

TACC SUMMER MEETING 2025



Texas Association of  
Community Colleges

# MAXIMIZING MOMENTUM

TURNING LEGISLATIVE ACTION INTO LOCAL IMPACT





JULY 16, 2025

2:00 PM

Primrose Foyer

REGISTRATION OPENS

Pick up your name tag and program.

3:00-3:30 PM

Primrose Ballroom

TACC SUMMER MEETING KICKOFF

Join us for welcome remarks and a State of the Association presentation.

**Dr. Brenda Kays**, President, Kilgore College & Chair, TACC  
**Dr. Kimberly Lowry**, Vice President of TACC & Executive Director of Texas Success Center  
**Ray Martinez III**, President & CEO, TACC

TSC SUMMER CATALYST

3:30-6:00 PM

Primrose AB,  
Camelia, Lantana,  
Plumeria

MAPPING THE COURSE:  
DEFINING INSTITUTIONAL GOALS FOR IMPACT

As the first major milestone in the Texas Pathways (Round 4) journey, this joint workshop for CEOs and VPs will guide college leadership teams through the critical process of defining a strategic, student-focused success goal. Using the COMPASS framework, teams will work together to draft the first section of their COMPASS Report—clarifying their institutional purpose, aligning goals with state student success priorities, and establishing a shared vision for impact.

Led by Texas Success Center Staff

6:00-6:30 PM

BREAK

6:30-7:30 PM

Primrose Ballroom

DINNER & PLENARY

CHARTING THE FUTURE OF ACCREDITATION:  
A CONVERSATION WITH DR. STEPHEN PRUITT

As he steps into his new role as President of SACSCOC, Dr. Stephen Pruitt brings a wealth of experience in education policy, systems change, and leadership. In this plenary session, Dr. Pruitt will share his vision for the future of regional accreditation and its role in supporting institutional quality and innovation. Don't miss this opportunity to hear directly from SACSCOC's new leader as he outlines priorities and opens a dialogue with Texas's community college leaders.

**Dr. Stephen Pruitt**, President SACSCOC

Sponsored by Educate Texas



EDUCATE TEXAS  
at COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS

7:30 PM - 11:00 PM

Presidential Suite  
2nd Floor, Room 217

HOSPITALITY SUITE

Sponsored by Great Western Dining



# WELCOME TO AUSTIN!

Thank you for joining us at the 2025 TACC Summer Meeting,  
**Maximizing Momentum: Turning Legislative Action Into Local Impact.**

This year's meeting will focus on the implementation of key policy changes following the 89th Legislative Session and feature timely discussions on statewide strategy, federal advocacy, and institutional leadership.

We hope this event fosters peer learning and offers valuable insights for navigating the future of higher education.



**Network:** Westin\_Conf  
**Password:** WDMMA25

JULY 17, 2025

7:30-8:30 AM

GENERAL BREAKFAST

Primrose Ballroom

7:45-11:00 AM

TACC QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

CEO-Only

Primrose AB

8:30-11:00 AM

TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD EXPO

Primrose Ballroom

General conference attendees are invited to attend this session where Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board leadership and staff will highlight key initiatives currently underway at the agency. Please join for an opportunity to hear updates, ask questions, and engage in collaborative conversation with these subject matter experts.

11:00-11:30 AM

BREAK

11:30-12:30 PM

LUNCH & PLENARY

Primrose Ballroom

CAPITOL TO CAMPUS: FEDERAL DECISIONS SHAPING HIGHER ED

Join this plenary session from federal government relation leaders to hear the latest on the President’s proposals for higher education, congressional action that affects our community colleges and students, how the federal courts are playing an increasing role in higher education, and the latest on the regulatory front.

**David Baime**, Senior Vice President for Government Relations, American Association of Community Colleges

**Carrie Warick-Smith**, Vice President, Public Policy, Association of Community College Trustees

12:30-12:45 PM

COFFEE BREAK

Primrose Foyer

Sponsored by Western Governors University



CONCURRENT SESSIONS | 12:45-1:45 PM

Session descriptions and speakers listed on the next page.

Powering Dual Credit: Investing in Teachers, Expanding Opportunities

This panel discussion will explore the necessity of credentialing more high school teachers to meet the demand for dual credit courses and expand dual credit opportunities for high school students in the San Antonio area. Leaders from Alamo Colleges District, St. Mary’s University and Northside ISD will share their insights as they launch an innovative solution to cover the costs of credentialing current high school teachers. The groundbreaking model capitalizes on funding revenues to reduce costs for teachers, maximizes academic impact for students, provides flexibility to support teacher enrollment, and ensures access to quality dual credit programming for all students.

