

Aporajita (Apola) Ahmed, CPA, CFE, CITP, CGMA, CICA
Internal Audit Lead, Internal Audit and Compliance Monitoring
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Apola Ahmed joined the staff of the Coordinating Board in June 2007 as a Finance and Performance Auditor. She has more than 21 years of internal and external audit and accounting experiences.

Prior to joining the Coordinating Board staff, Ahmed was a Managing Auditor at the Texas Youth Commission (TYC) where she performed highly advanced senior-level work directing management audits and administering departmental activities. Her work involved organizing, planning, coordinating, and reviewing work of internal auditors in TYC's Internal Audit Department; examining and analyzing administrative, operating, and/or accounting records, and reports; identifying opportunities for improvement; and developing recommendations to make improvements. She has also worked at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Texas Department of Human Services (currently, Department of Aging and Disability Services), and National Bank Limited.

Ahmed is the past Chairperson of the Bangladesh Association of Greater Austin (BAGA) and past Director of Network of Asian American Organization (NAAO). She is the past Principal, Director, and Vice President of Austin Bangla School (ABS). Ahmed is currently serving the Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission (by City of Austin) as a Commissioner.

Ahmed is a graduate of University of Dhaka in Bangladesh where she earned both undergraduate and master's degrees in Accounting. She is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), Certified Information Technology Professional (CITP), Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA), Certified Internal Controls Auditor (CICA), and a Cybersecurity Professional.

Cassandre G. Alvarado, Ph.D.
Executive Director of Student Success Initiatives
The University of Texas at Austin

Dr. Cassandre Giguere Alvarado is the Executive Director of Student Success at The University of Texas at Austin (UT-Austin). Over the past five years, she has designed and led student success innovations that have dramatically improved student success at UT-Austin. She was one of the chief architects of the university's recent four-year graduate rate breakthroughs, and her work has been recognized by the Association of Public & Land Grant Universities, the National Academic Advising Association, and the National Resource Center on the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition. In addition to national awards, her innovations in student success have been replicated across the country and within all academic institutions in The University of Texas System.

Alvarado's teaching, research, and professional practice focuses on student success. Alvarado is a Clinical Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy and teaches graduate classes on student success research and strategy. Her current research focuses on innovations in student success, including incentive-based scholarships, academic success programs, and support for underrepresented students. She currently directs the PACE (Path to Admission through Co-Enrollment) Program, an innovative co-enrollment program with Austin Community College. She currently co-chairs UT-Austin's First Generation Commitment Working Group and works with national groups to enhance the success of both first generation and low-income students.

Alvarado is also a faculty affiliate of the Initiative for the Development of Academic Innovation at LASPAU-Harvard University, where she has worked with more than 500 faculty from Latin America and the Caribbean to help improve student success and retention.

An alumna of Leadership Texas (LT'10), Alvarado has served as a member of the committee of the board for the Foundation for Women's Resources. Alvarado holds Bachelor of Journalism, Master of Education, and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from The University of Texas at Austin.

Pamela Anglin, Ed.D.
President
Paris Junior College

Dr. Pamela Anglin has served as President of Paris Junior College (PJC) since 2003. Prior to becoming president of Paris Junior College, Anglin was Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at Grayson County College and the Chief Financial Officer of Blinn College. Anglin is a Certified Public Accountant and taught accounting prior to becoming an administrator. She began her higher education career as a business officer at Texas Christian University. Her education includes an Associate of Science from Grayson County College, BBA from Texas A&M University, MBA from Texas Christian University, and her Ed.D. from Baylor University.

Anglin has served on the American Association of Community Colleges Board of Directors and has served two terms on the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges Board of Trustees.

Anglin's tenure at PJC has included the college participating in Achieving the Dream, a national initiative for student success; being recognized twice as one of the fifty fastest growing community colleges in the nation; and the college being recognized with the 2012 Excellence in Education Award from the Texas Association of Business.

Gilberto Becerra, Jr., MBA
Vice President for Student Success
Alamo Colleges District-Palo Alto College

Gilberto Becerra currently serves as Vice President for Student Success at Palo Alto College. As the Chief Student Affairs Officer, Becerra oversees the Division of Student Success, which is comprised of 17 different functional units and over 120 full- and part-time higher education professionals. During his tenure at Palo Alto College, the institution has been a recipient of the Ruffalo Noel-Levitz Retention Excellence Award and named as a top ten finalist for the 2019 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges.

Becerra has over 17 years of experience in higher education and has served at public, private, two-year, and four-year institutions, previously serving in the roles of Dean for Enrollment Services as well as Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management. His portfolio includes an expansive background in strategic enrollment management and student success as well as student affairs expertise. He has presented at the state and national levels at the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) Technology, College Board, the Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA) Community College Institute, Texas Association for College Admission Counseling (TACAC), Texas Association of Community College Student Affairs Administrators (TACCSAA), Texas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (TACRAO), and the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS-COC) in addition to private consulting.

Becerra holds a Bachelor of Arts from The University of Texas at Austin and a Master of Business Administration from Our Lady of the Lake University.

Ira K. Blake, Ph.D.
President
University of Houston-Clear Lake

Dr. Ira K. Blake became the fifth president of the University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL) in August 2017. She is leading a new era of expectations and impact at one of the region's top public universities. Since arriving at UHCL, President Blake has created a committee to revitalize the university's mission and vision statements. She also has begun the development of the university's next strategic plan that engages the campus, alumni, and community partners. She is committed to continuing the evolution of UHCL into a comprehensive four-year university, focused on the delivery of high-quality educational experiences by outstanding faculty to prepare all students for meaningful roles and careers in the Houston-Galveston metropolitan region and beyond.

Under Blake's leadership, UHCL has continued its upward momentum and reached record enrollment with more than 9,000 students in fall 2018. In addition, the university added new undergraduate and graduate degree programs, including a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, and opened two new facilities, the STEM and Classroom Building and Recreation and Wellness Center. The university advanced two spots in the *U.S. News & World Report* 2019 Best Colleges rankings, tying for 61st among the best regional universities in the west. Nationally, UHCL earned recognition on the lists of best undergraduate business and engineering programs.

