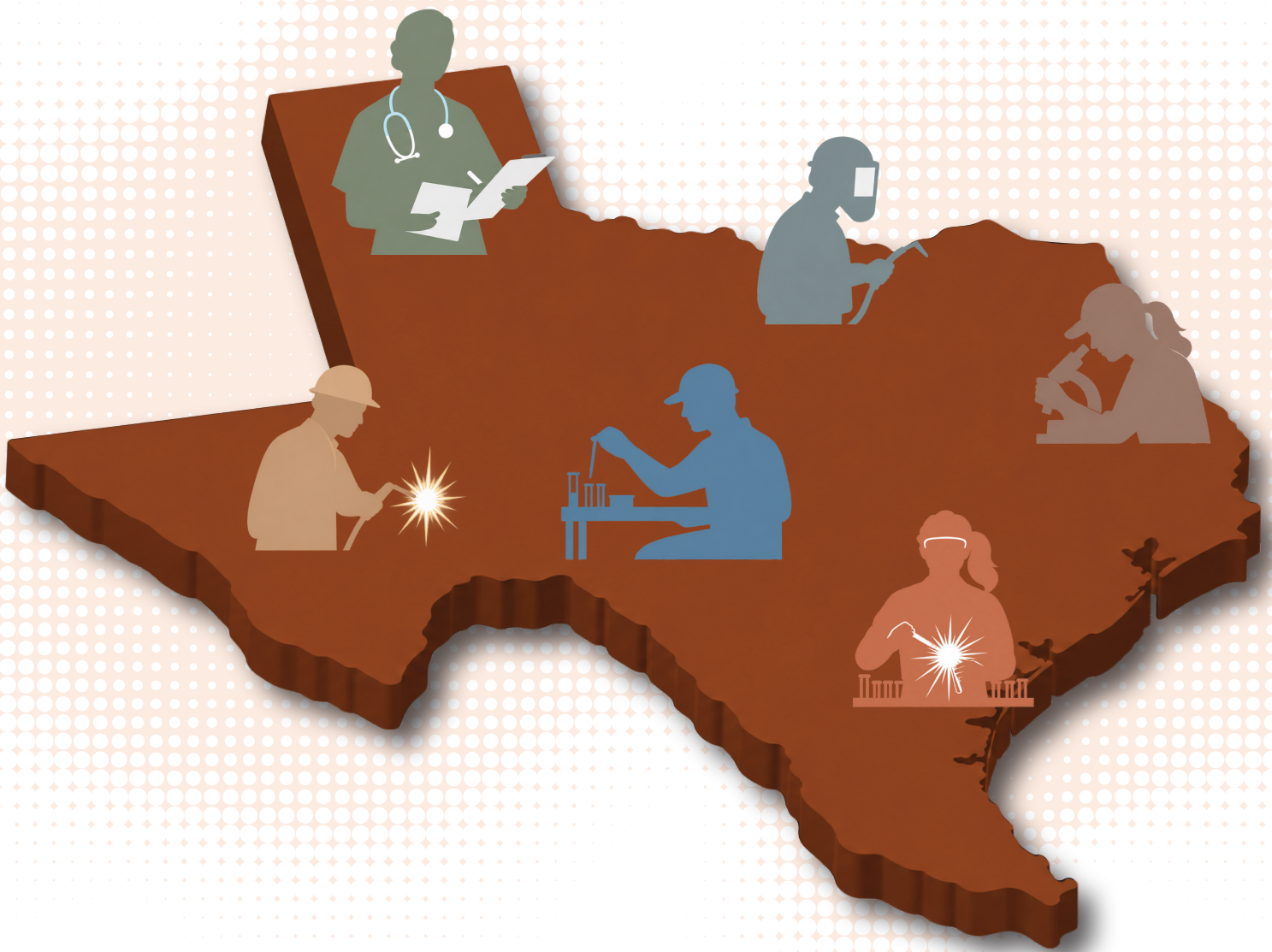


2026 CCATT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SUSTAINABLE SUCCESS:

Community College Governance & Long-Term Impact



Community College
Association of Texas Trustees



SEPTEMBER 17-19, 2026



HYATT REGENCY BAYTOWN, TX

Howdy!

We're delighted to welcome you to three days of meaningful learning, connection, and collaboration at the 2026 Community College Association of Texas Trustees Annual Conference.

We hope you find this space energizing, relevant, and affirming. Our team is here to support you throughout the conference and beyond as we work together to champion student success across Texas.

Thank you for your commitment, and welcome to a weekend of purpose, progress, and possibility.



Network: TexasTrustees
Password: DIG2026!

Hotel Map

FLOOR PLAN
LOBBY LEVEL



A Message from the CCATT Board Chair

Welcome to Baytown and the 2026 Annual Conference of the Community College Association of Texas Trustees (CCATT). It is an honor to gather with dedicated trustees, regents, and college leaders from across our great state for CCATT's signature event. This year's theme, *Sustainable Success: Community College Governance & Long-Term Impact*, reflects our focus on the board leadership, data-informed decision-making, financial stewardship, and advocacy needed to help Texas community colleges serve students and communities well into the future.

Over the next three days, we will examine real-world examples of governance in action, from strengthening workforce pathways and supporting student completion to navigating public communication, CEO leadership, institutional resilience, and emerging policy responsibilities. Our plenary sessions will connect us with state and education leaders engaged in important conversations about accountability, data modernization, funding, local board authority, and the 90th Texas Legislative Session beginning in January 2027. Breakout sessions will explore trustee perspectives on student success, advocacy, legal issues, community partnerships, and innovative programs producing meaningful outcomes for students and regions across Texas.

I encourage you to actively engage, ask questions, and share your own experiences so we leave with stronger connections, clearer insight into current and emerging issues, and practical strategies to bring back to our local boards.

Thank you for your commitment to effective governance and to advancing the mission of Texas community colleges. Together, we can strengthen our institutions through thoughtful leadership, responsible stewardship, and a shared commitment to the long-term success and vitality of our communities.

