89th Legislative Session.

Panelists: **Carol A. Scott**, Chair, Del Mar College Board of Regents; Immediate Past Chair, CCATT Board of Directors

Dr. Brent Wallace, Chancellor, North Central Texas College; Vice Chair, TACC Board

Jacob Cottingham, Senior Director of Government Relations, TACC

Moderator: **Ray Martinez III**, President & CEO, TACC

1:30 PM - 1:45 PM | Break

1:45 PM - 2:30 PM | Concurrent Sessions

Sanborn A

ACCT: Kids on Campus Initiative

Join us to learn more about the Kids on Campus initiative, a 5-year project which aims to expand the number of Head Start programs on community college campuses, providing affordable childcare for student-parents and access to free/low-cost space for Head Start programs. Hear about best practices for Head Start and community college partnerships to help communities take advantage of this opportunity. Kids on Campus: TX, a companion to the federal initiative between the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) and the National Head Start Association (NHSA), is a state-specific project supported by a grant from The Trellis Foundation.

Presenter: **Jee Hang Lee**, President & CEO, Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT)

Sanborn B

ACC: Co-Enrollment Programs with Universities

Learn about co-enrollment programs, an outcome in Texas's new funding formula, and the benefits this structure offers to students through numerous examples at Austin Community College (ACC). ACC leaders will describe their partnerships with four-year colleges and universities that empower students to enroll in both ACC and university classes simultaneously. Through these accessible and cost-effective programs, students are able to learn in a supportive environment with small class sizes at ACC before transitioning to the four-year institution.

Presenter: **Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart**, Chancellor, Austin Community College

Sanborn C

TEA: College & Career Readiness School Models

Learn how Texas Education Agency's (TEA) College & Career Readiness School Models (CCRSM) are enhancing student success and fostering workforce development through strategic partnerships. This session will highlight structured frameworks like Early College High School (ECHS) and Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) that are creating effective educational pathways. We'll explore the TEA approval process, program frameworks, and how these initiatives benefit both students and institutions. Gain valuable insights into the impact and scalability of CCRSM initiatives across the state.

Presenter: **Mary Hausle**, College and Career Readiness School Models (CCRSM) Statewide Coordinator, Texas Education Agency

2:30 PM - 2:45 PM | Break

2:45 PM - 5:15 PM | Excursions

Bus 1: First Destination

Amarillo College First Responders Academy

The First Responders Academy stands tall as THE state-of-the-art training facility in the Texas Panhandle dedicated to the Amarillo College EMS, Law Enforcement, and Fire Protection Technology programs. This premier institution is more than just a training ground; it is the hub where the vital disciplines of emergency response converge, creating a unique environment that fosters interdisciplinary collaboration and the sharing of critical knowledge. By uniting these essential programs under one roof, the Academy not only enhances the proficiency of its trainees but also shapes them into well-rounded, highly skilled first responders, ready to meet the challenges of today's complex world with expertise and confidence.

Eric Wallace, Director of Public Service Programs, Amarillo College
Stephen Malley, Program Coordinator of Fire Protection Technology, Amarillo College

Bus 2: First Destination

Innovation Outpost

Visit Amarillo College's new state-of-the-art facility designed for innovating and collaborating on business ideas. The Innovation Outpost is home to UPSKILL | Amarillo, a program focused on enhancing digital and interpersonal skills to equip participants with practical abilities highly valued by employers. This immersive learning environment fosters collaboration with local businesses while also attracting new companies to the region. Participants will see how the Outpost facilitates networking, real-world project development, and partnerships that drive regional economic growth.

Dr. Frank Sobey, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, Amarillo College
Dr. Linda Muñoz, Dean of Employer Engagement & Experiential Learning, Amarillo College

Bus 1 & 2: Second Destination

AmTech Career Academy

Conclude the afternoon with a visit to Amarillo Independent School District's state-of-the-art campus of the future: AmTech Career Academy. This innovative high school features a 3,500-square-foot robot and drone coliseum for classwork and competitions, an advanced mechatronics "Smart Factory" simulating robotics in industrial settings, a professional-grade audio and visual production studio, and an Anatomage Theater with an advanced anatomy visualization system. You'll learn how AmTech collaborates with Amarillo College to offer critical workforce programs, providing students with dual-credit opportunities and industry-aligned pathways. Discover how students from across the district receive hands-on, collaborative education in cutting-edge fields, preparing them for both college and career success.

Jay Barrett, Principal of AmTech Career Academy; Chair, CCATT Board of Directors; Chair, Amarillo College Board of Regents

5:15 PM - 6:00 PM | Break

6:00 PM - 6:30 PM | Dinner Buffet

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM | Plenary Session

**Yellow Rose
Ballroom
C, D**

Fostering Dignity in Higher Education

Join us for an engaging presentation led by Students for Dignity, a group that trains students to become leaders who change the purpose of public debate from attacking enemies to solving problems. This session will dive into how their organization empowers young people to reshape debates using the Dignity Index to highlight the effects of contempt and the power of dignity. You'll discover how dignity can become a winning strategy in politics and policymaking, and how it's recognized as a mark of patriotism, a measure of our collective well-being, and a key indicator of our future. Learn how your college can be part of a movement that seeks to heal divides and promote respectful dialogue on campus and beyond.

Presenters: **Madeleine Jones**, Students for Dignity Field Director, The Dignity Index
Steven Lehnhof, Project Assistant, The Dignity Index

Saturday, September 14

9:00 AM - 9:45 AM | Concurrent Sessions

Sanborn A

Attorney Roundtable

Join us for a roundtable conversation with legal experts who will discuss key issues facing Texas community colleges today as leaders navigate the complex regulatory landscape while ensuring institutional quality. Panelists will address questions related to conflict resolution, the impacts of Senate Bill 17, and legal and governance implications of generative AI for the higher education sector. Participants will have the opportunity to gain insights and collaborate on best practices that foster an environment of transparency, accountability, and ethical decision-making.

Panelists: **Cobby A. Caputo**, Attorney, Bickerstaff, Heath, Delgado & Acosta, L.L.P.
Augustin Rivera Jr., General Counsel, Del Mar College
Mark White, Executive Vice President & General Counsel, Amarillo College

Moderator: **Armin Cantini**, Regent, Galveston College; Secretary, CCATT Board of Directors

Sanborn B

Ensuring High Quality Dual Credit Pathways

Explore the transformative impact of dual credit pathways and how evidence-based strategies can enhance their effectiveness. This session will highlight how Jobs For the Future (JFF) is advancing strategic dual enrollment by strengthening proven approaches and developing innovative strategies to improve course experiences. Gain insights into JFF's current project with Amarillo College and discover how these collaborations are setting new standards for dual credit partnerships. Join us to learn how these efforts can be leveraged to expand access and elevate the quality of dual credit programs at your institution.