Before Blake joined UHCL, she served as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs since 2009 at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, one of 14 regional institutions in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education (PASSHE). From 2001 to 2009, she held high-level positions in PASSHE, first at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania in Kutztown, then at Dixon University Center in Harrisburg. Previously, she served as a faculty member at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, and at Teachers College, Columbia University in New York. She began her professional career as an instructor in language development at Marymount Manhattan College in New York.

Blake received a bachelor's degree in psychology from George Washington University, a master's degree in educational psychology from San Francisco State University, as well as a master's degree and doctorate in developmental psychology from Columbia University. She has spoken and published on topics of language, literacy, ethnicity, culture, socialization, and childhood development.

R. Jerel Booker, J.D.
Assistant Commissioner for College Readiness and Success
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Jerel Booker serves as the Assistant Commissioner for College Readiness and Success for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board where he is responsible for overseeing college readiness, access, student support, and outreach programs designed to increase the state's access to postsecondary credentials. He oversees the statewide GenTX campaign, Apply TX, Advise TX, Work-Study Mentorship, Texas Success Initiative (TSI), and developmental education efforts. Before joining the Coordinating Board staff, he served as the Executive Director of Stand for Children Texas, a national education advocacy nonprofit.

Booker previously served as Associate Commissioner for Educator and Student Policy Initiatives for the Texas Education Agency where he managed all aspects of educator quality and student initiatives in the state, including educator certification, credentialing, standards, differentiated compensation, professional development, investigations, and student health and safety. He oversaw the daily operations of over \$500 million in education initiatives, and over \$6 billion in federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds.

Booker's professional career also includes service as an Associate Vice President for External Affairs at Coppin State University, an education legislative/policy advisor to the Governor of Maryland, as well as the Director of Policy & Legislative Affairs for the Maryland Higher Education Commission. Early in his career, Booker worked as a teacher in the Baltimore City Public School System and taught undergraduate- and graduate-level courses in political science and criminology.

Booker received his Bachelor of Journalism from The University of Texas at Austin, his Master of Science in Criminology from the University of Baltimore, and earned his Juris Doctorate from Howard University School of Law.

Steve Bullard, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Stephen F. Austin State University

Dr. Steve Bullard is Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA). Prior to serving in this role, Bullard served as dean of the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture (2009-2015), and he continues to serve as the Henry M. Rockwell Professor of Forestry at SFA.

From 2004 to 2009, Bullard was chair of the Department of Forestry at the University of Kentucky, and from 1983 to 2004, he served as a faculty member and administrator in forestry at Mississippi State University (MSU).

In 1998, Bullard was awarded MSU's John Grisham Master Teacher Award, the university's highest teaching honor; from 1998 to 2001, he held an endowed professorship at MSU, the Sharp Professor of Forest Economics.

Bullard has recently served as President of the National Association of University Forest Resources Programs (2013-2014). As a faculty member and administrator, Bullard has published over 150 articles and manuscripts, and has coauthored a book titled *Basic Concepts in Forest Valuation and Investment Analysis*. He has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, and an associate editor for three of the leading professional journals in forestry — *Forest Science*, the *Canadian Journal of Forest Research*, and the *Southern Journal of Applied Forestry*.

Bullard is a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters, and is also a member of the Forest Products Society and the Texas Forestry Association. In 2013, he received the Society of American Foresters' Communicator of the Year Award. He was named Alumni Fellow for 2016 by the College of Forest Resources at Mississippi State University.

Bullard holds a B.S. degree in Forestry (1977) and an M.S. degree in Forest Management-Economics (1980) from MSU. He received his Ph.D. in Forest Management-Economics from Virginia Tech in 1983.

Cobby Caputo, J.D.
School Lawyer
Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP

Cobby Caputo is a school lawyer who provides general counsel services to schools and colleges in Texas. He is also a litigator, representing schools and colleges in 1st and 14th Amendment constitutional claims, construction claims, Title VII and Title IX suits, and other civil rights litigation. For thirteen years, Caputo served as a city councilmember in Cedar Park, a fast-growing suburb of Austin. He uses the valuable insights he has gained from his public service to advise boards and other local government clients on governance, open government, and liability issues.

Caputo advises boards on a wide array of legal issues, including policy development, open government issues, student discipline, student and employee rights, personnel, special education and disability rights, purchasing, and construction.

He serves as outside general counsel to Austin Community College and several Texas school districts, and performs special project work for Alamo Colleges, Del Mar College, South Texas College, Austin ISD, and others. He frequently speaks on school law issues and serves as an Adjunct Professor in Concordia University's Graduate School of Education.

Caputo is a member of the Texas Association of Community College Attorneys, the National Education Law Association, the Texas Association of School Boards Council of School Attorneys, the National School Boards Association Council of School Attorneys, and Texas City Attorneys Association. He is admitted to practice before all state and federal courts in Texas, as well as the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court.

Caputo holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from The University of Texas at Austin and a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from The University of Texas School of Law. He was admitted to the Texas bar in 1989.

The Honorable Travis Clardy
Representative, Texas House of Representatives, District 11
State of Texas

Travis Clardy is a small business owner and attorney who get results for our community. Clardy and his wife, Judy, raised four sons in East Texas. He knows the challenges facing his district and will work for families, businesses, and schools.

Clardy has served on the Executive Board of the East Texas Boy Scouts, is a Paul Harris Fellow at the Nacogdoches Rotary Club, is a sponsor of the Heartbeat Pregnancy Center, is an active member of the North Street Church of Christ, participates on the Alumni Advisory Board for Abilene Christian University, and is a member of the Dean's Circle for the Stephen F. Austin State University College of Fine Arts.

Dona Hamilton Cornell, J.D.
Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs and General Counsel
University of Houston System
Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel
University of Houston

Dona Hamilton Cornell became vice chancellor for legal affairs and general counsel for the University of Houston System and vice president for legal affairs and general counsel for the University of Houston in 2002. In these roles, she is responsible for legal services in all areas, including contracts and conveyances, employment law, constitutional law, real estate, intellectual property, federal research, tax, gift matters, governance, open government issues, and other matters applicable to higher education law. Prior to her appointment, she served as deputy chief of the General Litigation Division for the Texas Attorney General's office, was a partner in an Austin-based law firm, and was also an Assistant Attorney General from 1987-1992.