Warm regards,



Paul R. Rodriguez

Chair, South Texas College Board of Trustees

Chair, Community College Association of Texas Trustees

A Texas-Sized Thank You to Our 2026 Conference Sponsors!

This event was made possible in part due to these committed sponsors, and we are grateful for their continued support of community colleges across our great state. As you visit their tables during the Sponsor Expo on Friday, be sure to take part in the Passport Tour to be entered into Saturday's drawing for a special prize.

RUBY



EMERALD



SAPPHIRE



Agenda-At-A-Glance

Thursday, September 17

- 12:00 PM *Pre-Conference Luncheon for First Time Attendees*
- 1:30 PM *Pre-Conference Workshop: State & Local Advocacy*
- 3:00 PM *Pre-Conference Breakout Sessions & Tour of Lee College*
- 6:00 PM Dinner & Opening Plenary Session [Call to Order at 6:30 PM]
Credentials of Value, Workforce Outcomes, & Community College Funding

Friday, September 18

The sponsor exhibition hall will be open from 8:00 AM – 6:30 PM.

- 8:00 AM Breakfast
- 9:00 AM **Legislative Priorities, Local Advocacy, & Statewide Strategy**
- 11:00 AM Breakout Sessions (Round 1)
- 11:45 AM Lunch
- 12:15 PM **Employment Outcomes, Data-Informed Governance, & the CCATT Annual Business Meeting**
- 1:30 PM Tables & Treats
- 2:15 PM Breakout Sessions (Round 2)
 - *Chairs Council Meeting*
- 3:15 PM Breakout Sessions (Round 3)
- 4:15 PM **Strengthening Student Success Through Data & Curriculum Alignment**
- 5:15 PM Networking Reception
- 6:30 PM **Dinner on Your Own*

Saturday, September 19

- 8:00 AM Breakfast
- 9:00 AM Closing Plenary Session [Adjourn at 10:30 AM]
Financial Stewardship, Advancement, & Institutional Resilience

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

12:00 - 1:15 PM

PRE-CONFERENCE LUNCH

Bayland F

First Time Attendees Luncheon

Join us for the First Time Attendees Luncheon, a valuable networking opportunity offered specifically for Texas community college trustees, regents, and staff 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.

1:30 - 2:45 PM

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION

Bayland B

State & Local Advocacy Workshop

This interactive pre-conference session is designed to strengthen year-round advocacy efforts using CCATT's Community College Data Advocacy Toolkit. Participants will explore strategies for applying data-informed storytelling to engage legislators, local officials, and community stakeholders. Discussion will focus on practical approaches for building relationships, shaping policy messages, and highlighting institutional achievements in ways that resonate with decision-makers. Attendees will leave with actionable ideas to advance their college's mission and impact through coordinated advocacy at both the state and local levels.

Ray Martinez III, President & CEO, Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC)
Jacob Cottingham, Senior Director of Government Relations, TACC

3:00 - 5:00 PM

PRE-CONFERENCE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Off-Site

Hometown Highlights: Tour of Lee College

The tour begins at Lee College's McNair Center to explore their welding, HVAC, PTAC labs, and commercial truck driving programs. It then transitions to Lee College's Main Campus, featuring the Student Resource Advocacy Center (SRAC), the largest physical space in the state to offer holistic supports like a food pantry and clothing closet, childcare assistance, mental health counseling, and more. This tour offers a firsthand look at how board-level investments and regional partnerships can advance student success and workforce readiness.

Bryant Dyer, Division Chair, Process Technology, Lee College
Dr. Helen Manibusan, Director of Nursing, Lee College
Kelli Forde Spiers, Vice President of Student Affairs, Lee College
Marcus Wilson, Division Chair, Industrial Studies, Lee College

Bayland E

Mariner

*Exclusively for
Board Liaisons*

PRE-CONFERENCE BREAKOUT SESSIONS (CONT.)

New Trustee Orientation

Community college trustees play a vital role in governance, providing oversight that supports institutional effectiveness and student success. This interactive orientation will cover essential topics such as the board-CEO relationship, fiscal responsibilities, and the fundamentals of Data-Informed Governance. The session is designed to build a strong foundation for effective service and informed decision-making on community college governing boards.

Dr. Brenda Kays, Senior Consultant, Community College Association of Texas Trustees

Board Liaisons Convening: Preparing Board Members for the 90th Legislative Session

Liaisons can play an instrumental role in preparing and coordinating board members' advocacy efforts before and during Texas' 90th Legislative Session. Building on the State & Local Advocacy Workshop, this session will provide tactics and strategies liaisons can use to help organize board engagement and prepare trustees to connect with legislators and local stakeholders. The session will also provide time for liaisons to discuss role-specific challenges, share practices, and learn from one another.

Leslie Gallagher, Chief of Staff & VP of Strategic Initiatives & External Affairs, Lee College

David Mohlman, Coordinator of Board Relations, Lee College

Dr. Ryan Knight, Associate Director, Community College Association of Texas Trustees

6:00 - 6:30 PM

Bayland CD

DINNER

Join conference attendees and presenters for a buffet-style dinner that provides an opportunity to share first impressions and set the stage for the conversations and connections to come.

6:30 - 8:00 PM

Bayland CD

OPENING PLENARY

Welcome

Nicole Eversmann, Senior Director, Community College Association of Texas Trustees

Paul R. Rodriguez, Chair, South Texas College Board of Trustees

Charles Johnson, Mayor, City of Baytown

Gilbert Santana, Chair, Lee College Board of Regents

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

OPENING PLENARY (CONT.)

Credentials of Value, Workforce Outcomes, & Community College Funding

Short-term credentials play an increasingly important role in helping students enter high-demand fields, advance in the workforce, and contribute to regional economic growth. This opening plenary will provide an overview of the Certificate Programs Task Force and its work to refine the Credentials of Value framework for certificates, Occupational Skills Awards, and other short-term credentials. The presentation will help participants understand how this work connects to outcomes-based funding, institutional planning, and the strategic questions colleges and governing boards should be asking as Texas continues strengthening workforce education.

