



Community College
Association of Texas Trustees

2024 CCATT Annual Conference

September 12-14, 2024 | Speaker Biographies

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.

Sonja Clark

Sonja Clark is the Site Leader for Bell’s Amarillo Assembly and Delivery Center. She has been with Bell for over 18 years and served in multiple leadership roles throughout the organization in Environmental, Health & Safety, Human



**Community College
Association of Texas Trustees**

Resources, and Integrated Operations. In her current position, she provides strategic leadership and accountability for cross-functional teams and site support for all Amarillo activities and operations. She is responsible for creating and executing an overall people strategy as well as ensuring engagement and collaboration both across the site and within the Amarillo community. Sonja is known for her passion to meet people where they are and help them move forward to achieve their individual goals.

Prior to joining Bell, Sonja was an Administrative Director for Northwest Texas Healthcare System, a part of Universal Health Services. She received both a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science from West Texas A&M University.

Sonja is very active in the Amarillo community and serves with various organizations including Amarillo Area Foundation, Texas Association of Community Colleges, West Texas A&M University's Business Advisory Council and College of Nursing and Health Sciences Advisory Board, Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health, United Way of Amarillo & Canyon, High Plains Food Bank, Storybridge, Amarillo Chamber of Commerce, and Panhandle Workforce Solutions. She is the proud wife of Steve and mother to daughter Channing and son Dallynn and his wife Brady. Sonja recently gained the title of "Sassy" with the addition of her first grandchild, Bexley. In her free time, she can usually be found on the tennis court.

Dr. Mark Escamilla

Dr. Mark Escamilla joined Del Mar College as President and Chief Executive Officer in October 2008. Since then, the College has consistently reached new milestones in instructional delivery, academic excellence, fiscal responsibility, administrative performance, and collaboration with other educational institutions, businesses, and industries.

During Dr. Escamilla's tenure, Del Mar College has experienced robust enrollment, with peak enrollment at more than 16,500 individual academic students and 10,000 workforce and continuing education students per year. The College has expanded its high school dual credit courses to over 25 independent school districts throughout its service area. The College also works closely with businesses and industries in the region, providing workforce training for thousands of Coastal Bend residents annually.



**Community College
Association of Texas Trustees**

Dr. Escamilla successfully led the College's reaffirmation of national accreditation in 2011, a five-year accreditation review in 2016, and a 10-year reaffirmation again in 2021. Also, in fiscal year 2021, the Del Mar College Foundation reached \$32 million in total assets, raising approximately \$3.1 million per year during the previous 10 years.

A Del Mar College graduate with bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Dr. Escamilla holds a Ph.D. in educational administration from The University of Texas at Austin.

In 2021, Governor Abbott appointed him to the Texas Commission on Community College Finance (TXCCCF). He was the lead member of the Workforce Education workgroup within that Commission. He also serves on the Legislative and Executive committees of the Texas Association of Community Colleges.

Caylar Harper

Caylar Harper is the Director of Marketing & Workforce Initiatives at Amarillo EDC. She serves as the liaison between AEDC clients and key partners such as AmTech and Amarillo College. She also provides employer feedback and data analytics to these partners to identify workforce trends and needs. Caylar volunteers with organizations such as AmTech and Junior Achievement preparing middle and high school students for the workplace. She spearheaded the ReRoot marketing initiative by AEDC to recruit former citizens from our region back home to join the workforce and the community as a whole.

Madeleine Jones

Madeleine Jones is a Field Director for the Dignity Index. She has been involved with the Dignity Index since its pilot at the University of Utah in 2022, where she worked as a student scorer. Inspired by the project, she went on to co-found Students for Dignity.

Today, her responsibilities include building student groups on college and university campuses, teaching community and corporate groups about the Index, and advising organizations on how to implement the Index to create a dignity-centered culture.