Camelia

**Dr. Amy Bosley**, President, Northwest Vista College

**Ryan M. Konkright**, Vice President for Enrollment Management, St. Mary’s University

**Sara Mann**, Chief High School Programs Officer, Alamo Colleges District

**Dr. Jerry Woods**, Assistant Superintendent of High School Instruction, Northside ISD

**Moderator: Dr. Briana Hagelgans**, Director of K12 & Postsecondary, UP Partnership

Funding Student Success: Credentials of Value & Fundable Outcome Refinements

In 2023, Texas enacted a major overhaul of its community college funding formula through House Bill 8. Development and implementation of the new model has led to continued refinement. Participants will learn about key changes to the credentials of value methodology and transfer fundable outcomes resulting from the passage of SB 1786 this legislative session. We’ll dive into the data methodology and new criteria that will be put in place for Fiscal Year 2026.

Lantana

**Elizabeth Chivers**, Senior Director of Strategy & Policy Implementation, TACC

**Melissa Humphries**, Assistant Commissioner of Data Management and Research, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

**David Troutman**, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Meeting the Skills, Credentials & Emerging Technologies Talent Challenge

As Texas continues to secure significant investment in leading-edge industries, the demand for skilled and credentialed workers continues to grow. In this session we examine recent legislative changes to credentials of value and related opportunities and challenges in responding to dynamic workforce components. This panel will discuss strategies to build and sustain effective employer partnerships that raise student awareness, respond to emerging technologies driving change, and explore effective strategies to drive student completion in programs that align with the needs of employers.

Plumeria

**Cathy Dewitt**, Southwest Regional Manager, State & Local Policy, General Motors

**Brent Franks**, President, North Texas Automobile Dealers

**John Hawkins**, President & CEO, Texas Hospital Association

**Michelle Teakell**, Chief of Staff, Automate Product Operations, Applied Materials

**Moderator: Andres Alcantar**, Principal, Alcantar Strategies



### Navigating the Legal Landscape: Key Legal Issues for Texas Community Colleges

Join us for an insightful panel discussion featuring legal experts who will delve into the pressing legal challenges faced by community colleges in Texas. This session will provide a comprehensive overview of the current legal landscape, focusing on recent legislative and executive developments.

Primrose AB

**Cobby A. Caputo**, Attorney, Bickerstaff, Heath, Delgado, Acosta, LLP  
**Amy McGee**, Director of Community College Services, Texas Association of School Boards  
**Moderator: Augustin “Augie” Rivera Jr.**, General Counsel, Del Mar College

1:45-2:00 PM

SNACK BREAK

Primrose Foyer

Sponsored by Huckabee

Huckabee

### CLOSED SESSIONS | 2:00-4:00 PM

CEO-Only

#### CEO-Only Meeting

We invite all college presidents and chancellors to attend this private concurrent session.

Primrose AB

TSC SUMMER CATALYST

VP-Only

#### Goals in Motion: Translating Strategy into Action

This working session is designed for VPs to translate the vision and strategic goals set with their CEOs into actionable, measurable plans. Building on the work from Day 1, this session will guide VPs through the final steps of drafting Section 1 of their COMPASS Report—including defining success and early progress (leading) indicators. Participants will leave with a clear plan for moving their institutional goals from vision to action, positioning their colleges for meaningful, measurable impact throughout Round 4 of Texas Pathways.

Camelia

Led by Texas Success Center Staff

### CONCURRENT SESSIONS | 2:00-3:00 PM

Session descriptions and speakers listed below.

#### Navigating the Legal Landscape: Key Legal Issues for Texas Community Colleges

Join us for an insightful panel discussion featuring legal experts who will delve into the pressing legal challenges faced by community colleges in Texas. This session will provide a comprehensive overview of the current legal landscape, focusing on recent legislative and executive developments.

Lantana

**Cobby A. Caputo**, Attorney, Bickerstaff, Heath, Delgado, Acosta, LLP  
**Amy McGee**, Director of Community College Services, Texas Association of School Boards  
**Moderator: Augustin “Augie” Rivera Jr.**, General Counsel, Del Mar College

#### The Rest of the Story: Under the Radar Legislation

While a few bills tend to dominate headlines and association presentations, many others pass that have the potential to impact community colleges. Learn about lesser-known legislation that may present opportunities or challenges regarding taxation and debt, college operations, and student success.

Plumeria

**Priscilla Camacho**, Chief Legislative, Industry & External Relations Officer, Alamo Colleges District  
**Tiska Thomas**, Chief Financial Officer, Dallas College  
**Natalie Villarreal**, Executive Director, Strategic and Operational Initiatives, Del Mar College  
**Moderator: Jacob Cottingham**, Senior Director, Government Relations, TACC

3:00-6:30 PM

BREAK

6:30-9:00 PM

Primrose Ballroom

#### DINNER & DR. MIMI VALEK + JOHN MAY WASHERS TOURNAMENT

Join us in the main ballroom for a meal and washers tournament!

9:00 PM-12:00 AM

Presidential Suite  
2nd Floor, Room 217

#### HOSPITALITY SUITE

Sponsored by Great Western Dining



JULY 18, 2025

7:30-8:30 AM GENERAL BREAKFAST

Primrose Ballroom

TSC SUMMER CATALYST

8:30-9:00 AM LEADING WITH PURPOSE:  
CHARTING A UNIFIED PATH

Primrose AB,  
Lantana

As the final session of the Summer Catalyst, Leading with Purpose: Charting a Unified Path provides VPs the opportunity to present their refined institutional goals, context, and definitions of success to their CEOs. This session reinforces shared vision, strategic alignment, and mutual accountability as colleges move from planning to execution. VPs will finalize and submit Section 1 of their COMPASS Report, setting a clear direction for their institutional transformation journey.