Dr. Jeremy P. McMillen, President, Grayson College

Ashley Bliss Lima, Senior Consultant, Texas Association of Community Colleges

SPEAKER BIOS

Dr. Jeremy P. McMillen, President, Grayson College

As the fifth President of Grayson College, Dr. Jeremy P. McMillen has transformed student success into a strategic mandate: “Connect students to college and career, Commit to their studies, and Complete their credential.” Under his leadership, Grayson College has driven strong enrollment growth and record gains in student completion, directly aligning with Texas performance goals.

Active in higher education policy, Dr. McMillen serves as Secretary/Treasurer of the Texas Association of Community Colleges and Chair of the HB 1786 Certificate Programs Taskforce. Championing state workforce priorities, he has guided the expansion of critical academic and technical pathways, launching specialized semiconductor technician credentials for the Texoma Semiconductor Tech Hub and expanding the RN to BSN degree.

Looking ahead, Grayson College is advancing an ambitious strategy to increase dual credit, double nursing graduates, expand health sciences and industrial technology programs, add high-demand baccalaureate degrees, and strengthen purposeful transfer pathways. This momentum is supported by significant physical growth across campuses, backed by a voter-approved \$454.5 million 2024 bond initiative.

An Achieving the Dream Leader College of Distinction, Grayson College drives innovation through eight-week accelerated courses, the Grayson Cares basic needs program, and industry-partnered Promise Programs. For over 60 years, the College has served North Texas by expanding economic mobility and regional vitality. Guided by his signature philosophy, “Onward,” Dr. McMillen remains dedicated to ensuring Grayson College creates lifelong opportunities for students, families, and the Texas workforce.

Ashley Bliss Lima, Senior Consultant, Texas Association of Community Colleges

Ashley Bliss Lima is an Austin-based independent consultant supporting organizations in advancing postsecondary success, workforce development, and economic opportunity, leading statewide policy initiatives and cross-sector collaboration among institutional and state leaders. In this role, she also works directly with colleges and practitioners to connect practice, research, and policy, helping scale practices that lead to meaningful credentials and drive better outcomes for students.

SPEAKER BIOS (CONT.)

This work builds on her experience as Chief of Staff and Senior Director at the Texas Association of Community Colleges, where she served as a strategic partner to the President and CEO, providing leadership and cross-organizational coordination on statewide initiatives supporting student success and workforce readiness.

Earlier, at Jobs for the Future (JFF), she focused on state-level policy where she led a national grant supporting institutional transformation at community colleges nationwide and advanced postsecondary policy work in several states, including Texas, California, Kentucky and Ohio. Before that, she was part of the University of Texas at Austin's strategy and policy team, incubating initiatives to advance institutional priorities and engaging on issues including state and federal education policy, educational innovation, admissions, financial aid and college affordability, and early college admissions pathways.

Ashley began her career on Capitol Hill in the office of a U.S. Congresswoman. She holds a Master of Public Policy from UC Berkeley and a B.S. in Global Economics & International Affairs from Georgia Tech.



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

8:00 AM - 6:30 PM

Regency Ballroom

SPONSOR EXPO

Visit the conference sponsor tables to connect with organizations that support Texas community colleges, learn about their innovative services, and gather resources to bring back to your board. Engage directly with service providers, explore their offerings, and learn how their work can support your role and institution. We challenge you to complete the Sponsor Passport Tour by visiting with at least ten organizations. Turn in your completed passport at the registration table to be entered into Saturday's drawing for a special prize!

8:00 - 9:00 AM

Bayland CD

BREAKFAST

Join colleagues from across the state for a buffet breakfast to get ready for a day of learning and connections.

9:00 - 10:30 AM

Bayland CD

PLENARY SESSION

Legislative Priorities, Local Advocacy, & Statewide Strategy

As Texas prepares for the 90th Legislative Session beginning in January 2027, community college leaders are working to align around shared policy priorities and a coordinated advocacy strategy. In this plenary session, leaders of the Texas Association of Community Colleges will discuss draft priorities related to supplemental appropriations, outcomes-based funding, and local governing board authority. The conversation will help participants understand the issues at stake and the role local boards can play in supporting a unified statewide message.

Dr. Jennifer Kent, President, Victoria College

Dr. Brent Wallace, Chancellor, North Central Texas College

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

Moderator: Dr. Clint Kingsbery, Trustee, Alamo Colleges District

SPEAKER BIOS

Dr. Jennifer Kent, President, Victoria College

Dr. Jennifer Kent became the sixth president of Victoria College in 2020 after serving as Senior Vice President at Ranger College for two years. She previously worked in public education for 19 years, including 11 years as a secondary school district administrator. From her start in education as a teacher and coach in Port Lavaca, Texas, Dr. Kent has prioritized building relationships with students, employees, and community members to

increase student success. She currently serves as Chair-Elect of the Texas Association of Community Colleges and Legislative Chair of TACC's Legislative Committee. She was also selected to participate in the inaugural cohort of the Aspen Institute's Presidents Fellowship, and along with the other fellows, worked towards advancing strategies aimed at delivering excellent student outcomes for all students. Dr. Kent remains steadfast in her commitment to empowering students to enter careers with family-sustaining wages, obtain upward economic mobility, and reach their full potential, ultimately contributing to the social and economic landscape of the Golden Crescent region.

Dr. Brent Wallace, Chancellor, North Central Texas College

Dr. Brent Wallace serves as the 11th President and first Chancellor of the North Central Texas College District, a position he has held since August 2014. He previously served as the College's Chief Academic Officer, bringing extensive academic and administrative leadership to the institution.