Cornell earned her undergraduate and law degrees from The University of Texas at Austin. Prior to receiving her law degree, she served as a committee clerk and legislative aide in the Texas Legislature.

Jenna Cullinane Hege, Ph.D.
Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Planning
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Dr. Jenna Cullinane Hege joined the staff of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) in June 2016 and serves as the Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Planning in the Division of Strategic Planning and Funding. She and her team leverage the state's vast data resources to inform higher education policy and improve student success and educational equity in Texas. She provides leadership related to the state's *60x30TX* strategic plan, including the statewide roll out of regional targets under the plan.

Before joining the staff of the THECB, Cullinane Hege was strategic policy lead for higher education at The Charles A. Dana Center at The University of Texas at Austin where she worked on policy, evaluation, and scaling of accelerated approaches to developmental and entry-level college education.

Cullinane Hege earned a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Master's in Public Affairs from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin. She completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in Legal Studies and Education at the University of California, Berkeley.

Julie A. Eklund, Ph.D.
Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Funding
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Dr. Julie A. Eklund joined the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board staff in 2005 and was appointed Assistant Commissioner for the Strategic Planning and Funding Division in December 2015. During her 13 years at the agency, she has served in several roles in the strategic planning area. Currently, her responsibilities include overseeing the Education Data Center, and the Strategic Planning and Analysis, Research and Evaluation, and Funding departments. Staff in these areas provide data and analysis support for statewide efforts to reach the goals of the Texas 15-year higher education strategic plan, *60x30TX*.

Eklund holds degrees from Amherst College (BA), Harvard University (EdM), and The University of Texas at Austin (PhD).

Mark Escamilla, Ph.D.
President and CEO
Del Mar College

Dr. Mark Escamilla took the helm as president of Del Mar College in October 2008. Since then, the college has reached new milestones in academic excellence, fiscal responsibility, philanthropy, and collaboration with other educational institutions, business, and industry. During his tenure, Del Mar College has grown to more than 12,000 individual academic students and 10,000 workforce and continuing education students per year.

Escamilla's vision propelled the Del Mar College Foundation to reach \$21 million in total assets, raising \$3.5 million per year for the past five years. The College Capital Improvement Program currently encompasses nearly \$300 million in voter-approved bonds for new campus construction and renovation. In 2010, the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times* named Escamilla "Newsmaker of the Year." He successfully led Del Mar College's reaffirmation of national accreditation in 2011, and its five-year accreditation review in 2016. Among his current commitments, Escamilla serves on the Legislative Committee of the Texas Association of Community Colleges.

Escamilla holds a Ph.D. in educational administration from The University of Texas at Austin, and in 2009, he was selected as a "Distinguished Graduate of the Community College Leadership Program" from the university. A Del Mar College graduate, Escamilla also holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Javier Flores, Ed.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management
Angelo State University

Dr. Javier Flores serves more than ten thousand students as Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at Angelo State University (ASU), a member of the Texas Tech University System located in San Angelo.

A West Texas native from Sonora and first generation college student, Flores earned a Doctorate in Education as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Texas Tech University. He is a board member of Education Reach for Texans, a statewide organization that promotes educational opportunities for youth who experienced the foster care system. He has presented at their annual conference as well as other venues on the subject of higher education. He is a member of the Texas Council of Chief Student Affairs Officers and Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education and is recognized as an innovative leader in the provision of dual credit throughout the central and western part of the state.

Prior to his 2012 arrival at ASU, Flores was affiliated with Howard College, serving as both Dean and Vice President of Student Services. He was honored to be named Howard College's first Provost for the Big Spring Campus in 2010 while also serving 16 months as Interim Provost for the Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf. He has prior service at New Mexico Junior College and New Mexico State University where he received his Master of Arts in Educational Management and Administration. He is an active member of the San Angelo Rotary Club.

William "Bill" Franz, J.D., LL.M.
General Counsel
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

William "Bill" Franz is the General Counsel of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. In that capacity, he serves as the Board's attorney as well as the agency's General Counsel. He consults with and advises the Board and the Commissioner on agency legal matters, including providing legal oversight of and support for policies and programs.

Franz has extensive experience in education and administrative law, labor and employment law, and general business law. He has served as general counsel for several clients in the private sector. In addition, he has litigated nearly 200 cases to conclusion. In the public sector, he also has served as Director of Legal and Enforcement sections as well as Executive Director. Franz has been engaged in the practice of law for over 30 years.

Franz graduated from St. Louis University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting, the University of San Diego School of Law with a Juris Doctor degree, and the Georgetown University Law Center with a Master of Laws degree.

David W. Gardner, Ph.D.

**Deputy Commissioner for Academic Planning and Policy/Chief Academic Officer
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board**

As the Deputy Commissioner for Academic Planning and Policy and Chief Academic Officer, Dr. David Gardner leads the Board's Academic Quality and Workforce Division, College Readiness and Success Division, Strategic Planning and Funding Division, and Innovation and Policy Development Division. His primary responsibilities have included coordination of the Board's efforts toward achieving the goals of the former Texas higher education plan, *Closing the Gaps by 2015*, through academic excellence and research at Texas institutions of higher education. His continuing responsibilities include coordination of the Board's efforts toward meeting the goals of the current Texas higher education plan, *60x30TX*.

Previously, Gardner served the agency as the Associate Commissioner for Academic Excellence and Research and as the Assistant Commissioner for Planning and Information Resources. Gardner provided leadership for statewide initiatives such as *Closing the Gaps by 2015*; the college and university electronic library resource sharing consortium; the Texas Accountability System for Higher Education; and the Texas Public Education Information Resource, which includes information on all students enrolled in Texas public schools, as well as both public and private higher education institutions in Texas. He served as an affiliate for Columbia University's Center for Analysis of Postsecondary Education and Employment (CAPSEE), and currently is a member of the Texas Workforce Commission's Jobs & Education for Texans (JET) Advisory Board and the Texas Space Grant Consortium.