Presenter: **LaQuesha Foster**, Director of Education, Jobs for the Future

Sanborn C

Board Retreats & Data-Informed Governance

Join us for a panel on using data to level-up your governance approaches to make informed decisions that benefit students. Explore strategies for effective board retreats centered on meaningful data in the context of House Bill 8. This session will also introduce the Data-Informed Governance Decision-Making Framework that will be featured in the second edition of the Texas Trustee Handbook. Discover how this framework can guide your decision-making process and enhance the impact of trustee governance on student outcomes.

Panelists: **K Paul Holt**, Trustee, McLennan Community College
Dan Mims, Trustee, San Jacinto College
Bel Sanchez, Chair, Alvin Community College Board of Regents

Moderator: **Nicole Eversmann**, Director, Community College Association of Texas Trustees (CCATT)

9:45 AM - 10:00 AM | Break

10:00 AM - 10:45 AM | Concurrent Sessions

Sanborn A

Chairs Council Meeting (invitation only)

The Chairs Council was launched in 2021 as a way for CCATT to ensure we have a voice from every community college in Texas engaged in ongoing strategy and governance discussions to inform our advocacy on behalf of trustees. This meeting serves as a platform for council members to engage in critical conversations about navigating political polarization, managing board conduct, and improving collaboration with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Sanborn B

Teacher Preparation Programs

Join us to explore cutting-edge approaches in addressing the teacher shortage. This session will highlight successful teacher apprenticeship models and innovative baccalaureate programs in education. Learn about Dallas College's paid teacher residency apprenticeships, part of a program designed to build a steady pipeline of well-trained teachers and accelerate their placement in classrooms across the state. The conversation will feature a graduate of San Jacinto College sharing their pathway from high school through community college to earning a bachelor's degree and certification. Gain valuable insights into advancing teacher training and preparing the next generation of educators.

Panelists: **Brandon Jenkins**, Alumnus, San Jacinto College
Dr. Justin Lonon, Chancellor, Dallas College
Jonathan Feinstein, State Director for Texas, The Education Trust

Moderator: **Cliff Boyd**, Trustee, Dallas College

Sanborn C

Prison Education Programs

The panel discussion will orient participants to the current landscape of prison education programs in Texas and the role of community colleges in facilitating and expanding these programs. Panelists will highlight the challenges faced by students involved with the justice system, the unique educational needs they present, and the incredible resilience and determination they exhibit in their pursuit of knowledge. Participants will gain valuable insights into the transformative potential of prison education and the profound impact on recidivism rates and will leave the session equipped with the knowledge and tools to advocate for the implementation of effective prison education initiatives, fostering a more inclusive and just society.

Panelists:
Rose Benavidez, Trustee, South Texas College
Alexa Garza, Texas Policy Associate, The Education Trust
Kristina Hartman, Superintendent, Windham School District
Dr. Lynda Villanueva, President, Lee College

Moderator: **Bonnie Soria Najera**, Secretary, El Paso Community College Board of Trustees; Member, CCATT Board of Directors

10:45 AM - 11:00 AM | Break

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Closing Plenary

**Yellow Rose
Ballroom
C, D**

Navigating the Future of Performance-Based Funding

This session will provide an update on House Bill 8 implementation and its far-reaching implications for Texas community colleges. With a comprehensive analysis, leaders will shed light on how this legislative milestone influences the landscape of higher education, funding allocations, student accessibility, and institutional policies. Panelists will discuss the prior year and share how the new dynamic funding model has impacted their colleges and the state. Gain valuable insights into the importance of a forecasting approach to funding, expanding state support for community colleges, and how HB 8 is expanding dual credit and college access by helping to address affordability for historically underserved students.

Panelists: **Dr. Mark Escamilla**, President, Del Mar College
Dr. William Serrata, President, El Paso Community College
Todd Williams, Chairman & CEO, The Commit Partnership

Moderator: **Elizabeth Chivers**, Senior Director of Strategy & Policy Analysis, TACC

12:00 PM | Conference Adjourned

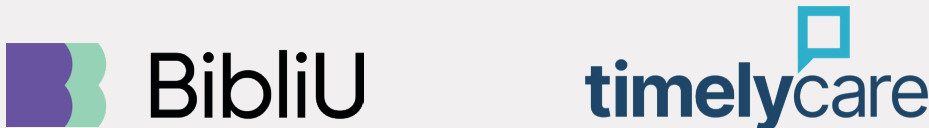
Thank you to our 2024 Conference Sponsors!

This event was made possible in part due to these committed sponsors - we are grateful for their continued support of community colleges across Texas.

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Sapphire
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Conference Workbook

This workbook is designed as a tool to help you get the most out of this conference. The following pages include **supplemental information associated with each plenary session, key questions to ask in the context of your institution, and space to take notes.** We hope this workbook will be a valuable reference as you perform essential duties related to community college trusteeship.

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Forging Futures: Education & Workforce Synergy in Amarillo

Amarillo Independent School District (ISD) employs over 2,000 classroom teachers who are committed to educating more than 30,000 students. In early 2018, Amarillo ISD launched an ambitious project to transform a 231,000-square-foot former Hastings store into a cutting-edge educational facility: AmTech Career Academy. Since opening in the fall of 2021, AmTech has set the standard for innovation and technology in education, offering students access to state-of-the-art tools, equipment, and teaching methodologies.

At AmTech, students from various high schools across the district come together, connecting with peers who share similar interests and goals but come from diverse backgrounds. This collaborative environment fosters teamwork, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Expert faculty, with specialized industry experience, guide students through hands-on learning experiences designed to prepare them for successful careers after graduation.

The partnership between Amarillo College and AmTech Career Academy serves as a model for educational collaboration. Amarillo College offers classes and certificate programs at the AmTech campus, leveraging top-quality career and technical education equipment. In April 2023, Amarillo College was honored as a co-recipient of the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, a prestigious award recognizing high performance and innovation among community colleges nationwide.

One key industry partner for both Amarillo ISD and Amarillo College is Bell Textron Inc. (formerly Bell Helicopter). Bell has been instrumental in supporting workforce development through initiatives like the educational summer camps at Amarillo College's Kids' College. Bell's Flight Camp introduces students to the principles of flight, engineering disciplines, manufacturing techniques, and teamwork—skills critical to the aerospace industry and Bell's mission to shape the future of advanced air mobility.

