



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
Jacob Cottingham, Senior Director of Government Relations, TACC



Community College Association of Texas Trustees

3:00 - 5:00 PM PRE-CONFERENCE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Bayland E

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 S. Kays, Senior Consultant, Community College Association of Texas Trustees

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



Community College Association of Texas Trustees

3:00 - 5:00 PM PRE-CONFERENCE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Mariner (exclusively for board liaisons)

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 DINNER
Bayland CD

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.



Community College Association of Texas Trustees

Thursday, September 17

6:30 - 8:00 PM OPENING PLENARY

Bayland CD

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

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



Community College Association of Texas Trustees

Friday, September 18

8:00 AM - 6:30 PM SPONSOR EXPO

Regency Ballroom

Visit the conference sponsor tables to connect with organizations that support Texas community colleges, learn about 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 BREAKFAST

Bayland CD

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 PLENARY SESSION

Bayland CD

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.



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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

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



11:00 - 11:45 AM BREAKOUT SESSIONS

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

Bayland F

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.



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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

Bayland E

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
- 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



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11:00 - 11:45 AM BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Mariner (exclusively for board liaisons)

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 LUNCH

Bayland CD

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

12:15 - 1:30 PM PLENARY SESSION

Bayland CD

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



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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

1:30 - 2:15 PM

BREAK

Regency Ballroom

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.



2:15 - 3:00 PM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

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

Bayland B

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



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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

Bayland F

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



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- 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

Mariner (exclusively for board liaisons)

Navigating Current & Emerging Issues in Higher Education

Change and developments in higher education continue to occur at a rapid and unremitting 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



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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

Bayland B

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.



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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

Bayland F

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



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Dr. Clint Kingsbery, Trustee, Alamo Colleges District

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

Bayland E

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

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



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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

3:00 - 3:15 PM

BREAK

4:15 - 5:15 PM

PLENARY SESSION

Bayland CD

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



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5:15 - 6:30 PM

NETWORKING RECEPTION

Regency Ballroom & Bayland Terrace

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.

Saturday, September 19

8:00 - 9:00 AM

BREAKFAST

Bayland CD

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

9:00 - 10:30 AM

CLOSING PLENARY

Bayland CD

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



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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

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