Prior to joining the Coordinating Board staff in 1985, Gardner was on the faculty at Hofstra University where he taught in the master's and doctoral programs in the Administration and Policy Studies Department. While at Hofstra, he was director of the master's program, chaired the university's planning committee, and served on the graduate council and the scholarships committee. He also has been a visiting professor at Texas A&M University and an adjunct professor at The University of Texas at Austin.

Gardner earned his Ph.D. and master's degree from Texas A&M University and his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Houston.

Fernando C. Gomez, J.D., Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor and General Counsel
Texas State University System

Born in Gallup, New Mexico, Fernando C. Gomez earned degrees from the University of New Mexico (B.A. *cum laude*) and the University of Michigan (J.D. and Ph.D., American Culture). He attained tenure at Michigan State University before serving as assistant attorney general in Michigan and in Texas, and as California State University System general counsel. He has served as Texas State University System vice chancellor and general counsel for 28 years (1986-1990 and 1994-Present). He has authored three books, and he has consulted and lectured on higher education and legal topics throughout the United States and overseas, including Cuba and Yemen.

In December 2011, Texas Review Press published *A Texas State of Mind*, a book edited by Gomez, commemorating the Texas State University System, and its colleges and universities, in celebration of the System's centennial year.

Billy C. Hamilton
Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer
Texas A&M University System

Billy Hamilton is Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer of the Texas A&M University System. TAMUS is one of the largest systems of higher education in the nation, with a statewide network of 11 universities, seven state agencies, two service units, and a comprehensive health science center.

Prior to his current position, Hamilton was a consultant in tax, fiscal policy, and related issues. In this capacity, he works with a wide range of public and private clients. He continues to write a regular column on state tax issues for the national publication *State Tax Notes*.

Prior to January 2007, Hamilton was Chief Deputy Comptroller of Public Accounts of Texas. He was appointed to that position in January 1999 by Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn. Hamilton previously served as Deputy Comptroller for seven years from 1991 to February 1998. In the interim, he was in private practice. As Deputy Comptroller, Hamilton was responsible for the day-to-day management of the Comptroller's office. Hamilton retired from state service in late 2006.

Hamilton has also served on special assignment as Co-Executive Director of the California Performance Review for Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The CPR's 2,500 page assessment of California government, *A Government for the People for a Change*, was released in July 2004.

Prior to joining the Comptroller in 1991, Hamilton was director of state and local services for the Policy Economics Group of KPMG Peat Marwick in Washington, D.C. He served in that position from 1987 through 1990. In 1986-87, Hamilton was executive director of the Select Committee on Tax Equity, a panel created by the Texas Legislature to study the state's tax structure. Prior to his work with the Select Committee, Hamilton worked for the Texas Association of Taxpayers, a business group interested in tax policy and fiscal responsibility in Texas government. From 1982-86, Hamilton was Associate Deputy Comptroller for Fiscal Management and Chief Revenue Estimator with the Comptroller of Public Accounts. He was also research director for the Comptroller.

Hamilton is past president of the national Federation of Tax Administrators and the National Tax Association. He has served on the board of directors of the Federation of Tax Administrators, the Multistate Tax Commission, and the National Tax Association. He has served as a member of the board of directors of Quality Texas and also served as a board member of the national Electronic Benefits Council. He was the first recipient (1998) of the Bob Bullock Award for Public Stewardship. He is a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration.

Hamilton is a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin and the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs. He was recognized as the first recipient of the LBJ School's Distinguished Alumni Award in 1987.

Brenda Hellyer, CPA, Ed.D.
Chancellor
San Jacinto College

In 2009, Dr. Brenda Hellyer was appointed chancellor of San Jacinto College, Texas' ninth largest community college, serving over 45,000 students annually, at four campuses and several extension centers. San Jacinto College is located in East Harris County, Texas surrounded by the Houston ship channel, petrochemical industry, and Johnson Space Center. San Jacinto College was named a 2017 Rising Star recipient by The Aspen Institute for Community College Excellence, placing it among the top 5 in the nation of more than 1,100 community colleges. San Jacinto College also has been named a top 10 finalist for the 2019 Aspen Institute for Community College Excellence.

Hellyer holds a bachelor's of science degree in accounting from Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas, a master's degree in business administration from The University of Texas at Austin, and a doctorate degree in community college leadership from The University of Texas at Austin. She received the Distinguished Graduate Award from the College of Education at The University of Texas at Austin in spring 2009. She is also a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) licensed in Texas.

Hellyer has served on a variety of community boards and committees, including chambers of commerce, economic development councils, city and county government, and non-profit organizations. She has been recognized with various awards, including: Western Region CEO of the Year from the Association of Community College Trustees, One of Houston's 50 Most Influential Women, and the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year.

Christine Hubbard, Ph.D.
President
North Texas Community College Consortium

Dr. Christine Hubbard has served as President of the North Texas Community College Consortium since September of 2014. She has more than 25 years of experience working in higher education. She has taught at the University of North Texas, The University of Texas at Arlington (UTA), and at four of the five campuses of Tarrant County College District. At UTA, she worked as the Coordinator for Developmental Reading and Writing and then as Coordinator of Student Success Programs, which administered the Year One at UTA program and coordinated all academic support services on the UTA campus.

Hubbard began her career at Tarrant County College as an adjunct instructor on the Southeast Campus, and she taught as an adjunct on the Northeast and South Campuses before joining the full-time faculty in the Northwest Campus English Department in 2002. During her time at Tarrant County College Northwest Campus, she served as president of the faculty association and as department chair for English, Reading, and Developmental Studies. She won the Tarrant County College Chancellor's Award for Exemplary Teaching for 2009, and she served as Achieving the Dream Campus Coordinator for the Northwest Campus. From 2011-2013, Hubbard served as Humanities Division Dean for the Northwest Campus, where she oversaw the Visual Arts, Communications, English, Academic Foundations, Performing Arts, Humanities, and Philosophy departments. Hubbard next served as Director of Academic Operations for the Tarrant County College (TCC) District and finally as Vice President of Academic Operations for TCC Connect, the administrative unit of Tarrant County College District responsible for eLearning, Dual Credit, and Weekend College.