Bell's Amarillo Assembly Center, which assembles and delivers military aircraft like the Bell-Boeing V-22 Osprey, is a vital part of the community. The center relies on a workforce of skilled mechanics, engineers, and supply chain personnel, many of whom received training through Amarillo College. In the early 2000s, as Bell ramped up production of the V-22, Amarillo College played a crucial role in developing the local workforce, ensuring the success of this key economic driver in the region.

Sources: [Amarillo ISD](#); [AmTech Career Academy](#); [Amarillo College](#); [Bell Textron Inc.](#)

Amarillo Economic Development Corporation

Amarillo Economic Development Corporation promotes business expansion in the greater Amarillo area building a stronger, more diversified economy and increasing the economic vitality and wealth of the community. Amarillo has been recognized as the second fastest-growing mid-size economy in the U.S., the fourth best business climate, ranks 13th among the most affordable cities in America, stands proudly among the top 10 best cities to live and work and was featured in the top 10 best places to start a business.

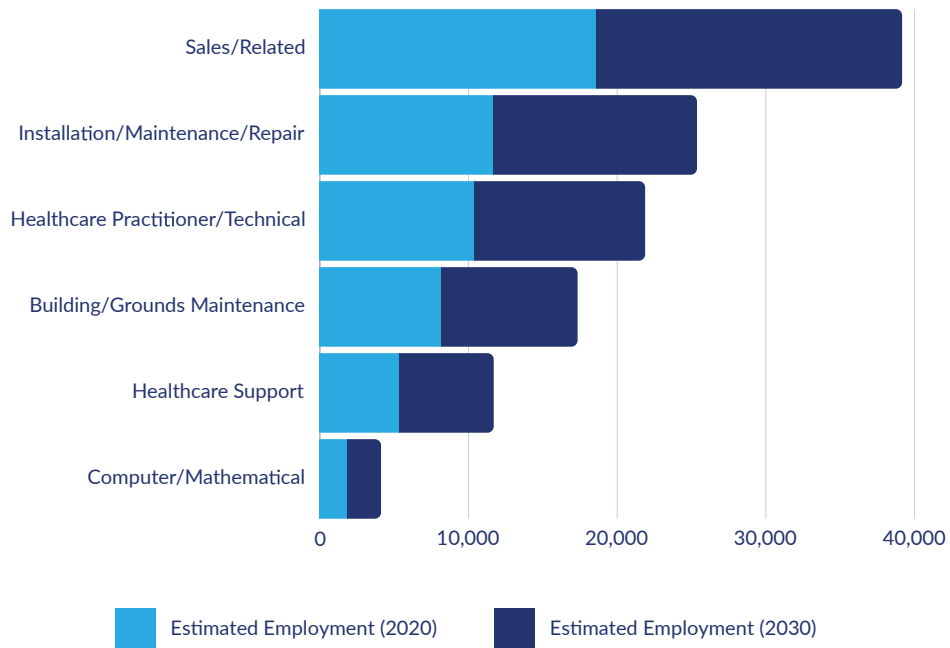
Take Root in Amarillo

Take Root is an online platform that provides a firsthand glimpse into the distinctive aspects of living and working in Amarillo. The site hosts a wealth of information, ranging from details about our school systems and innovative small business initiatives to practical cost-of-living comparisons with other popular destinations. Emphasizing a collective approach, Amarillo EDC and our community partners work together to identify the evolving needs of our talent pool and address specific challenges.

Build your Talent Toolbox

Build Your Talent Toolbox offers human resource professionals, managers and business owners a recurring opportunity to discover the latest workforce trends and explore valuable resources for their recruitment and retention efforts. This quarterly event serves as a dynamic forum for knowledge and idea exchange, fostering a collaborative environment where industry leaders can stay informed, share insights, and collectively navigate the evolving landscape of workforce dynamics.

10-YEAR EMPLOYMENT FORECAST FOR THE PANHANDLE



Occupation	Mean Hourly	Mean Salary
Sales/Related	\$18.10	\$37,646
Installation/Maintenance/Repair	\$23.49	\$48,863
Healthcare Practitioner/Technical	\$38.07	\$79,181
Building/Grounds Maintenance	\$15.22	\$31,653
Healthcare Support	\$14.93	\$31,053
Computer/Mathematical	\$38.89	\$80,884

Data sourced from Texas LMI

Source: [Amarillo Economic Development Corporation](#)

Questions for Board Members Related to Education & Workforce Alignment

1. *How can our board support initiatives that strengthen the college-going culture and identity among high school students?*
2. *Who are the key business partners in our college's service area, and what actions can the board take to expand work-based learning opportunities?*
3. *Which industries are projected to experience employment growth, and how do these projections align with our college's program offerings and enrollment figures?*
4. *How frequently does the board or leadership team engage with regional workforce boards, chambers of commerce, and community-based organizations to promote our college's role in talent development?*
5. *What additional avenues for collaboration can we explore using shared public resources and campuses?*

Notes

Concurrent Sessions

Texas Community Colleges by Region (Size)

Central Texas Region

Austin Community College (Very Large)
Blinn College (Large)
Central Texas College (Large)
Hill College (Medium)
McLennan Community College (Medium)
Navarro College (Large)
Temple College (Medium)

West Texas Region

Amarillo College (Large)
Clarendon College (Small)
El Paso Community College (Very Large)
Frank Phillips College (Small)
Howard College (Small)
Midland College (Medium)
Odessa College (Medium)
South Plains College (Large)
Western Texas College (Small)

East Texas Region

Angelina College (Medium)
Kilgore College (Medium)
Northeast Texas Community College (Small)
Panola College (Small)
Paris Junior College (Medium)
Texarkana College (Medium)
Trinity Valley Community College (Medium)
Tyler Junior College (Large)

South Texas Region

Alamo Colleges (Very Large)
Coastal Bend College (Medium)
Del Mar College (Large)
Laredo College (Large)
South Texas College (Very Large)
Southwest Texas Junior College (Medium)
Texas Southmost College (Medium)
Victoria College (Medium)

North Texas Region

Cisco College (Medium)
Collin College (Very Large)
Dallas College (Very Large)
Grayson College (Medium)
North Central Texas College
Ranger College (Small)
Tarrant County College (Very Large)
Vernon College (Small)
Weatherford College (Medium)

Southeast Texas Region

Alvin Community College (Medium)
Brazosport College (Medium)
College of The Mainland (Medium)
Galveston College (Small)
Houston Community College (Very Large)
Lee College (Medium)
Lone Star College (Very Large)
San Jacinto College (Very Large)
Wharton County Junior College (Medium)

FAST Quick Reference Guide

Institutional Participation

Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST), established by House Bill 8, is an optional program available to public institutions of higher education, as defined under TEC, Section 61.003(8). Institutions must complete a program participation agreement to either opt-in or opt-out of the FAST program.