At the state level, Dr. Wallace serves as Chair of the Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC). He previously chaired the TACC Legislative Committee during the 89th Legislative Session and currently serves on the TACC Business Advisory Council and the TACC/THECB Credentials of Value Task Force. Locally, he serves on the Gainesville Economic Development Board and the Gainesville Texas Hospital Inc. Board and is a founding member of Red River Rotary.

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

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

Ray Martinez serves as the President & Chief Executive Officer of the Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC), a comprehensive membership association comprised of a diverse mix of 49 community colleges from across Texas.

Before joining TACC, Ray served as Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Workforce Education for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, President of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas, Chancellor of Western Governors University (WGU) Texas, and he has held senior government affairs positions at Rice University and Texas A&M International University. Ray has also served as the director of the Committee on Higher Education in the Texas Senate.

A native of Alice, Texas, Ray received his bachelor's degree from Southwestern University, his law degree from the University of Houston Law Center, and completed postgraduate studies at the Institute for Educational Management at Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Dr. Clint Kingsbery, Trustee, Alamo Colleges District

Dr. Clint Kingsbery serves as the District 8 Trustee for the Alamo Colleges District, where he has served on the Board of Trustees since 2014. He is the immediate past Chair of the Board and has previously served as Vice Chair and Secretary. His board service has focused on student success, educational access, institutional effectiveness, and strengthening the role of community colleges in the communities they serve.

Dr. Kingsbery serves on the Board of Directors for the Community College Association of Texas Trustees (CCATT) and chairs its Legislative Committee, supporting trustee engagement in state policy and advocacy affecting Texas community colleges. He also serves nationally with the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT). In 2026, he received ACCT's Western Regional Trustee Leadership Award and was named a finalist for the national M. Dale Ensign Trustee Leadership Award.

SPEAKER BIOS (CONT.)

Professionally, Dr. Kingsbery is the Associate Director of Retention Initiatives at Texas A&M University–San Antonio, where he leads work focused on student persistence, retention strategy, academic technology, and data-informed approaches to student success. He also serves as President of the university’s Staff Council.

A former mathematics educator, Dr. Kingsbery taught for 13 years before transitioning into higher education administration. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and both a master’s degree and Ph.D. in Higher Education Leadership and Policy Studies from the University of Texas at San Antonio.

10:30 - 11:00 AM

BREAK

11:00 - 11:45 AM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Bayland A

Beyond Degrees: Designing Talent Pipelines That Power Regional Economies

Houston City College is expanding industry partnerships with employers and organizations in energy, technology, AI, advanced manufacturing, and aerospace to strengthen workforce pathways and regional economic growth. This session will explore how community colleges can move beyond traditional program delivery to co-design talent pipelines with industry partners that create opportunity for students and address regional workforce needs.

Trustee Takeaways:

- Understand how industry partnerships can strengthen workforce pathways & regional economic growth
- Consider the board’s role in supporting alignment between academic programs & employer needs
- Identify ways work-based learning can expand opportunity & career readiness for students

Dr. Rima Adil, Vice Chancellor of Strategic Communications & Marketing, Houston City College

Dr. Christina Tobin, Interim AVC of Workforce Initiatives & Industry Partnerships, Houston City College

Bayland B

Work, Learn, Excel: Governance Lessons from Work4College

Northeast Texas Community College’s Work4College program offers a practical example of how work-based learning can connect affordability, student success, and workforce preparation. This session will highlight the program’s growth, student impact, and lessons trustees can consider as colleges explore models that reduce financial barriers while building career readiness.

Trustee Takeaways:

- Explore how work-based learning models can support student success through affordable job training & workforce readiness
- Examine governance & institutional strategies that contribute to the growth & long-term sustainability of work-based learning programs
- Identify the role of community partnerships, philanthropic support, & stakeholder investment in expanding high-impact educational opportunities

Dr. Jonathan McCullough, Executive Vice President for Advancement, Northeast Texas Community College

The Board's Role in Positioning Prison Education Programs for Success

Community colleges play a critical role in expanding educational opportunity for justice-involved students and supporting workforce pathways that benefit students, families, and communities. This session will highlight how colleges approach prison education programs in practice, with attention to the leadership, partnerships, and institutional commitment needed to position these programs for long-term success.

Trustee Takeaways:

- Identify key board-level considerations for establishing, sustaining, & evaluating prison education programs
- Examine strategies for supporting faculty recruitment, preparation, retention, & engagement in correctional education settings
- Recognize the role of partnerships & funding models in expanding access & promoting long-term program sustainability

Dr. Katherine Oser, Dean of Workforce Education, Academic Outreach, & Lifelong Learning, Central Texas College

Donna Zuniga, Executive Director, Lee College Huntsville Center

Building & Training Your Institutional Advocacy Muscle

This strategy session will focus on building long-term relationships with elected officials, with or without government relations staff, and why those relationships benefit your college, students, and the broader community college ecosystem. The session will also explore why advocacy should be a top priority for the board chair-CEO relationship and how building advocacy into the college's regular practices can lead to stronger results over time.

Trustee Takeaways:

- Understand why advocacy requires sustained, year-round relationship building

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*Exclusively for
Board Liaisons*

- Consider techniques for how trustees & CEOs set shared advocacy goals
- Identify practical steps for engaging elected officials throughout the year

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

Ensuring Effective & Timely Compliance with Mandates & Legislation

Board liaisons continually navigate a complex landscape of legal requirements and policy expectations while supporting the work of their trustees. This session will offer clear guidance on staying compliant with key mandates and legislation, thereby helping trustees meet professional development obligations, and understanding local versus state requirements. Participants will leave better equipped to support effective governance and avoid common legal missteps.

Amy Magee, Division Director, TASB Community College Services

Maggie Farrell, Staff Attorney, TASB Community College Services

11:45 AM - 12:15 PM

Bayland CD

LUNCH

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 afternoon.