Hubbard has extensive experience creating and delivering professional development. She collaborated on the creation of the Tarrant County College District New Faculty Orientation and served on the planning committee for the event 2008-2013. She served as the Achieving the Dream Campus Coordinator for the Tarrant County College Northwest Campus, and in this role developed and led monthly campus-wide professional development events. She was the program chair for the Community College Humanities Association national conference in 2011 and has served as co-chair and on the planning committee for the North Texas Community College Consortium Developmental Education Regional Forums from 2007-2012.

Hubbard is a product of the North Texas Community College Consortium. She has actively participated in Consortium events since 2003 and is a graduate of the 2005-2006 Consortium Leadership and Renewal Academy (CLARA) program.

Hubbard earned a Bachelor of Arts in English; Master of Arts in Radio, Television, and Film; and Doctor of Philosophy in English from the University of North Texas.

Thomas Keaton, MPA
Director of Finance and Resource Planning
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Tom Keaton is the Director of Finance and Resource Planning at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Prior to joining the Coordinating Board staff, Keaton served as the Director of Planning and Administration at Texas Tech University. In the higher education arena, he has been intricately involved in numerous operational and strategic initiatives, as well as legislative issues.

Keaton earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Excelsior College and his Master of Public Administration from Texas Tech University.

Mary E. Knight, CPA, CISA
Special Assistant to the Senior Vice President and CFO
The University of Texas at Austin

Mary E. Knight has worked at The University of Texas at Austin for thirty-six years. She is currently serving as the Special Assistant to the Senior Vice President and CFO responsible for overseeing Budget and Financial Information Systems and handling special projects and analyses for the university. She previously served as Associate Vice President for Finance, Budget Director, Payroll Manager, and Assistant Director in the Office of Internal Audits. During 2015, she served as Interim Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. She is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Information Systems Auditor.

Knight is currently serving as the Treasurer of The Bakari Foundation, and previously served on the Board of the University Federal Credit Union and Austin Child Guidance Center. She continues to volunteer with the Austin Child Guidance Center.

Knight graduated from The University of Texas at Austin in 1982 with a BBA in Accounting. She is also a 2004 graduate of Leadership Texas, a professional development program for women.

Barbara D'Auria Lerner, Ph.D.
Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies and Academic Partnerships
Texas Woman's University

Dr. Barbara D'Auria Lerner serves Texas Woman's University as Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies and Academic Partnerships. She brings more than 35 years' experience as a teacher, scholar, administrator, and consultant. Her research and teaching have focused on collaboration in education. As Vice Provost, she oversees core curriculum and undergraduate academic programs, the TWU Honors Programs, and the Pioneer Center for Student Excellence, as well as collaborative activities in which TWU engages with school districts and two-year colleges to establish seamless transitions in preschool through postsecondary education. Lerner served as liaison to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for the Regional Targets Initiative in the north central Texas (Metroplex) region. On behalf of TWU, she coordinates efforts among K-12 educators, community colleges, four-year public and private colleges and universities, regional chambers of commerce, and business and industry partners, to increase college readiness and success across the Dallas-Ft. Worth metropolitan area.

A strong advocate of education and community partnerships, Lerner serves on the Board of Directors of the Young Women's Preparatory Network (supporting single-gender public education for girls), the Dallas Regional Chamber of Commerce Education and Workforce Council, the Ft. Worth Quality Workforce Board, and the Denton ISD Education Advisory Board, and facilitates numerous regional education initiatives.

Lerner was recognized by the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students as the recipient of the 2018 NISTS Transfer Catalyst Award.

Born and raised in New Jersey, Lerner holds degrees from The George Washington University (B.A.- Psychology, M.A.- Early Childhood and Special Education) and from Texas Woman's University (Ph.D.- Special Education).

Paul Maeyaert, JD, MBA, CIA, CGAP
Auditor, Internal Audit and Compliance Monitoring
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Paul Maeyaert joined the staff of the Coordinating Board in 2014 as a Federal Grant Specialist and later joined the compliance monitoring team as a Compliance Specialist.

Prior to joining the Coordinating Board staff, Maeyaert's work experience included eight years in finance and higher education. He directed student business account functions, including funding and reconciliation of federal and state grant programs, and monitoring, identifying, assessing, and implementing changes to internal controls, policies, and procedures. Maeyaert also led a software integration project that provided enhanced control of general ledger data between student accounts management software and accounting software, including identifying risks, developing control procedures, identifying and mapping general ledger accounts, and testing systems.

Maeyaert graduated from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. He also holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Globe University in Woodbury, Minnesota, and a Juris Doctor degree from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota. He is a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) and Certified Government Auditing Professional (CGAP).

Rose M. Martinez, Ph.D.
Director of Trustee Strategies
Community College Association of Texas Trustees

Dr. Rose M. Martinez currently serves as the Director for Trustee Strategies at the Community College Association of Texas Trustees. She also is a Clinical Professor for the Roueche Graduate Center at National American University.

In her 25 years of leadership in higher education, Martinez has led efforts in state policy analysis and advocacy, higher education campaign implementation, pre-college outreach, and student support programs. She has held positions of leadership at the University of California, Irvine; the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; and The University of Texas at Austin. She most recently served as the State Policy Consultant for Lumina Foundation. Martinez is the recipient of seven academic fellowships, including the ASHE/Lumina Foundation Fellowship and several competitive research grants.

Martinez received her doctorate in educational administration and Master of Public Affairs from The University of Texas at Austin. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Betty A. McCrohan, M.Ed.
President
Wharton County Junior College

Betty A. McCrohan has been President of Wharton County Junior College since June of 2001. Prior to becoming president, she held the title of Executive Vice-President of Administrative Services.

As President of Wharton County Junior College, McCrohan has overseen the openings of three new campuses, one in Matagorda County and two in Fort Bend County. She also has seen the college reach its highest enrollment to date, with more than 7,400 students.