Student Eligibility

Students are “eligible students” under the FAST program if they:

- are enrolled in an eligible dual credit course, as defined in TAC, Section 13.501, at a public school district or charter school (i.e., eligible for Foundation School Program funding); and
- are taking a course offered through an institutional agreement, as outlined in TAC, Section 4.84, from an institution of higher education that has opted to participate in FAST; and
- were qualified for free or reduced-price lunch in any of the four school years prior to the academic year in which they enroll in the dual credit course.

By statute, the FAST program requires that eligible students at participating institutions incur no cost for their dual credit coursework. An eligible student will not pay tuition and fees for an eligible dual credit course. Books, supplies, and other course materials must also be provided at no cost to an eligible student.

FAST Tuition Rate

The FY 2025 (2024-2025) tuition rate is \$56.87 per semester credit hour (or equivalent). In FY 2024 (2023-2024), the tuition rate was \$55 per semester credit hour (or equivalent).

The FAST tuition rate adopted by the THECB serves two purposes:

- Funding rate: Participating institutions will receive an allotment of funding equal to the FAST tuition rate for each semester credit hour (or equivalent) of dual credit coursework taken by an eligible student.

- Maximum tuition rate: Participating institutions that have an agreement with an ISD or charter school may not charge a per-credit tuition rate more than the FAST tuition rate to any student attending high school in a Texas school district or charter school for any eligible dual credit course offered by the participating institution. Institutions may choose to charge a lower rate for any or all dual credit coursework without impacting the funding rate.

Source: [Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board](#)

Notes



Legislative Update & CCATT

Annual Business Meeting

In 2023, the passage of House Bill 8 marked a significant shift in how Texas funds community colleges. Moving away from a static, enrollment-based model primarily tied to students' time in class, the state has transitioned to a dynamic, outcomes-based formula that better aligns with Texas' economic needs. For the first time, community college funding will be directly tied to specific goals that support the state's higher education strategic plan, Building a Talent Strong Texas, as well as regional and statewide workforce needs.

A critical aspect of this transformation is Texas' unique focus on ensuring that the credentials students earn offer real value in the labor market. Texas has raised the bar by not just tracking how many Texans attain postsecondary credentials but also assessing whether those credentials genuinely improve their financial well-being. The key question driving this shift is: **Are people better off financially with this credential than they would be with only a high school diploma?** Texas is the first state to directly link its completion goals to the wages associated with postsecondary credentials, ensuring that the focus remains on credentials that pay off.

So, what is a “credential of value”? Broadly, it refers to a quality, affordable credential that:

- Equips recipients for strong career trajectories,
- Improves their earnings opportunities, and
- Aligns with high-demand jobs offered by Texas employers.

More specifically, credentials of value must meet a cost-benefit threshold: a typical student with that credential should earn enough within 10 years to cover the cost of their education and surpass the earnings of a typical high school graduate.

Texas community colleges are now actively working to implement this new model, which centers on outcomes such as:

- High school students completing 15 semester credit hours through dual credit or dual enrollment at a community college.
- Students successfully transferring to public four-year universities after completing 15 semester credit hours at a community college, or completing 15 hours in a structured co-enrollment program.
- Community college students earning credentials of value that provide purpose in the economy, value in the labor market, and pathways to good jobs and meaningful careers.

To address equity, the outcomes are weighted to account for the additional costs of educating students from economically and academically disadvantaged backgrounds, as well as adult learners. Beginning in FY 2025, colleges will also be eligible for funding bonuses when they deliver credentials of value at a low enough cost that graduates can achieve a positive return on investment more quickly than the average credential recipient statewide.

Community colleges across Texas are leading the charge in implementing House Bill 8, with a focus on aligning academic programs, advising practices, and workforce partnerships to improve student outcomes. This new funding model not only rewards progress toward state educational priorities but also ensures that colleges have the resources they need to sustain and expand their mission of educating and training Texas’ future workforce.

Sources: [Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board](#); [THECB Data Bridge](#)

Notes

Questions for Board Members Related to House Bill 8 & Credentials of Value

1. *How is our college aligning its programs and services to meet the criteria for outcomes-based funding under House Bill 8?*
2. *How are we collaborating with local employers and workforce boards to ensure our program offerings align with regional and state workforce needs?*
3. *What steps are we taking to ensure our programs offer "credentials of value" that align with Texas' new focus on linking education to future earnings?*
4. *How is our college leadership informing and engaging faculty, staff, and administrators about the changes linked to House Bill 8 and the shift to outcomes-based funding?*
5. *What is our strategy for educating newly elected Texas legislators on the significance of House Bill 8 and its impact on community colleges?*

Notes

Slate of Candidates, 2024 - 2026

The Nominating Committee has received nominations for election to the CCATT Board of Directors, and the following slate was approved by the CCATT Board on August 14th, 2024:

- I. *Chair Elect*
 - **Paul R. Rodriguez**, South Texas College
- II. *Secretary*
 - **Karla Metzler**, North Central Texas College
- III. *At-Large Director**
 - **Dan Mims**, San Jacinto College
- IV. *Director from the Central Region*
 - **Gigi Edwards Bryant**, Austin Community College
- V. *Director from the North Region*
 - **Jeannie Deakyne**, Tarrant County College District
- VI. *Director from the South Region*
 - **Clint Kingsbery**, Alamo Colleges District
- VII. *Director from the Southeast Region*
 - **Bel Sanchez**, Alvin Community College
- VIII. *Director from the West Region*
 - **Bonnie Soria Najera**, El Paso Community College

*With no candidates from the East Region, the Nominating Committee voted to alter the 2024 ballot, shifting the East Region Director seat to be an At-Large Director seat, as permissible by CCATT's bylaws. A list of colleges that belong to each region is available on page 23 of this workbook.

Nominations from the floor will be accepted if the nominated individuals meet the eligibility criteria for the respective positions and have provided the necessary letters of interest and support. Candidates will be given a strict time limit of 3 minutes to present their speeches. Following the speeches, the voting process will begin. Each college represented at the conference will have one vote per race. Please have your board's voting delegate sign-in at the registration table.

Committees

Members of the CCATT Board of Directors work towards the goals outlined in the Association’s strategic plan through six distinct committees, four of which are open to participation from trustees and regents who do not currently serve on the CCATT Board. Service on the committee spans across the two-year term of each CCATT Board Chair, who appoints committee members. If you are interested in engaging more with the work of the Association, please contact the 2024-2026 Chair **Susan Moore-Fontenot** at sfontenot@lee.edu.