12:15 - 1:30 PM

Bayland CD

PLENARY SESSION

Employment Outcomes, Data-Informed Governance, & the CCATT Annual Business Meeting

Before the state of the association and CCATT Board elections, attendees will hear a brief overview of the Community College Employment Outcomes Support Project led by the Ray Marshall Center at The University of Texas at Austin. The project helps community colleges better understand employment and earnings outcomes by connecting student-level data with state administrative data. The overview will highlight how these insights can support data-informed conversations about workforce programs, student success, and long-term institutional value.

Dr. Gregory B. Cumpton, Executive Director, Ray Marshall Center

Dr. Nan McRaven, Principal, McRaven Consulting

Paul R. Rodriguez, Chair, South Texas College Board of Trustees

Susan Moore-Fontenot, Immediate Past Chair, CCATT Board of Directors

ELECTION INFORMATION

Eight positions on the CCATT Board of Directors are up for election this year. The Nominating Committee reviewed nominations and the following slate was approved by the CCATT Board on August 26, 2026:

Positions & Candidates

Chair-Elect

Dr. Clint Kingsbery, Alamo Colleges District

Secretary

Dr. Tara Deaver, Odessa College

At-Large Director*

Erica Benavides Garcia, Laredo College

Director from the Central Region

Gigi Edwards Bryant, Austin Community College

Director from the North Region

Dr. Lisa Bellows, North Central Texas College

Director from the South Region

Edward C. Camarillo, Texas Southmost College

Director from the Southeast Region

'Bel Sanchez, Alvin College

Director from the West Region

Bonnie Najera, El Paso Community College

**With no candidates from the East Region, the Nominating Committee voted to alter the 2026 ballot, shifting the East Region Director seat to be an At-Large Director seat, as permissible by CCATT's bylaws.*

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 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.

Texas Community Colleges by Region

CENTRAL TEXAS REGION

Austin Community College
Blinn College
Central Texas College
Hill College
McLennan Community College
Navarro College
Temple College

EAST TEXAS REGION

Angelina College
Kilgore College
Northeast Texas Community College
Panola College
Paris Junior College
Texarkana College
Trinity Valley Community College
Tyler Junior College

NORTH TEXAS REGION

Cisco College
Collin College
Dallas College
Grayson College
North Central Texas College
Ranger College
Tarrant County College
Vernon College
Weatherford College

WEST TEXAS REGION

Amarillo College
Clarendon College
El Paso Community College
Frank Phillips College
Howard College
Midland College
Odessa College
South Plains College
Western Texas College

SOUTH TEXAS REGION

Alamo Colleges District
Coastal Bend College
Del Mar College
Laredo College
South Texas College
Southwest Texas College
Texas Southmost College
Victoria College

SOUTHEAST TEXAS REGION

Alvin College
Brazosport College
College of The Mainland
Galveston College
Houston City College
Lee College
Lone Star College
San Jacinto College
Wharton County Junior College

1:30 - 2:15 PM

Regency Ballroom

BREAK

Tables & Treats

Visit the Regency Ballroom to connect with conference sponsors, enjoy a sweet afternoon treat, and learn about services and resources that support Texas community colleges. Attendees are encouraged to engage with sponsors, ask questions, and continue completing the Sponsor Passport Tour for entry into Saturday's prize drawing.

2:15 - 3:00 PM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Bayland E

Chairs Council Meeting (Invitation Only)

The Chairs Council brings together board chairs and their designees for focused conversations on governance, leadership, and advocacy priorities. This meeting offers a confidential setting to exchange perspectives on challenges and opportunities facing Texas community colleges. Participants will discuss strategies for fostering constructive board culture, improving responsiveness to state policy changes, and advancing institutional priorities.

Bayland A

Supporting the CEO: Board Practices for Executive Wellness & Leadership Sustainability

Community college CEOs face a demanding and increasingly complex role, and turnover among first-time presidents and leadership transitions pose a growing risk to institutional stability. This session offers trustees practical ways to strengthen the board-CEO relationship, set expectations that sustain effective leadership, and use contract, compensation, and leave practices to support long-term retention.

Trustee Takeaways:

- Understand how CEO wellness connects to institutional stability & leadership continuity
- Consider how boards can implement industry best practices to support sustainable CEO leadership
- Identify how CEO contract, compensation, & leave practices can support long-term leadership effectiveness

Dr. Damon Kennedy, President, Midland College

Dr. Johnette McKown, President, McLennan Community College

Dr. Derrick Worrels, President, Ranger College

Moderator: Dr. Brenda Kays, Senior Consultant, CCATT

Aligning Teacher Pipelines with Local Needs: Evidence from the Texas Tech Residency Model

Teachers prepared through yearlong, district-based residencies raise student achievement, earn performance-based pay far sooner, and stay in Texas classrooms longer than their peers. Drawing on experience at two Texas community colleges, the session considers what the evidence means for trustees thinking about their institution's role in the teacher pipeline.

Trustee Takeaways:

- Understand how preparation pathway affects student learning, teacher pay, & teacher retention
- Consider how community colleges connect to regional teacher preparation partnerships
- Determine how state funding impacts local teacher pipeline strategy

Dr. Jacob Kirksey, Associate Professor of Education, Texas Tech University

Dana Pannell, Teacher Education & Dual Credit Pathways Coordinator, Howard College

Lori Satterwhite, Assistant Professor of College Literacy & Education, South Plains College

Supporting Completion, Strengthening Workforce Pathways: SNAP E&T in Action

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment & Training (SNAP E&T) offers community colleges the chance to connect eligible students with supports that reduce barriers to completion while strengthening workforce outcomes. This session will explore how partnerships with workforce boards, community organizations, and state agencies can support SNAP E&T implementation, student success, and institutional sustainability.