McCrohan has worked in education for the past 41 years. Prior to joining Wharton County Junior College in 1989, she held several positions at Houston Community College, including Dean of Financial Affairs and Planning, Chief Financial Officer, Director of Budget and Compliance, and Programs Specialist-Assistant to the Vocational Dean. Other positions include: Statistician for the Post-Secondary Division of Occupational Education and Technology in Austin; Clerical Supervisor for the Adult Education Division of Occupational Education and Technology in Austin; and Elementary Teacher for Austin Independent School District.

McCrohan holds a Masters of Education degree with a major in Higher Education Administration from the University of Houston and a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Education from Angelo State University.

Raymund A. Paredes, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Higher Education
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Dr. Raymund A. Paredes is Texas Commissioner of Higher Education and CEO of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Paredes spent most of his academic career at UCLA where for 30 years he taught as an English professor and served for 10 years as vice chancellor for academic development. In addition, he served as special assistant to the president of the University of California System in outreach efforts to improve access to higher education for students from educationally disadvantaged communities.

Prior to joining the Coordinating Board, Paredes was director of creativity and culture at the Rockefeller Foundation.

Paredes has served on the national board of directors of Big Brothers Big Sisters; he also served as a trustee of The College Board and Mercy College of New York, and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Texas Cultural Trust. He currently serves on the board of the Association of American Colleges and Universities. In 2007, he was named one of Hispanic Business Magazine's 100 Most Influential Hispanics.

Paredes was born and raised in El Paso, Texas. He attended The University of Texas at Austin, receiving a B.A. in English. He served in the U.S. Army for two years, including a 14-month tour with the First Infantry Division in Vietnam. After separation from military service, he resumed his education, receiving a master's degree in American Studies from the University of Southern California and his Ph.D. in American Civilization from The University of Texas at Austin.

Rex C. Peebles, Ph.D.
Assistant Commissioner, Academic Quality and Workforce
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Dr. Rex Peebles serves as the Assistant Commissioner for Academic Quality and Workforce at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). Before joining the staff of the THECB, he served as the Vice President of Instruction for Midland College. Prior to moving to Midland, Peebles spent 20 years at Austin Community College as Professor of Government, Department head of Government, and Dean of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

He has experience in facility planning, development, and construction; curriculum evaluation and assessment; budget planning and maintenance; course scheduling; faculty evaluation; grant management; and new program creation. He has co-authored a Texas state and local government textbook, *Texas Politics and Government: Ideas, Institutions, and Policies*. He also has authored *The Theoria and Praxis of Obligations to Future Generations*. In 2010, he was the recipient of the Ray Williams Outstanding Leadership Award from the Texas Community College Instructional Administrators (TCCIA). Peebles is a past President of TCCIA.

Peebles has served as chair or vice-chair for several advisory committees, some directly related to the THECB, such as the Academic Course Guide Manual Advisory Committee, the THECB's committee that created the Associate of Arts in teaching, and the Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee. He also served as a co-chair of the LEAP Texas Task Force prior to coming to the THECB.

Peebles earned his Bachelor of Arts in political science from The University of Texas at Dallas, his master's in political science from The University of Texas at Arlington, and his doctorate in government from The University of Texas at Austin.

Michael L. Reeser
Chancellor & CEO
Texas State Technical College System

As Chancellor & CEO of the Texas State Technical College (TSTC) System, Michael Reeser leads the only state-supported technical college system in Texas. Under Reeser's leadership, TSTC has become well known as an innovator in higher education, with the most noteworthy being the Returned-Value Funding Formula, a wholly outcomes-based approach to state funding. Also, TSTC is the only college in Texas to offer its students a money back employment guarantee.

Prior to being appointed Chancellor in 2010, Reeser served TSTC in various roles, including chief financial officer, college president, vice president, and dean of instruction.

In the early half of his career, Reeser was a banker and served in executive and management roles in Waco and Houston.

Reeser holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A&M University and a Masters of Business Administration from The University of Texas at Arlington.

Kevin P. Reilly, Ph.D.

**President Emeritus and Regent Professor, University of Wisconsin System
Senior Fellow, Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges**

Dr. Kevin Reilly is President Emeritus and Regent Professor with the 26-campus University of Wisconsin (UW) System, having served as president from 2004–2013. In collaboration with the UW Board of Regents and the Chancellors, he developed the "Growth Agenda for Wisconsin," a long-term vision and strategic framework for what the university needed to do to help Wisconsin and the nation be more competitive in the global knowledge economy. Under his leadership, enrollment grew to 182,000—an all-time high—and sponsored research continued to expand beyond \$1 billion annually.

Reilly served as Chancellor of UW-Extension from 2000 to 2004 and as Provost and Vice Chancellor of Extension from 1996 to 2000. A native of New York City, he came to Wisconsin from the State University of New York (SUNY) System, where he was Associate Provost for Academic Programs and then Secretary of the University. In the latter role, he was the corporate officer staffing the SUNY Board of Trustees.

He is currently a member of the Higher Education Working Group on Global Issues for the Council on Foreign Relations and the Steering Committee for the Celtic Studies Program at UW-Madison. He has also served as the President of the National Association of System Heads.

He is author and editor of books and articles on higher education leadership, policy, and accreditation, among other topics in literature and Irish studies. Among his awards and honors are the Signature of Excellence Award from the University Professional & Continuing Education Association, the Chancellor's Medallion from UW-Oshkosh, and a commendation from the Senate of Wisconsin for his contributions to the state.

Reilly earned his B.A. at the University of Notre Dame and his M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota.

Timothy M. Renick, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President for Student Success and Professor of Religious Studies
Georgia State University

Dr. Timothy M. Renick is Senior Vice President for Student Success and Professor of Religious Studies at Georgia State University. At Georgia State, he has served as Chair of the Department of Religious Studies and Director of the Honors Program. Since 2008, he has directed the student success and enrollment efforts of the university, overseeing among the fastest improving graduation rates in the nation and the elimination of all achievement gaps based on students' race, ethnicity, or income level. Dr. Renick has testified on strategies for helping university students succeed before the United States Senate and has twice been invited to speak at the White House. His work has been covered by the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Time*, and CNN and cited by President Obama. He was named one of 2016's Most Innovative People in Higher Education by *Washington Monthly*, was the recipient of the 2015-16 Award for National Leadership in Student Success Innovation, and was awarded the 2018 McGraw Prize in Higher Education. He currently is principal investigator for a \$9 million U.S. Department of Education grant to study the impact of predictive-analytics-based advisement on ten-thousand low-income and first-generation students nationally.