Education

The Education Committee evaluates and makes recommendations to strengthen current CCATT education programs, provides additional programs that promote effective board governance through advocacy and professional development and edits and periodically updates the Board of Directors Resource Manual.

Engagement

The Engagement Committee is responsible for sustainability, membership recruitment and engagement, and evaluation. It also is tasked with providing recommendations to strengthen the board’s ties to its members, identifying issues and recommending strategies to increase and encourage participation in CCATT committees and events.

Legislative

The primary responsibility of the Legislative Committee is to collaborate with the TACC Legislative Committee in developing legislative agendas regarding state and federal policies affecting community colleges and general advocacy strategies. The committee reviews legislation and related issues requiring legislative resolution and, in collaboration with TACC, recommends appropriate legislative solutions aligned with CCATT’s advocacy priorities.

Resource

The Resource Committee is responsible for monitoring executive compliance with fiscal policies, reviewing the annual budget and the financial audit, establishing procedures for audits of Association programs and services, and reporting to the board of directors. Additionally, the Committee assists the Association in obtaining adequate financial resources and sustaining the long-term financial viability of the Association.

Concurrent Sessions

Notes

Handwriting practice lines on a desert-themed background. The page features 15 horizontal blue lines for writing. The background includes a faint geometric pattern of light blue lines and stylized illustrations of a desert landscape with orange-brown mountains and green saguaro cacti.

Fostering Dignity in Higher Education

UNITE, a national initiative to ease divisions, prevent violence, and solve problems, began work on the Dignity Index in early 2021. The Index is an eight-point scale that measures the level of contempt or dignity in a selected passage of speech. Lower scores (1-4) reflect a lack of dignity and the presence of contempt, with the lowest score (1) showing the most contempt. The higher scores (5-8) reflect language grounded in dignity, with the highest score (8) showing the most dignity.

The Dignity Index grew out of UNITE's founding mission to discover ways to heal America's polarized partisan divide and allow important policy issues to be productively addressed. UNITE found research across a number of fields that suggested scapegoating is a key underlying cause of division, and contempt is a step on the path to scapegoating. The writings of Arthur Brooks (*Love your Enemies*) and Donna Hicks (*Dignity*) put those insights into practical terms – noting that contemptuous speech creates and magnifies divisions between people, whereas dignified speech brings people together.

UNITE designed the Dignity Index as a strategic lever to ease division based on a set of convictions.

- America's divisions are not caused by disagreement, but by contempt.
- Putting a spotlight on dignity and contempt will promote more dignity and less contempt.
- The best way to put a spotlight on dignity and contempt is to measure them.

Source: [*The Dignity Index*](#)

Questions for Board Members Related to Fostering Dignity

1. *In what ways can our board support initiatives that equip students with the skills to engage in civil discourse, especially as polarization intensifies during election year?*
2. *What opportunities exist to collaborate with faculty, administrators, and student leaders in promoting dignified conversations and reducing contempt in both academic and governance environments?*
3. *How can the principles of the Dignity Index be integrated into board discussions to encourage more respectful and productive debate, especially on contentious issues?*
4. *What strategies can we adopt to establish clear standards of ethics and conduct for board members, particularly when resolving disputes or addressing disagreements?*
5. *How might we use the Dignity Index as a framework to assess and improve the tone and quality of our communications with stakeholders, including community members, staff, and students?*

Notes

The 10 Elements of Dignity

ACCEPTING DIGNITY

Approach people as being neither inferior nor superior to you. Give others the freedom to express their authentic selves without fear of being negatively judged. Interact without prejudice or bias, accepting the ways in which race, religion, ethnicity, gender, class, age, and disability may be at the core of other people's identities. Assume that others have integrity.

INCLUSION

Make others feel that they belong, whatever the relationship – whether they are in your family, community, organization, or nation.

SAFETY

Put people at ease at two levels: physically, so they feel safe from bodily harm, and psychologically, so they feel safe from being humiliated. Help them to feel free to speak without fear of retribution.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Give people your full attention by listening, hearing, validating, and responding to their concerns, feelings, and experiences.

INDEPENDENCE

Encourage people to act on their own behalf so that they feel in control of their lives and experience a sense of hope and possibility.

RECOGNITION

Validate others for their talents, hard work, thoughtfulness, and help. Be generous with praise, and show appreciation and gratitude to others for their contributions and ideas.

FAIRNESS

Treat people justly, with equality, and in an even-handed way according to agreed-on laws and rules. People feel that you have honored their dignity when you treat them without discrimination or injustice.

BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT

Treat people as trustworthy. Start with the premise that others have good motives and are acting with integrity.