**Community College
Association of Texas Trustees**

Jee Hang Lee

Jee Hang Lee became president and CEO of the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) in 2021. Jee Hang provides national leadership to the over 500 governing boards who oversee the majority of community colleges throughout the United States and internationally. His deep personal passion for education equity and access led him to ACCT in 2006.

Prior to becoming president and CEO, Jee Hang served ACCT for over 15 years in the capacities of Senior Vice President, Vice President of Public Policy and Director of Public Policy. He has led the association's public policy and advocacy efforts, including the Community College National Legislative Summit and legislative and regulatory issues such as appropriations, student financial aid, tax policy, and higher education policy since he first joined the association. He also oversaw ACCT's membership, events, and communications divisions for many years.

Jee Hang serves on the board of the National Asian Pacific Islander Council (NAPIC), National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE), the advisory board of the University of Maryland Global Campus Community College Leadership Program, and the advisory board of the Community College Presidents Initiative-STEM (CCPI-STEM). Previously, Jee Hang served on the Board of Trustees of the American Student Association of Community Colleges, the Rural Community College Alliance, and the Executive Committee of the Committee for Education Funding. Jee Hang holds a bachelor's degree from Boston University and a master's degree in political management from George Washington University.

Steven Lehnhof

Steven graduated from the University of Utah in the spring of 2024 with bachelor's degrees in Political Science and International Studies. He began working with the Dignity Index during its pilot at the University of Utah in 2022, where he witnessed the impact this movement could have on our political discourse. He is a founding member of Students for Dignity and graduated as Vice President of the University of Utah chapter. He continues his work on the Dignity Index as a project assistant, involved in multiple research projects and outreach



**Community College
Association of Texas Trustees**

efforts to spread the message of the Dignity Index to changemakers, teachers, and especially students. Steven strongly believes that the Index is a tool that can set us on a course for better communication, collaboration, and unity within our amazing country.

Doug Loomis

Throughout his 38-year career in Amarillo ISD, Superintendent Doug Loomis has made an impact across the District, working in schools in every cluster and at every level. He began as a PE teacher at Wolflin Elementary and then taught science and health at Fannin Middle School. As Doug's career in AISD expanded, he was named Assistant Principal at Houston Middle School, Assistant Principal at Palo Duro High School, Principal of Amarillo High School, and then Executive Director of Student Performance of Caprock High School cluster. He also served five years as the District's Chief Human Resources Officer before being named Interim Superintendent in October 2018. The School Board named him Superintendent in March 2019.

Doug is a graduate of Oklahoma Panhandle State University, and he earned a Master's degree in Education from West Texas A&M University. He and his wife, Gisele, a retired teacher, have been married for more than 30 years and have two grown children. Their daughter Jordan received her PhD in pharmacology from the University of Texas and works as a pharmacist in the infectious disease department at Memorial Hermann Hospital in the Woodlands. Son Braydan received a master's in finance degree, also from UT, and he works for Truist Bank in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Susan Moore-Fontenot

Susan Moore-Fontenot retired after serving 38 years in public school administration and 15 years as an adjunct professor at two community colleges. She attended Lee College prior to graduating magna cum laude from Sam Houston State University, earning a bachelor's degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology. She earned a master's degree in Educational Supervision from Lamar University.



**Community College
Association of Texas Trustees**

Susan has served on the Lee College Board of Regents since 1988 and has held every board office. She chaired the 2019 Presidential Search Committee and serves on the Policy Committee. Susan is Chair-Elect of the Community College Association of Texas Trustees (CCATT), chairs the CCATT Resource Development and Sustainability Committee, and is past chair of the Trustee Education Committee. Nationally, Susan was elected to an at-large position on the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Board of Directors. She also serves on the ACCT Public Policy and Advocacy Committee and previously served on the Member Communications and Education Committee and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

Her community service includes leadership roles with the Pilot Club of Baytown, Baytown Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., the Houston Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation, and Houston Methodist Women's Advisory Board. A 36-year member of Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, Susan serves on the Deaconess Board, the Women's Guild, Seniors Ministry, and the Courtesy Corps. Susan volunteers with the League of Women Voters. She has one son, and her hobbies include traveling and theater.