Trustee Takeaways:

- Convey SNAP E&T's strategic relevance to student success & workforce readiness
- Identify key partnerships to strengthen SNAP E&T implementation & sustainability
- Weigh governance considerations for expanding student support through SNAP E&T

Matthew Waltz, Chief Growth Officer, Council for Adult & Experiential Learning (CAEL)

Laura Ward, President & CEO, Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas

Navigating Current & Emerging Issues in Higher Education

Change and developments in higher education continue to occur at a rapid and unrelenting pace. This session provides a succinct primer on some of the most pressing current and emerging issues college boards and leaders are facing. Attendees will receive and review infosheets on each issue, as well as discuss efforts their colleges and boards are already undertaking to address the issues discussed.

Alma M. Egger, Assistant to the Board of Trustees, Tarrant County College District

Ally Greenwood, Executive Assistant, Amarillo College

Delia Perez, Director of CEO Office & Board Relations, Del Mar College

Moderator: Dr. Ryan Knight, Associate Director, CCATT

3:00 - 3:15 PM

BREAK

3:15 - 4:00 PM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Bayland A

Attorney Roundtable

This roundtable will feature legal experts discussing pressing state and federal issues affecting Texas community colleges, including shifting policy requirements and emerging areas of risk. Panelists will offer perspective on how these developments are showing up across institutions and what college leaders should be watching as the legal landscape continues to change.

Trustee Takeaways:

- Understand timely legal issues affecting Texas community colleges
- Recognize governance risks that require board-level attention
- Consider practical strategies for supporting compliance & institutional integrity

Antonio Allen, General Counsel, Tarrant County College District

Amy Magee, Division Director, TASB Community College Services

Scott Schneider, Founder, Schneider Education & Employment Law

Moderator: Augustin "Augie" Rivera, Jr., General Counsel, Del Mar College

Caring Through Crisis: How Emergency Aid Improves Completion & Financial Sustainability

Emergency aid addresses unexpected student financial crises, preventing temporary setbacks from derailing educational progress. This session presents new statewide research from EdTrust, the Texas Business Leadership Council, and Grayson College on how Texas institutions resource, administer, and measure emergency assistance programs to protect enrollment, support completion, and maximize institutional ROI.

Trustee Takeaways:

- Understand best practices for embedding emergency aid into broader student retention strategies
- Identify available state & institutional funding models to sustain emergency aid programs
- Evaluate board governance considerations to maximize emergency aid delivery & impact

Jonathan Feinstein, State Director for Texas, EdTrust

Kelle Kieschnick, Vice President of Policy, Texas Business Leadership Council

Corey Leird, Director of Counseling & Social Services, Grayson College

Dr. Logan Maxell, Vice President of Student Services, Grayson College

Board Chair Leadership in High-Visibility Moments

Board chairs play an important role in helping trustees communicate clearly, stay aligned with the CEO, and advocate effectively during high-visibility moments. Drawing on Alamo Colleges District's recent bond passage and broader communication experience, this session will explore how board leaders can navigate advocacy, media engagement, citizen communication, and sensitive internal issues while maintaining appropriate governance roles.

Trustee Takeaways:

- Understand the board chair's role in legislative advocacy & public communication
- Consider how trustees & the CEO stay aligned during high-visibility issues
- Identify strategies for communicating clearly with legislators, citizens, employees, & the press

Dr. Clint Kingsbery, Trustee, Alamo Colleges District

Priscilla D. Camacho, Chief Legislative, Industry & External Relations Officer, Alamo Colleges District

From Exploration to Implementation: Building Child Care Partnerships on Campus

Community colleges are at different stages of addressing parenting students' child care needs—from exploring options to developing partnerships and strengthening existing models. Using a Texas college case study and Kids on Campus resources, this session will provide practical strategies for advancing campus child care solutions that support student persistence, completion, and family wellbeing.

Trustee Takeaways:

- Assess your college's current stage of child care partnership development
- Identify key considerations for building & strengthening community partnerships
- Apply Kids on Campus resources to support planning & implementation

Rachel Brasell, State Coordinator for Kids on Campus: Texas, CCATT

Sandquinette Benson, Student, Houston City College

Mariner

*Exclusively for
Board Liaisons*

The Liaison as Consigliere: Strategies for Effective Communication & Board Engagement

Strategic planning and communication are necessary to ensure boards receive the proper information needed to govern effectively. During this session, liaisons will explore communication strategies that facilitate the appropriate flow of information to and between board members and the college CEO. They will also learn about, share, and discuss approaches to planning board meetings and retreats to maximize board members' preparation before and engagement during board convenings.

Venisa Earhart, Board Relations Administrator, South Texas College

4:00 - 4:15 PM

BREAK

PLENARY SESSION**Strengthening Student Success Through Data & Curriculum Alignment**

Texas is working to modernize higher education data systems so students, families, institutions, employers, and policymakers can make better-informed decisions about educational pathways and workforce outcomes. Community colleges are also responding to new statutory responsibilities related to core curriculum review and the state's focus on Credentials of Value. In this plenary session, Dr. David Troutman will discuss the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's work on data modernization, economic outcomes, and core curriculum requirements. His remarks will help participants connect these statewide efforts to strategic planning, institutional accountability, and board-level decision-making.

Dr. David Troutman, Deputy Commissioner for Academic & Workforce Initiatives, THECB

Moderator: Dr. Tara Deaver, Vice Chair, Odessa College Board of Trustees

SPEAKER BIOS**Dr. David Troutman, Deputy Commissioner for Academic & Workforce Initiatives, THECB**

Dr. David Troutman serves as the Deputy Commissioner for Academic and Workforce Initiatives at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), where he provides executive leadership for five divisions: Academic and Health Affairs, Workforce Education, College and Career Advising, Student Success and Institutional Partnerships, and Data Management and Research. In this capacity, Dr. Troutman leads statewide efforts to strengthen alignment between postsecondary education and workforce needs, enhance student outcomes, and modernize the state's higher education data infrastructure to support policy development and decision-making.