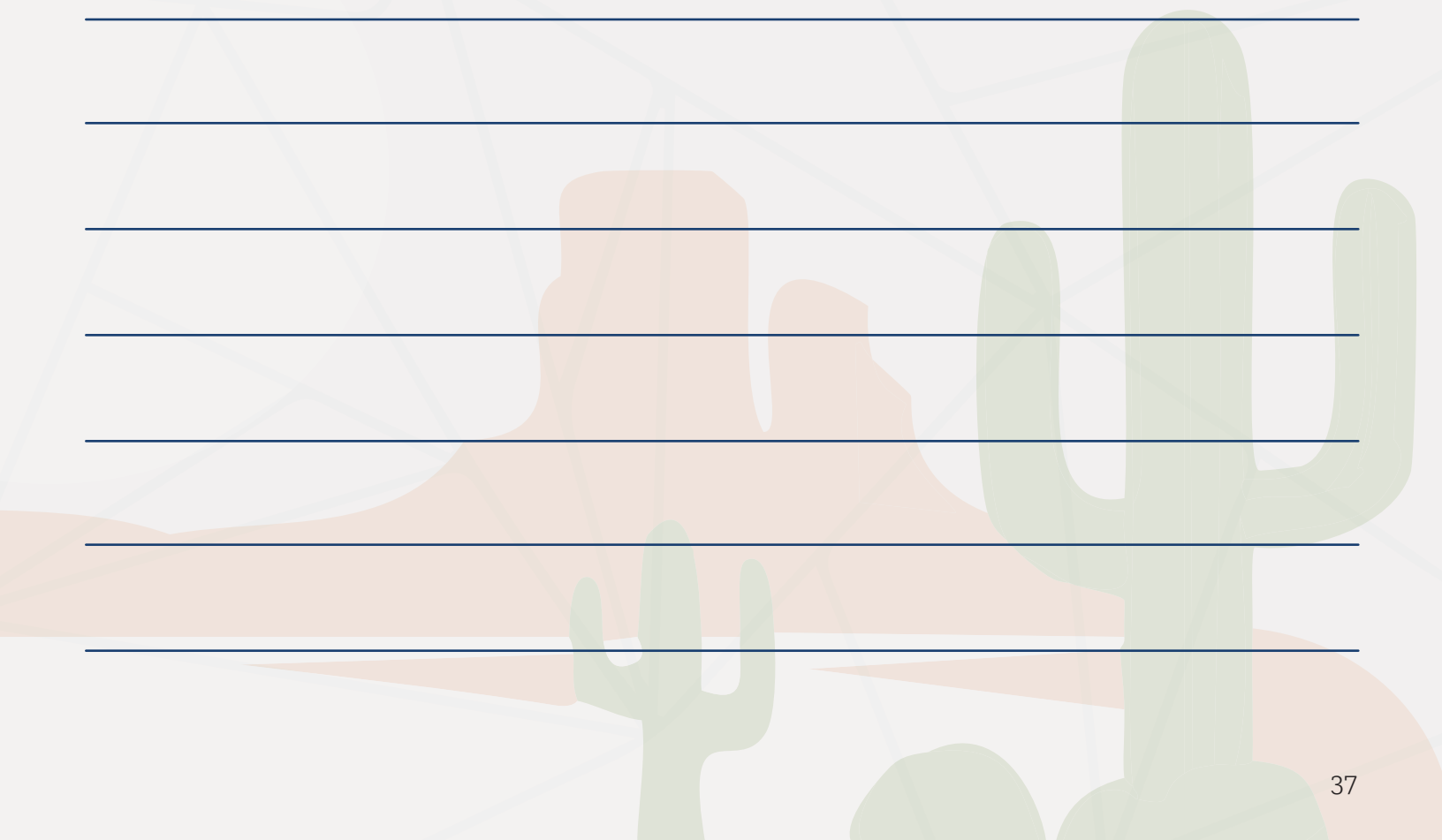
UNDERSTANDING

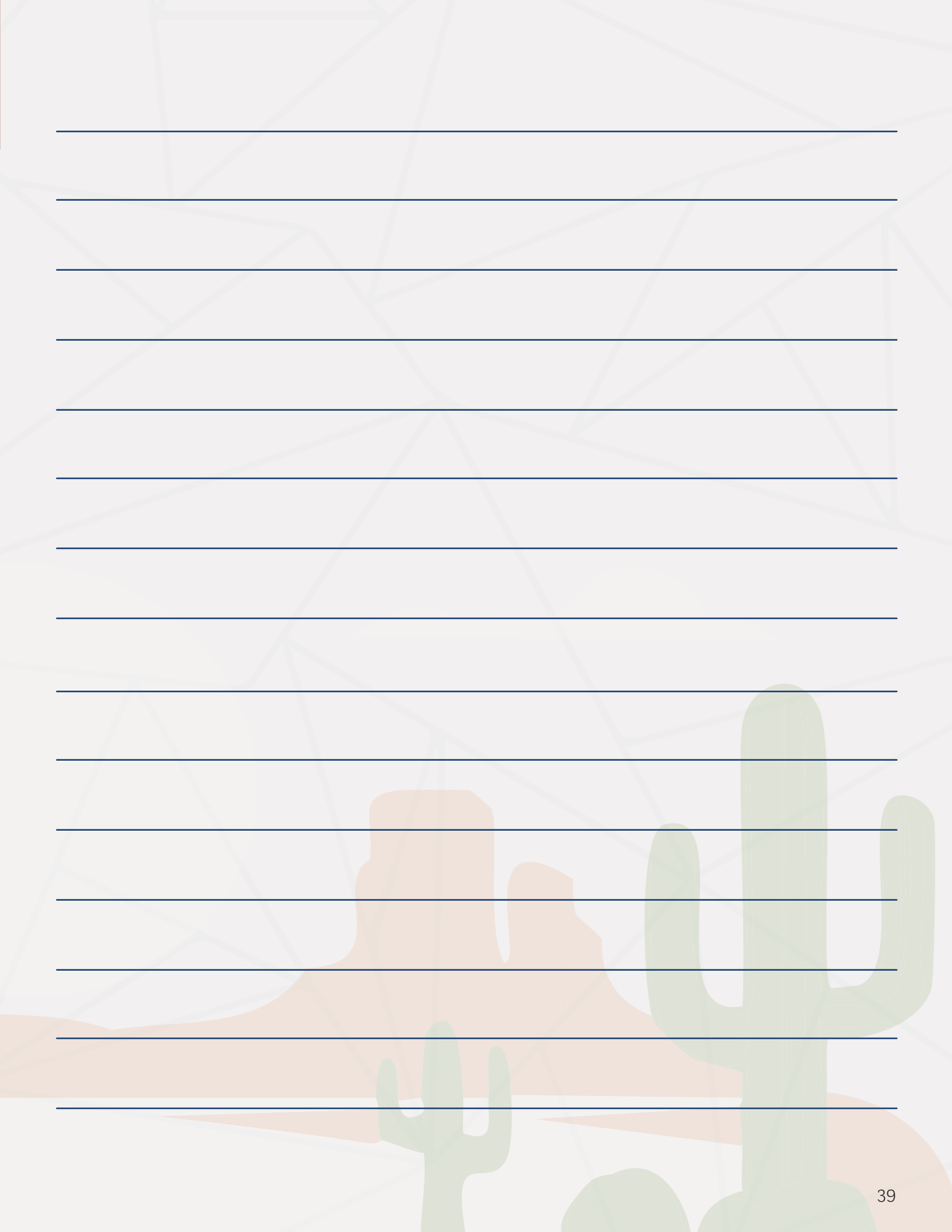
Believe that what others think matters. Give them the chance to explain and express their points of view. Actively listen in order to understand them.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Take responsibility for your actions. If you have violated the dignity of another person, apologize. Make a commitment to change your hurtful behaviors.

Notes





Series of horizontal blue lines for writing.

Navigating the Future of Performance-Based Funding

Over the past two years, CCATT has hosted regional Trustee Leadership Seminars focused on expanding data-informed governance, understanding the evolving student experience, and promoting credentials of value. These discussions have emphasized the critical connections between robust data infrastructure, deeper insights into student outcomes, and the leadership needed to develop impactful strategic plans. A key aspect of these seminars has been highlighting the role of the Texas Success Center (TSC) in supporting community college capacity through the Board of Trustees Institute (BOTI) and the Talent Strong Texas Pathways Institutes. These initiatives provide essential resources and frameworks for advancing student success and institutional effectiveness. Additionally, this work recognizes the crucial partnership with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and their data modernization initiative, which supports enhanced data accessibility and utility for informed decision-making.