Daniel R. Pérez

Daniel R. Pérez serves as the Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Data Analytics at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB).

With over 10 years of higher education experience, his work has been cited by leading media outlets, including The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post.

Daniel holds a Master's degree from the LBJ School at the University of Texas at Austin and is currently a doctoral candidate in the Trachtenberg School at The George Washington University. His dissertation focuses on evaluating the use of performance-based funding in higher education and Credentials of Value in Texas.

Carol A. Scott



**Community College
Association of Texas Trustees**

Carol Scott was elected to the Del Mar College Board of Regents in 2014 and is serving her third term as Board Chair. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Texas A&M University-Kingsville and is a Distinguished Alumni of the university.

She works as a Public Relations Consultant, holds an Accreditation in Public Relations by the Public Relations Society of America, and is a member of the PRSA College of Fellows.

She serves as the Immediate Past Chair of the Community College Association of Texas Trustees, where she played a pivotal role in advocating for the interests of community colleges statewide. She also served on the Texas Commission on Community College Finance.

Throughout her career, Carol has been actively involved in various community organizations. Her previous public service includes serving on the Corpus Christi ISD Board of Trustees, the Javelina Alumni Association, and the Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce. She is a graduate of Leadership Corpus Christi and Leadership Texas.

Dr. William Serrata

Dr. William Serrata has been the President of the El Paso County Community College District since August 2012. Dr. Serrata holds a Bachelor's Degree from Texas A&M University – College Station, a Master's Degree from the University of Texas at Brownsville, and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Educational Human Resource Development from Texas A&M University – College Station.

During his career, Dr. Serrata has provided enrollment management leadership in fostering enrollment growth as well as increases in student retention, dual credit enrollment, and graduation rates with an emphasis on first-generation and Hispanic populations and establishing a college-going culture. As President of EPCC, he has become recognized for his leadership in higher education at the local, regional, and national levels.

Dr. Serrata is an active member of the El Paso community and currently serves as a Board Member for Workforce Solutions Borderplex, Board of Directors for the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors for the El Paso Branch



**Community College
Association of Texas Trustees**

of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and Chair of the Board for the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence. At the state level, Dr. Serrata serves as the Chair for the Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC), Co-Chair of the TACC Business Advisory Council, Chair of the TACC Texas Success Center Advisory Committee, Past Chair of the Texas Student Success Council convened by Educate Texas, and on the Board of Directors for Humanities Texas.

On the national level, Dr. Serrata serves on the Board of Directors for the Lumina Foundation, has previously served as Chair of the Board of Directors for the American Association of Community Colleges (AACCC), and as Immediate Past-Chair of the Board of Directors of Excelencia in Education, and serves as an Advisory Board Member of the Higher Education Research and Development Institute (HERDI). Dr. Serrata previously served on the National Student Clearinghouse Advisory Council and was a member of the 2015 class of the Aspen Institute Ascend Fellows. In 2019 Dr. Serrata was selected as the Western Region Chief Executive of the Year by the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) and subsequently received the Marie Y. Martin Chief Executive Officer Award during the national conference.

Under Dr. Serrata's leadership, El Paso Community College (EPCC) was named one of 10 nationwide finalists for the Aspen Institute's 2015 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, which recognizes a college's impact on student success. EPCC was selected from a pool of nearly 1,200 community colleges. Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education and Community College Week magazines continue to recognize EPCC as a national leader in awarding associate degrees to Hispanic students. The College earned the Seal of Excelencia from Excelencia in Education for EPCC's outcomes in accelerating Latino student success. EPCC received the 2016 AACCC's Student Success Award and is the recipient of the ACCT Western Regional Equity Award in 2016 and 2022.