A *summa cum laude* graduate of Dartmouth College, Renick holds his M.A. and Ph.D. in Religion from Princeton University.

Richard M. Rhodes, Ph.D.
President and CEO
Austin Community College District

Since joining the Austin Community College (ACC) District in September 2011, Dr. Richard Rhodes has worked to improve pathways into higher education, strengthen awareness of the community college mission, and give students the tools to accomplish their educational, professional, and personal goals.

A native of Alamogordo, New Mexico, Rhodes received his Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting and Master of Arts in Educational Management and Development from New Mexico State University. He earned his doctorate through the Community College Leadership Program at The University of Texas at Austin, receiving its Distinguished Graduate Award in 2001.

His professional associations include the American Association of Community Colleges' 21st Century Commission on the Future of Community Colleges; Board Member of the Texas Student Success Council; Board Member of the Texas Workforce Investment Council; and Past Chair of the Texas Association of Community Colleges. Rhodes also is a Board Member for the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation, the Carnegie Foundation, the Educational Testing Service National Community College Advisory Council, and a member of the STEM Higher Education Council.

Rhodes is active in the community, serving as Past Chair of the Board for American YouthWorks as well as serving on the boards of local Chambers of Commerce. He also is a member of the board of the Boy Scouts of America, Capitol Area Council; Austin Partners in Education; and the E3 Alliance.

Prior to joining ACC, Rhodes served as President of El Paso Community College for 10 years and as Vice President of Business Services at Salt Lake Community College in Salt Lake City, Utah, for seven years. He is a Certified Public Accountant in Texas and New Mexico.

John Rome
Deputy Chief Information Officer
Arizona State University

John Rome is the Deputy Chief Information Officer and a 20+ year employee at Arizona State University (ASU). He is an experienced IT leader, educator, consultant, technologist, and innovator with a long history of working in higher education.

Rome is a pioneer of data warehousing in higher education, building ASU's data warehouse in the early 1990's. He is also an instructor in the ASU W.P. Carey School of Business. His areas of expertise include information technology strategy, analytics/business intelligence, data governance, organization development, program management, big data, public cloud development and deployment, and most recently, voice-enabled interfaces. His special interests include student mentoring, learning science, and now voice enabling the world. He is a two-time recipient of ASU's President's Award for Innovation.

Rome holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Clarke University in Iowa and an MBA from Arizona State University.

**James Henry Russell, CPA
President
Texarkana College**

President James Henry Russell is the eighth president of Texarkana College and began his term in June 2011. Texarkana College is a comprehensive community college established in 1927 with over 7,000 students enrolled annually.

President Russell's professional experience includes working as a licensed CPA and as the former superintendent of the Texarkana Independent School District. He has served the community as past chairman of the Texarkana Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of Greater Texarkana, and president of his Rotary Club. He also has served on several state committees, including his election to the Texas Education Agency Commissioner's Cabinet of Superintendents.

President Russell holds a BBA in accounting from Texas A&M University and a master's degree in education administration from Texas A&M University-Texarkana. He also holds a Texas Principal Certification and a Texas Superintendent Certification.

The Honorable Kel Seliger
Senator, Texas Senate, District 31
State of Texas

Kel Seliger was first elected to the Texas Senate in 2004. Senate District 31 spans 37 counties from the Panhandle to the Permian Basin and includes Amarillo, Midland, Odessa, and Big Spring.

Born in Amarillo and raised in Borger, Senator Seliger is a graduate of Borger public schools and Dartmouth College. He spent 35 years in the steel industry.

Senator Seliger currently serves as Chairman of the Senate Higher Education Committee and is a member of the Senate Education Committee, Senate Finance Committee, and Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development.

Senator Seliger has been recognized by many groups for his conservative principles as well as his dedication to small government and local control. He has been named a Fighter for Free Enterprise by the Texas Association of Business four times for his steadfast support of policies that encourage and promote a healthy business climate in Texas. Seliger is privileged to be the recipient of the Texas Municipal League Legislator of the Year Award, Texas Conservative Coalition's Conservative Champion Award, Texas Association of Counties Friend of County Government Award, Texas Wildlife Association's Conservation Hero Award, the Conservative Roundtable of Texas' Effective Conservative Lawmaker, and the Texas Parent Teacher Association Legislative Honor Roll.

During the 85th Legislative Session, as Chairman of the Senate Higher Education Committee, Senator Seliger secured an additional \$1.07 million in funding for The University of Texas of the Permian Basin (UTPB) College of Engineering, which will be used to expand the chemical and electrical engineering programs. Additionally, \$4.2 million is provided to UTPB as a hold harmless, to ensure the school does not lose more than 10 percent of its state funding. Senator Seliger also succeeded in securing \$4.17 million for Texas Tech University's future Veterinary Medical School.

As part of his continued service on the Education Committee, Seliger authored Senate Bill 463, a bill that extends the option of Individual Graduation Committees for students who passed all of their courses but failed to pass up to two state-mandated tests.

Chairman Seliger and Representative John Smithee championed House Bill 1463 to reduce frivolous lawsuits and aggressive shake-down tactics related to the Americans with Disabilities Act that harm small business in Texas. Together Smithee and Seliger also passed Senate Bill 654, which will help improve access to health care in rural and medically underserved parts of Texas.

Prior to his election to the Texas Senate, Senator Seliger served four terms as Mayor of Amarillo and as a member of the Amarillo City Commission and the Amarillo Civil Service Commission.

He and his wife Nancy reside in Amarillo, and have two sons, Jonathan and Matthew.

Mary Sherwood, Ph.D.
Regent
Del Mar College

Dr. Mary Sherwood was appointed in June 2018 to fill an unexpired term on the Del Mar College Board of Regents. She served 27 years with the Texas A&M University System, with the last 12 years as chief of staff to the president of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Responsibilities included strategic planning; legislative communications; presidential communication; institutional research; and compliance with requirements from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Southern Association of Colleges and University Commission on Colleges, and the Texas A&M University System.