Data Modernization

Texas boasts a rich repository of longitudinal data linking K-12 education, higher education, and workforce outcomes. This data is a powerful tool for shaping policy and guiding best practices. However, the current system managing this information is outdated, posing challenges for stakeholders in accessing and utilizing data for timely and informed decision-making. To address these challenges, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) has launched an ambitious data infrastructure modernization project in partnership with the Texas Higher Education Foundation (THEF). By leveraging public and private resources, this project unites state and national technology experts, data practitioners, and other stakeholders to enhance data accessibility, security, and actionability.

Data-driven decision-making is crucial for achieving equitable student outcomes. Among the first initiatives from this modernization effort are data dashboards tied to the “Building a Talent Strong Texas” goals. These tools will empower students, families, colleges, universities, employers, and policymakers to make more timely and informed decisions based on comprehensive data.

A key component of this effort is the Texas Talent Trajectory (T3), which utilizes data from the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative (a collaboration between the Texas Education Agency, THECB, and the Texas Workforce Commission) to track educational pathways from 8th grade through higher education and into the workforce. Formerly known as the 8th Grade Cohort Longitudinal Report, T3 allows users to filter data by region, county, school district, campus, and student demographics, such as economic status, ethnicity, and gender.

T3 is designed to answer critical questions related to educational trends, including:

- ***Student Progress:***
How many 8th graders advance through high school and graduate? Among these graduates, how many enroll in Texas higher education or out-of-state institutions within six years? How many earn a degree or credential from a Texas higher education institution within six years?
- ***Educational Milestones:***
What percentage of Texas high school graduates enroll in state higher education institutions and complete a degree or credential? How many start at a two-year college and then transfer to complete a four-year degree?
- ***Local Educational Landscapes:***
What do educational pathways look like for students within specific school districts and campuses?
- ***Disparities in Student Outcomes:***
How do educational pathways differ based on gender, ethnicity, and economic status?

The T3 tool provides valuable insights that enable high school and college administrators, as well as policymakers, to analyze trends in enrollments and completions. By understanding these patterns at a regional, district, or campus level, educators and policymakers can better target resources to increase access and success in higher education for all Texas students.

Sources: [THECB Data Modernization](#); [Texas Talent Trajectory](#)

Notes

Postsecondary Mental Health as a Student Success Strategy

Mental health and wellbeing are critical to student persistence and academic success in postsecondary education. Emotional stress and personal mental health reasons are the top cited reasons why students in both two- and four-year degree programs consider stopping their coursework. Developing a postsecondary mental health system is a core student success strategy that requires a comprehensive, community-connected, and implementation-focused approach.

[The Minding College Minds Postsecondary Mental Health Framework](#), developed by the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute with support from the Texas Success Center, is a public health model for supporting student mental health in university and community college settings

Minding College Minds is a comprehensive approach that considers the entire system of mental health services and supports in a college setting with an overarching goal of improving mental health at a population level. This approach encompasses the continuum of care, starting with mental health promotion and extending to the supports needed following an extended mental health related absence—and everything in between. This community-connected model emphasizes the importance of creating regionally specific, culturally responsive supports, often by partnering with service providers within the same community or geographic region as the institutions. Finally, Minding College Minds is implementation focused. It offers not only the what and why, but has guidance on how to build and institutionalize successful postsecondary mental health systems that promote student success.

Questions for Board Members related to Data & Student Success

1. *What benefits do you anticipate from the new funding model for community colleges and how will it help our college focus on its core mission of student success?*
2. *What data and metrics are we using to track our college's progress in achieving the outcomes defined by the new funding model?*
3. *How does our college ensure that its investments align with the community's needs and contribute to the regional economy?*
4. *What are our policies to support professional development and modern data governance?*
5. *How does our college address wraparound services and student mental health to ensure persistence and completion?*