Dr. Frank Sobey

Dr. Frank Sobey joined Amarillo College in 2005 as a full-time instructor in the English Department. Since then, he has served as the chair of the English Department, Dean of Arts and Sciences, and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. Currently, he is the Vice President of Strategic Initiatives and Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs. Frank loves Amarillo College and is immensely proud to work for a college so completely devoted to serving students and the



**Community College
Association of Texas Trustees**

Amarillo community.

Mayor Cole Stanley

Cole Stanley is, first and foremost, a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven. Secondly, a Texan by birth and by choice. And lastly, he is your Amarillo city Mayor. Cole believes in a simple government philosophy, the smaller, the better. Local government should be focused on public safety, transportation, and clean resources, such as water and waste. “A government that grows beyond that as its main focus will always struggle to prioritize the citizens' needs over its own.”

Cole is a family man. He and his beautiful wife, Shiloh, have been married for 24 years and have two daughters, Avery and Addison. Cole is a businessman and has been in the construction industry for over 26 years and is proud to be a builder in this community. Cole Stanley knows that through faith, family, and freedom, we can build a better future for all of Amarillo.

He served on the Arrow Child and Family Ministries national board of directors and is a founding member of Arrow Health solutions. Cole has a Heart for mentoring business owners and has helped to start nearly 30 small businesses in Amarillo. Cole Stanley is a proven leader who has dedicated more than 20 years of serving people in our community.

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.



**Community College
Association of Texas Trustees**

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 Bachelor's 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.

Todd Williams

Highly committed to public education, Todd Williams is the founding Chairman and CEO of The Commit Partnership, the nation's largest educational collective impact organization with 200+ institutions (including 15 school districts and eight higher-ed institutions educating over 700,000 students) supported by a dedicated backbone staff of ~60 employees. Together the Partnership and its backbone staff are collectively focused on improving economic mobility levels across the Dallas County region as well as the state of Texas. Todd also served for eight years as the Education Policy Advisor to former Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings.

Todd is a former board chair for Austin College, a liberal arts college in Sherman, Texas. Todd, along with his wife Abby, served as the founding chair for six years of the regional advisory board for Teach for America in Dallas/Ft. Worth, and together in 2007 they also helped establish the Uplift Williams Preparatory School, a K-12 free tuition public charter school operated by Uplift Education that educates over 1,500 primarily Hispanic children living in limited-income homes in northwest Dallas. Todd also currently serves on the board of Fidelity Charitable, the nation's largest donor-advised fund with over \$52 billion of assets under management.



**Community College
Association of Texas Trustees**

Todd has been appointed by the Texas governor to serve on (i) the Texas Permanent School Fund Corporation (responsible for overseeing the investment of the state's ~\$50 billion endowment fund supporting Texas' K-12 public education system); (ii) the year-long 2018 Texas Commission on Public School Finance which produced 35 recommendations that served as the basis for Texas' landmark HB3 legislation (which equitably invested \$11.5 billion in the state's public K-12 education system in 2019) and (iii) the 2022 Texas Commission on Community College Funding, which produced recommendations serving as the basis for Texas' landmark HB8 legislation which created the strategic investment of ~\$650 million to reward targeted outcomes while increasing funding and accessibility for the state's economically and academically disadvantaged students.

Todd is the former Chair of the Citizen Budget Review Commission for Dallas ISD (\$2.0 billion budget educating ~145,000 students) and the former Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees for Uplift Education, a public charter school management organization serving over 20,000 students across the D/FW area. Todd is also the former chairman of both the Real Estate Finance and Investment Center (located at the University of Texas) and the Real Estate Council of Dallas, the city's largest real estate organization.

Prior to dedicating his efforts full time as a volunteer to public education, Todd served as a partner and global co-head of Goldman Sachs' real estate private equity investment area, retiring in 2010 following a 20-year career with the firm in their New York, Los Angeles and Dallas offices.

Todd earned an M.B.A. with distinction from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania in 1989 and graduated with a B.A. in Economics from Austin College in Sherman, Texas in 1982.