The focus of her dissertation was strategic planning in higher education, and she has been involved in development of strategic plans for Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, the Texas A&M University System, Texas A&M University, and Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

Sherwood earned a doctorate in higher education administration from Texas A&M University, a master's degree in public administration from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, and an undergraduate degree in photojournalism from The University of Texas at Austin. Prior to her career in higher education administration, she was a journalist for 11 years.

Sherwood currently serves on the boards of South Texas Public Broadcasting and the Corpus Christi Literary Reading Series. Since retiring, she is also finding time for bike riding, becoming a Master Gardener, and updating her photography skills with 21st century technology.

Mary E. Smith, Ph.D.
Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Academic Planning and Policy
Alternative Dispute Resolution Coordinator
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Mary E. Smith has been a staff member of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board since 1987 and now serves as the Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Academic Planning and Policy. In this role, she is responsible for the administration and management of matters related to the Board's higher education academic planning and policy functions, and she provides leadership and coordination on key projects, conferences, and meetings that cut across divisions of the agency. Smith also serves as the agency's Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Coordinator for negotiated rulemaking. In this role, she is responsible for managing the agency's consensus-based process of developing policies, procedures, or rules relating to certain matters in collaboration with stakeholders who have shared interests. She has taught communication courses at The University of Texas at Austin and at St. Edward's University, and she has made a number of presentations at various academic and professional conventions and conferences.

Smith served for five years as a program director in the Coordinating Board's former Division of Universities and Health-Related Institutions where her primary responsibilities included the review of new degree program proposals and the administration of the Minority Health Research and Education Grant Program. Smith spent her first 12 years of employment with the Coordinating Board in the Department of Personnel Services, where from 1996 to 1999 she served as the department's assistant director. Prior to her employment with the Coordinating Board, Smith spent 13 years working in health care organizations, with nine of those years serving in direct patient care positions.

Smith holds a Ph.D. in Communication Studies, a Certificate in Dispute Resolution, a Master of Arts degree in Speech Communication, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology, all from The University of Texas at Austin.

Neil Vickers, CPA
Executive Vice President, Finance and Administration
Austin Community College

As Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration, Neil Vickers is Chief Financial Officer, directly responsible for Austin Community College's (ACC) budget, financing, and investment activities. In addition to these responsibilities, Vickers oversees a number of departments within the Finance and Administration division, including Business Services, Human Resources, Information Technology, and Facilities & Construction. He also oversees the offices of Business Processes & Initiatives and Institutional Records.

Vickers has served in a number of positions at ACC since 1997. Prior to taking the position of Executive Vice President, he held the titles of Vice President of Finance & Budget, Budget Coordinator, Financial Report Specialist, and Accounts Payable Specialist.

Vickers earned a bachelor's degree in Mathematics from The University of Texas at Austin, and a Master of Accountancy from Texas State University. He has been a licensed Certified Public Accountant since 2003. Vickers has also taught for the ACC Accounting Department as an Adjunct Faculty.

Shayne A. West
Chief Budget Officer
Alamo Colleges District

Shayne West has been the Chief Budget Officer at the Alamo Colleges District (Alamo Colleges) since 2012. West is responsible for directing and coordinating the annual budget process for Alamo Colleges' \$500 million annual operating and capital budget. He oversees a wide range of internal and external financial reporting & analysis functions, as well as long-term and strategic planning activities. West prepares the biennial Legislative Appropriations Request for submission to the Legislative Budget Board, and reviews and prepares fiscal notes during legislative sessions. Before joining Alamo Colleges, West had 20 years of progressively responsible experience in the private sector, primarily in the telecommunications industry.

He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Accounting from Harding University in Arkansas.

Monique Lee Whitley
Coordinator, Texas Emergency Aid Network
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Monique Lee Whitley works at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) in the Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Academic Planning and Policy. She is the Program Coordinator and Lead Facilitator for the Texas Emergency Aid Network (EA Net), a group of higher education representatives formed to research, discuss, and disseminate promising and best practices for college- and university-based emergency aid programs. She has been invited to speak both statewide and nationally on the topic of emergency aid, and most recently coordinated the *Advocating for Emergency Aid Programs in Higher Education Statewide Convening* that the THECB held September 10-11, 2018, in Austin with grant support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Before joining the THECB staff, Whitley lived and worked in Houston, Texas. She was a College Access and Success Advisor and Program Coordinator for Project GRAD Houston until February 2017, helping students by connecting them with available campus services and giving guidance on balancing the demands of college, work, and family life. Prior to that, Whitley spent almost six years in the Office of Financial Aid at Lone Star College-Tomball (LSC-TB), where she successfully coordinated the Scholarship, Hazlewood, and Financial Aid Outreach programs for the Tomball campus and trained other LSC campus leads on program best practices.

Whitley received her Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts from Lone Star College and graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences from the College of Public Affairs and Community Service at the University of North Texas. Whitley brings over 30 years of experience in management, administration, and customer service to her current role at the THECB.

Douglas A. Wilson, Ph.D.
Instructional Designer
Center for Teaching Excellence
Southern Methodist University

Douglas A. Wilson is an instructional designer whose research focuses on the scholarship of teaching and learning, design thinking, instructional design, and learning technologies. After earning his doctorate, Wilson joined Southern Methodist University as instructional designer in the Center for Teaching Excellence. As a former full-time faculty member at Richland College in Dallas, Wilson taught community college journalism and developmental writing.

Wilson has published several peer-reviewed research articles related to teaching and learning in journals such as *Systemic Practice and Action Research*, *Thinking Skills and Creativity*, *Community College Journal of Research and Practice*, *NACADA Journal*, and *NADE Digest*. Wilson also teaches online as an Adjunct Professor in Higher Education and Learning Technologies at Texas A&M University-Commerce. He has worked on large- and small-scale instructional design projects in higher education. In his first career, Wilson worked as a television news reporter.

Wilson holds a Ph.D. in Learning, Design, and Technology from The Pennsylvania State University and a Master of Science in Journalism from Columbia University.