Notes



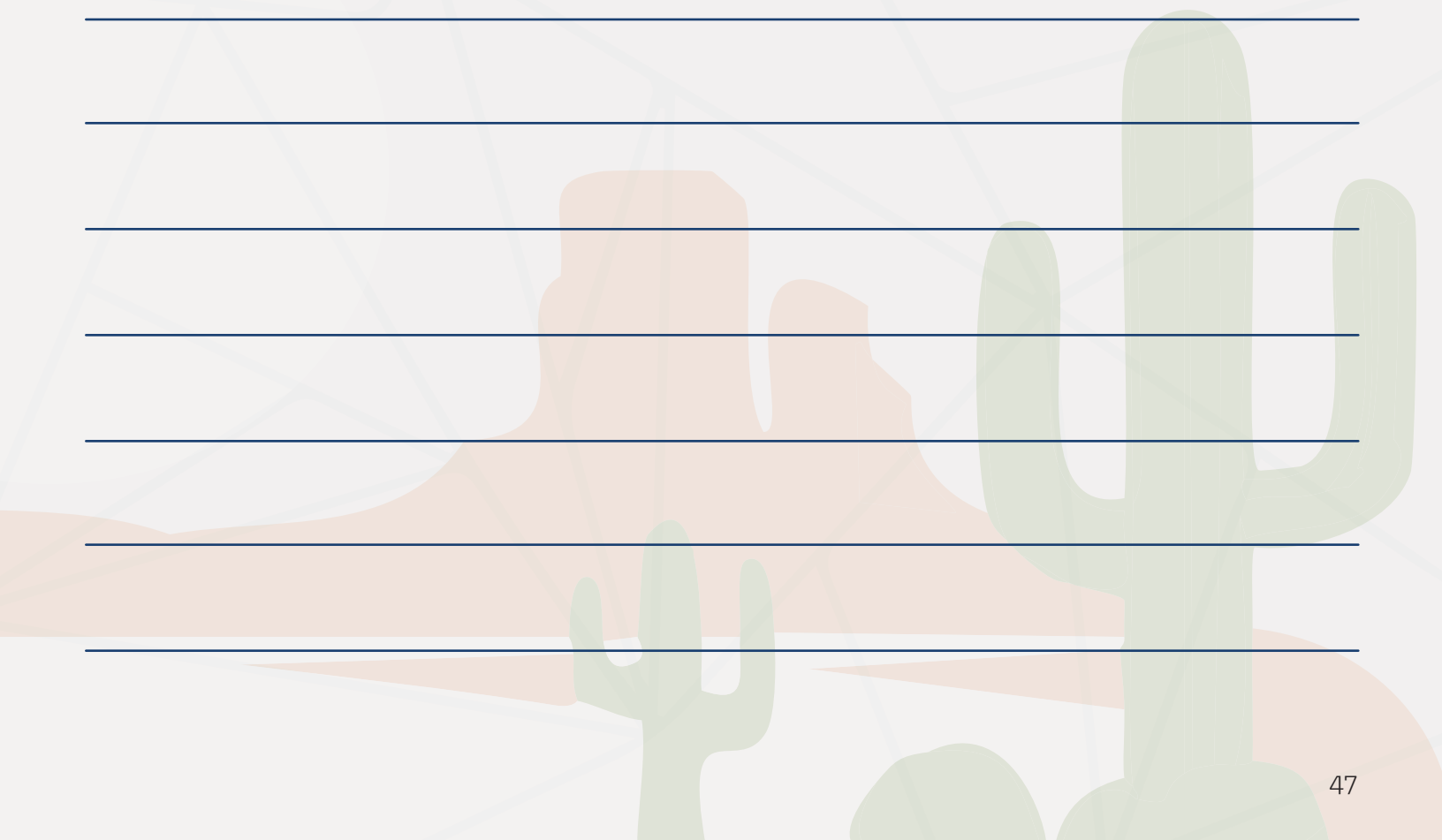
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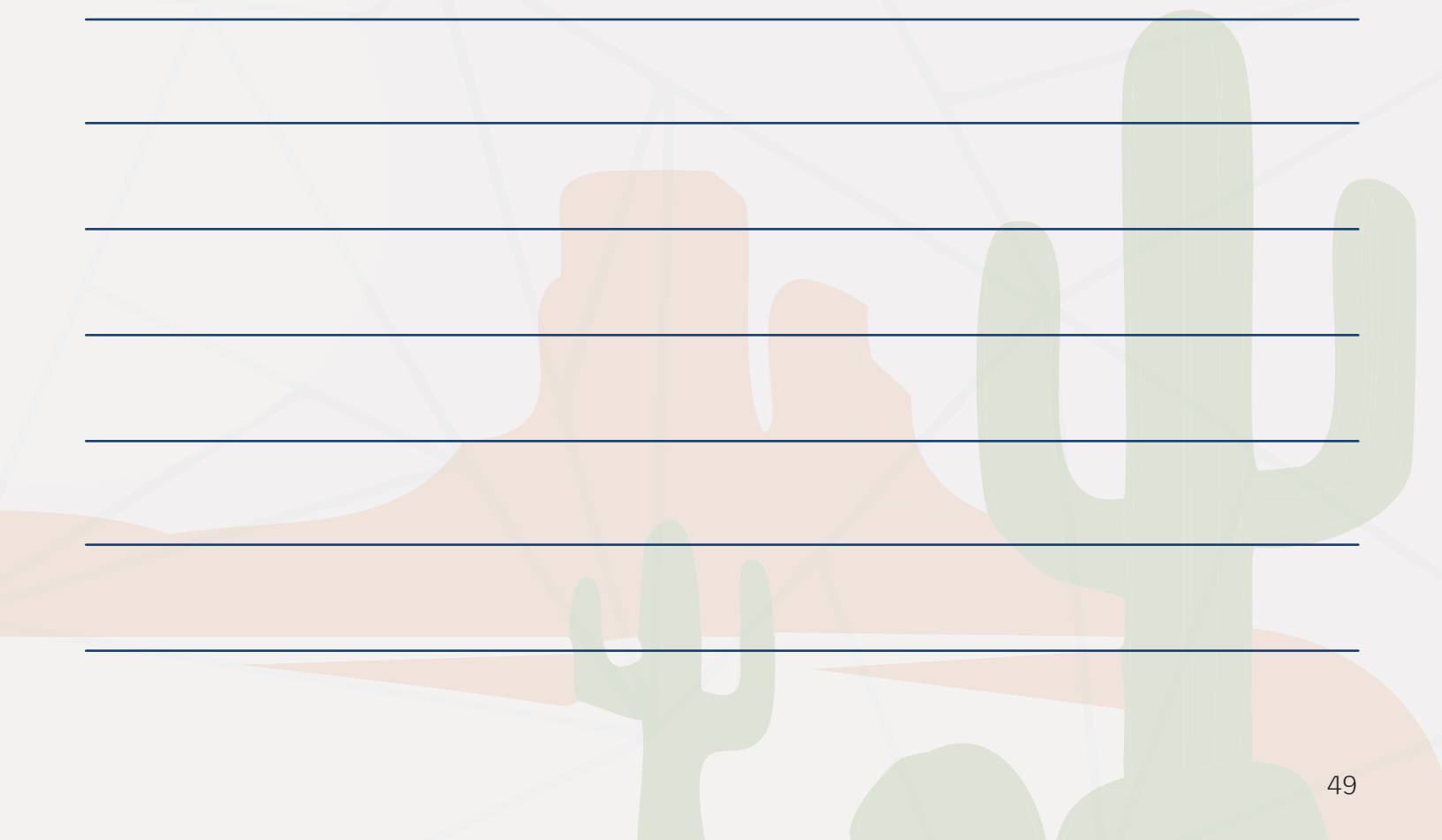
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Texas Leaders on the National Stage

CCATT would like to congratulate the Texas winners of the 2024 Western Regional Awards from the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT)!

CEO Leadership Award: **Dr. Christy Ponce**, Temple College

Faculty Member Award: **Bryan Stone**, Del Mar College

Professional Board Staff Member Award: **Perla Molina**, Dallas College

CCATT would also like to congratulate and thank Texans who serve on the ACCT Board of Directors, including Rose Benavidez from South Texas College, Dr. Pretta VanDible Stallworth from Houston Community College, Dan Mims from San Jacinto College, Susan Moore-Fontenot from Lee College, and Carol Scott from Del Mar College.

We look forward to celebrating together in Seattle next month!

Save the Dates

- **ACCT Leadership Congress** - October 23-26, 2024 (Seattle, WA)
 - Texas Delegation Reception - October 25
- **THECB Higher EDge Conference** - December 12-13, 2024 (Austin, TX)
- **Community College Day at the Capitol** - February 3, 2025 (Austin, TX)
- **ACCT National Legislative Summit** - February 9-12, 2025 (Washington, DC)
 - Texas Delegation Breakfast & Briefing - February 11
- **TSC Board of Trustees Institute** - February 27-28, 2025 (Austin, TX)
- **CCATT Annual Conference** - September 11-13, 2025 (Austin, TX)

2023-2024 CCATT Board of Directors

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Chuck Johns
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Paul R. Rodriguez
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Bonnie Soria Najera
El Paso Community
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CCATT Annual Conference Survey

Thank you for attending this year's CCATT Annual Conference. As you reflect on the important themes and conversations from this year's conference, we invite you to take our brief survey. Your input helps us understand which aspects of our programming are most valuable and how we can serve you better.

Scan the QR code below to take the survey now



tacc.org/ccatt