Dr. Troutman serves as the executive lead for the Texas Tri-Agency Data Team, advancing coordination across the state's K-12, postsecondary, and workforce sectors to facilitate data sharing and inform longitudinal research. He is currently spearheading several major statewide initiatives, including the development and ongoing refinement of the Credential of Value methodology — which measures the return on investment of postsecondary credentials through earnings outcomes, workforce demand, and advancement opportunities — that underpins Texas' new Community College Outcomes-Based Funding model, as well as the comprehensive review and modernization of the state's general education requirements for public higher education.

At the national level, Dr. Troutman is the founder and chair of the Postsecondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO) Coalition, a multi-state partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau that integrates education and workforce data to measure the economic outcomes of postsecondary credentials and inform policy and practice across the country.

SPEAKER BIOS (CONT.)

Dr. Tara Deaver, Vice Chair, Odessa College Board of Trustees

Dr. Tara Deaver has been a member of the Odessa College Board of Trustees for 16 years where she is Vice Chair of the Board and a member of the Odessa College Foundation Board. She is on the Board of Directors of the Community College Association of Texas Trustees (CCATT) serving as current chair of the Education Committee.

She is an Assistant Professor and Podiatric Surgeon in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Texas Tech University Health Sciences of the Permian Basin. Her degrees are from Tuskegee University, Texas A&M University and the New York College of Podiatric Medicine. She completed her residency training at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio where she was Chief Resident of Podiatry Services.

Dr. Deaver is Board Certified by the American Board of Podiatric Medicine and the American Board of Wound Management. Other affiliations include the American College of Podiatric Medicine – former board of director and board officer, the Texas Podiatric Medical Association, the American Podiatric Medical Association and Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

5:15 - 6:30 PM

Regency Ballroom
& Bayland Terrace

NETWORKING RECEPTION

Connect with fellow attendees to share trustee takeaways, promising practices, and ideas to bring back to your college over light refreshments.

This reception is generously sponsored by WRA Architects.



6:30 PM

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

Gather with your board or leadership team for dinner, either at a local restaurant or right here at the Hyatt Regency Baytown-Houston.



See y'all tomorrow!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

8:00 - 9:00 AM

Bayland CD

BREAKFAST

Enjoy a buffet breakfast as you gear up for the final day of learning and insightful conversations.

9:00 - 10:30 AM

Bayland CD

CLOSING PLENARY

Financial Stewardship, Advancement, & Institutional Resilience

Community colleges are navigating a financial environment shaped by outcomes-based funding, affordability pressures, workforce demands, infrastructure needs, and the importance of strong public and private partnerships. This plenary panel will bring together executive perspectives from finance, advancement, and college leadership to examine how institutions align resources with strategic priorities and build capacity for the future. The conversation will help participants consider how financial stewardship, philanthropic engagement, and long-term planning can strengthen institutional resilience while keeping the college mission at the center of decision-making.

Matthew Busby, Vice President of Development & Donor Advising, Del Mar College; Executive Director, Del Mar College Foundation

Mark Harmsen, Vice President of Finance & Administration, McLennan Community College
Dr. Margaret Ford Fisher, Chancellor, Houston City College

Moderator: Bonnie Soria Najera, Vice Chair, El Paso Community College Board of Trustees

SPEAKER BIOS

Matthew Busby, Vice President of Development & Donor Advising, Del Mar College; Executive Director, Del Mar College Foundation

Matthew Busby serves as Vice President of Development & Donor Advising at Del Mar College and Executive Director of the Del Mar College Foundation. He oversees fundraising, board and asset management, and scholarship and grant programs, driven by a passion for seeking excellence while building systematic, sustainable, and data-driven initiatives - and by cultivating authentic relationships with philanthropic partners that empower students and strengthen the Coastal Bend community. Since joining Del Mar College in 2019, the Foundation's net assets have doubled to \$47.7 million; over \$12 million has been awarded towards program excellence, and \$16.4 million has been awarded to 13,202 students, including a record \$3.1 million in 2025-26 to 2,173 students. Prior to Del Mar College, Matthew spent a decade in higher education at College of the Mainland and Hill College, serving in financial aid, academic advising, and fundraising.

roles. These experiences shaped his commitment to student success and informed his strategic approach to philanthropy and institutional advancement.

A sixth-generation Texan, Matthew holds a master's degree in Management & Leadership from Western Governors University, a bachelor's in Political Science from Baylor University, and an associate degree from Temple College. He earned his Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) credential in 2017 and served as President of the Texas Association of Community College Foundations, leading a strategic reinvention of the organization. He is active in AFP, TACCF, and the Corpus Christi Estate Planning Council and has presented nationally on fundraising strategies.

Mark Harmsen, Vice President of Finance & Administration, McLennan Community College

Mark Harmsen is the Vice President, Finance and Administration at McLennan Community College (MCC) and has been in this position since July 2024. In his current role, he leads the business office, physical plant, human resources, public safety, financial aid, purchasing/auxiliary services, emergency/risk management, and information technology.

Mark has more than 25 years' experience in Higher Education and Health Care Administration. Prior to joining MCC, Mark held various leadership roles at Central Texas College in Killeen, Texas. Prior to entering higher education, Mark served in executive leadership roles in the field of health care administration at both Kaiser Permanente in Fresno, California and Hillcrest Health System in Waco, Texas.

Mark received his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Baylor University in Waco, Texas and his Master's degree in Health Care Administration from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. Mark is married to Shannon Harmsen and has three children.

Dr. Margaret Ford Fisher, Chancellor, Houston City College

Dr. Margaret Ford Fisher serves as the ninth Chancellor of Houston City College, leading a dynamic seven-college system that serves more than 88,000 students annually across 22 locations. Since joining the institution in 1985, she has advanced through progressively responsible leadership roles, building a distinguished career defined by innovation, excellence, and an unwavering commitment to student success.