Led by Texas Success Center Staff

9:00-10:00 AM CLOSING PLENARY

Primrose Ballroom

TEXAS' ECONOMIC OUTLOOK:  
CURRENT TRENDS AND LONG-TERM  
CONSIDERATIONS

Join us for an engaging and insightful session examining the current economic landscape in Texas. This presentation will explore key indicators shaping the state's economy today—such as employment trends, industry performance, and demographic shifts—while also considering the broader, long-term factors that may influence Texas' economic development in the years ahead. This session will highlight how statewide economic conditions intersect with workforce needs and regional growth strategies.

Guhan Venkatu, Vice President, Federal Reserve Bank Dallas

10:00-11:00 AM RECOGNITIONS & CLOSING REMARKS

Primrose Ballroom

11:00 AM ADJOURN & CHECKOUT

Hotel check-out is at 12:00 PM.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US & SAFE TRAVELS BACK HOME!

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# PLENARY SPEAKERS



**DAVID S. BAIME**

David Baime serves as Senior Vice President for Government Relations for the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). In this role, he directs the national advocacy efforts for the nation's more than 1,000 community colleges and their students. Prior to that time, he served as Director of Education Funding for the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. Mr. Baime has also worked as Assistant Director of Government Relations for the Association of American Medical Colleges. Mr. Baime holds a bachelor's degree from Haverford College and a master's degree in Economics from the London School of Economics.

Mr. Baime has made a number of radio, television, and Web appearances, including on CNN, Fox News, MSNBC, C-SPAN's "Washington Journal," and National Public Radio, and is frequently quoted in The Chronicle of Higher Education, Inside Higher Education, Politico, and other education publications. He is the author of several published articles and essays and has co-written a book on community college finance. He is also a Trustee of Excelsior University. In his spare time he swims, plays Beatles covers, and tries to see as many Old Master paintings as possible.



**DR. STEPHEN PRUITT**

Stephen Pruitt joined SACSCOC on July 7, 2025 and will assume the presidency on August 1, 2025. He started his education career as a high school chemistry teacher in Fayette County, Georgia. During his career, Pruitt has amassed an education policy, assessment, and instructional background at the local, state, and national levels.

Before coming to SACSCOC, he was President of the Southern Regional Education Board. Pruitt was Kentucky's state commissioner of education. At the national level, he had worked closely with state agencies and educators around the country to improve policy and practice in science education. In Georgia, Pruitt served as science and mathematics program manager, director of academic standards, associate state superintendent for assessment and accountability, and chief of staff for the Georgia Department of Education. Pruitt also served as a board member to the Council of Chief State School Officers, as president of the Council of State Science Supervisors, and as a member of the writing team for the College Board Standards for College Success for science.

A native of Georgia, Pruitt holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry from North Georgia College and State University, a master's degree in science education from the University of West Georgia and a doctorate of philosophy in chemistry education from Auburn University.



**CARRIE WARICK-SMITH**

Carrie Warick-Smith serves as Vice President, Public Policy for the Association of Community College Trustees, a position she assumed in January of 2022. In this role, she leads the advocacy efforts of the nation's community college trustees and oversees ACCT's thought leadership work adjoining policy and practice in the community college space.

Prior to joining ACCT, Warick-Smith spent over a decade at the National College Attainment Network where she built and expanded its policy and advocacy program, with a particular focus on access to federal financial aid. In this role, she led the creation of the organization's advocacy agenda, oversaw the development of a simplified FAFSA prototype, was regularly quoted in the education trade press, and published a piece on effective non-profit advocacy in Foundation Review.

Warick-Smith holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs and History and a Master of Public Policy, both from The George Washington University. While at GW, she served as a Presidential Fellow working in university administration.



**GUHAN VENKATU**

Guhan Venkatu is vice president at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and regional executive for the Austin area. He joined the Dallas Fed in 2025.

In his role, Venkatu is responsible for fostering relationships with stakeholders throughout central Texas and for gathering grassroots information to support the monetary policymaking process. His responsibilities also include expanding engagement with public officials and the technology sector.

Prior to joining the Dallas Fed, Venkatu served as senior principal and senior policy advisor in the Research Department of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, where he advised and informed the Bank's president and its board of directors. His research has focused on inflation, mortgage markets, and factors related to regional economic growth. He joined the Cleveland Fed in 1998 as a research analyst, and in his tenure with the Bank, held positions of increasing responsibility including economist, vice president, and group vice president.

Venkatu is a graduate of Leadership Cleveland and Leadership Pittsburgh, and previously served as a member of the Ohio Economic Roundtable, an advisory group to the state's governor. He received undergraduate and graduate degrees in economics from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.



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