A pioneering educator, Dr. Ford Fisher was the inaugural president of HCC Online College, where she expanded access to education and helped establish one of the nation's most recognized online programs, honored by Newsweek as one of "America's Best Online Colleges." She is also a prolific scholar and thought leader who has authored more than 50 publications and four books, including *High School Students Earning College Credit: Guide to Creating Dual Credit Programs*, the first book focused on high school dual credit.

Her influence extends nationally and internationally. She has presented at distinguished forums, including the University & College Teaching and Learning Conference in Lausanne, Switzerland, sharing innovative practices and strengthening global dialogue in higher education.

Dr. Ford Fisher's contributions have earned numerous prestigious honors, including recognition by the Houston Business Journal as one of the region's most influential leaders. Above all, she is a steadfast advocate for students and believes deeply in the power of education to transform lives, strengthen communities, and open doors to limitless possibilities.

Bonnie Soria Najera, Vice Chair, El Paso Community College Board of Trustees

Bonnie Soria Najera serves as Vice Chair of the El Paso Community College Board of Trustees, where she works to advance student success, educational access, and opportunities that strengthen both the college and the community it serves. Her commitment to community college leadership extends statewide through her service on the Board

SPEAKER BIOS (CONT.)

of Directors of the Community College Association of Texas Trustees (CCATT) as West Region Director.

Professionally, Bonnie is Marketing Manager for Ampler Group | Burger King, where she leads local marketing, community engagement, school partnerships, and strategic initiatives across multiple Texas markets. Her work has allowed her to build strong partnerships with school districts, educators, businesses, and community organizations while developing programs that connect corporate resources with local needs.

Bonnie brings together her experience in business, education, and public service with a collaborative approach to leadership. A proud El Pasoan, she is committed to strengthening her community, expanding opportunities for students and families, and helping build partnerships that create meaningful and lasting impact.

Bayland CD

CLOSING & AWARDS

Join us as we wrap up the conference with a celebration of trustee leadership and impact. We will present the Outstanding Leadership Award to honor a trustee whose service has left a lasting mark on Texas community colleges. There will also be a drawing for additional prizes for those who completed the Sponsor Passport Tour. This is a time to reflect on shared accomplishments and look ahead to the continued work that strengthens our institutions.

10:30 AM

CONFERENCE ADJOURNED

We wish you safe travels home! Please remember to respond to our event survey using the QR code on the back of this workbook.

Take-Home Questions for Board Reflection

As you return to your college, we encourage you to carry forward the insights from this conference. Use the questions below to spark conversation with your board, reflect on your governance practices, and consider how lessons shared in Baytown can be applied in your local context.

- 1. Legislative Advocacy** – Which legislators, local officials, or community leaders should our board prioritize for outreach before January 2027, and who will take responsibility for those conversations?
- 2. Policy Priorities** – What specific examples can we use to explain how supplemental appropriations, outcomes-based funding, and local governing board authority affect our students, programs, and community?
- 3. Data & Student Outcomes** – What evidence does our board need to have confidence that degree and certificate completion lead to meaningful workforce outcomes for students and our region?
- 4. Core Curriculum & Degree Pathways** – How can our college prepare to respond to potential changes in core curriculum requirements or the introduction of three-year bachelor's degrees?
- 5. Student Supports & Access** – What barriers most affect persistence and completion for our students, and what board-level decisions could help expand access to effective supports?
- 6. CEO Wellness & Leadership Continuity** – How do our expectations, evaluation process, contract provisions, and leave practices support the CEO's long-term effectiveness and retention?
- 7. Public Communication** – What process should our board, board chair, and CEO follow when responding to media inquiries, citizen concerns, legislative questions, or sensitive internal issues?
- 8. Funding Sustainability** – What should our board understand about the college's revenue strategy, including the role of advancement, donor relationships, and other funding opportunities?
- 9. Workforce Partnerships** – How can our board support partnership strategies that respond to changing regional workforce needs and advance economic mobility?
- 10. Board Culture & Trustee Development** – What should our board do this year to strengthen trustee learning, use of data, and shared understanding of governance roles?

Additionally, we encourage you to visit the CCATT website to explore the **Data-Informed Governance (DIG) Modules**. Each module includes a video and discussion guide designed for individual learning or to be featured in a board meeting, retreat, or workshop.

Texas Leaders on the National Stage

CCATT would like to congratulate the Texas winners of the 2026 Western Regional Awards from the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT)!

Trustee Leadership Award: Dr. Clint Kingsbery, Alamo Colleges District

Professional Board Staff Member Award: Denise Wilson, Alamo Colleges District

CCATT would also like to congratulate and thank Texans who serve on the ACCT Board of Directors, including Dr. Pretta VanDible Stallworth from Houston City College, Carol Scott from Del Mar College, and Dr. Manny Gonzalez from Austin Community College.

We look forward to celebrating together in Chicago next month! Join us on Friday, October 23 for the reception honoring Dr. VanDible Stallworth as the incoming chair of the ACCT Board.

Save the Dates

- **ACCT Leadership Congress** - October 21-24, 2026 (Chicago, IL)
- **CCATT Webinar on Senate Bill 37** - November 5, 2026 (Virtual)
- **THECB Higher EDge Conference** - December 7-9, 2026 (Austin, TX)
- **Community College Day at the Texas Capitol** - January 28, 2027 (Austin, TX)
- **Texas Trusteeship Forum** - January 29, 2027 (Hybrid; Austin, TX)
- **ACCT National Legislative Summit** - February 7-10, 2027 (Washington, DC)
 - **Texas Delegation Breakfast & Briefing** - February 9
- **CCATT Annual Conference** - September 16-18, 2027 (Austin, TX)

2025-2026 CCATT Board of Directors

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Dr. Clint Kingsbery
Alamo Colleges District
South Region Director



'Bel Sanchez
Alvin College
Southeast Region Director



Bonnie Soria Najera
El Paso Community College
West Region Director



Community College Association of Texas Trustees

Thank you for attending the 2026 CCATT Annual Conference!

As you reflect on the important themes and conversations from this year's event, we ask that you please 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.

