



**STUDENT ACTIVITIES CONFERENCE
WALNUT GROVE HS, PROSPER ISD-PROSPER
OCTOBER 21, 2023**

ROOM NUMBERS WILL BE ADDED BY OCTOBER 13.

ACADEMIC COORDINATORS/COACHES

ACADEMIC COORDINATORS: Dr. David Stevens, UIL director of academics

9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

(This session is scheduled as a late start to accommodate those getting students into sessions.)

- **High School Academic Coordinators and Coaches Update.** This is an overview for academic coordinators and coaches for creating a successful UIL Academic program. We will cover tips on recruiting, planning and organizing, as well as dates, forms, resources and where to get help. Dr. David Stevens, UIL director of academics.

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **From the Coordinator's Perspective.** This will cover the basics for those new to the coordinator role as well as veterans. This is one successful coordinators ideas for recruiting, retention, contest preparations, travel ideas and lots of opportunity to ask questions. Shawna Lynch, Keller HS.

12:15 p.m. -1:15 p.m.

(This session is scheduled to end early to accommodate for departure from the conference.)

- **Strategies for Hosting and Attending an Invitational or District Meet.** Procedures and practices for those interested in hosting or having to host a meet, whether it is a small invitational or your district. Ideas for what you can do as an attendee to help make things run smoothly will also be shared. Shannon Dorrell, Denton Ryan HS.

ACCOUNTING: Kay Whitton, state contest director

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- **Succeeding (LaVerne) with Success: The Future of the UIL Accounting Contest.** Incoming UIL State Accounting Contest Director Kay Whitton will share her vision for the future of the accounting competition, as well as share online resources and strategies for success for all coaches, novice and experienced.

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **Accounting Contest for Novices (experienced folks welcome too!).** Review of contest procedures and demonstration of a problem-solving techniques for a simple district-level concept that can be applied to a variety of problem formats.

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS: Linda Tarrant, state contest director

- Computer Applications sessions **WILL NOT** be held at this event. Handouts and presentation information are available on the conference website or you may email academics@uiltexas.org.

CURRENT ISSUES & EVENTS: Dr. Bradley Wilson, state contest director*10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.*

- **Keeping it Current.** The Current Issues and Events contest is designed to help students stay informed about more than what Elon Musk has done with Twitter, including issues at the local, state, national and international levels. Students become more informed members of society and more culturally aware. Over time, the contest evolves. Come discuss this evolution.

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- **Preparing to Write an Essay.** Come discuss and learn techniques on how to write an essay that covers the topic and earns 20% of the total score in Current Issues & Events and Social Studies. Review how essay writing is a valuable skill, helping students prepare for college and any work environment.

ESSAY CONTESTS & A+ Academics: Lisa Parker, UIL director*9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.*

- **UIL Essay Contests:** These contests offer students the unique opportunity to learn about an extraordinary Texan influence and become a UIL state finalist through submitting one paper online. Learn more about these incredible events and how to be successful.

10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

- **UIL A+ Academics:** Bring any and all questions you have about UIL Academics for students in grades 2-8. This will be an informal session where I will cover the basics if you need them and/or offer some ideas for growth with your A+ Academic program.

JOURNALISM: Alyssa Boehringer, UIL director of journalism*9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.*

- **Copy Editing 101.** This contest means more than checking spelling. Involving a skill that truly helps students prepare for college and the workforce, come discuss the Copy Editing contest, everything from tips on teaching editing to taking and grading the test. Learn different levels of editing from checking grammar and style to assessing the legal and ethical implications of mass media contest. Bradley Wilson, contest director.

9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- **UIL News is Good News.** This session will focus on the basics of how to write a news story from a UIL news prompt. Alyssa Boehringer, UIL journalism director.

10:45 a.m. – 11:20 p.m.

- **Get a Head Start in Headlines.** This session will focus on the criteria for writing solid headlines. We'll read some not-so-great ones too. Jon Nielson, Forney HS.

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **Feature This.** It's all about the lead. This session will focus on feature leads, story flow and what makes a good feature story. Alyssa Boehringer, UIL journalism director.

12:15 p.m. – 12:40 p.m.

- **Take a Stand with Editorials.** In this session, we will explore the structure for editorial writing and share tips and strategies. Alyssa Boehringer, UIL journalism director.

12:50 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

- **Coaching with Care.** Let's talk about all things Texas scholastic journalism and give coaches a chance to ask lingering questions. Alyssa Boehringer, UIL journalism director

LITERARY CRITICISM: Mark Bernier, state contest director*9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.*

- **The Absolute Basics.** Introducing the contest to students and coaches new to the challenge (introduction to poetry explication included).

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **Poetry Explication for the Contest.** Review poetry in terms of the contest's expectations.

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- **The 2024 Reading List.** Review the reading list and the part 4's Tie-Breaking Essay.

READY WRITING: Ruben Rodriguez, state contest director*9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.*

- **An Introduction to Ready Writing: Everything New Competitors Need to Know About the Contest.** A review of UIL rules, the rubric and contest fundamentals and writing strategies. Designed for first-year competitors and beginning coaches.

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **A Round Table Discussion with Ready Writing Coaches.** A Q&A discussion of the contest and what coaches want to know.

SOCIAL STUDIES: Andy Bates, state contest director*9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.*

- **Preparing for the Social Studies Contest.** A review of rules, contest format, information related to this year's topic, what type of questions to expect and resources that will prove useful. This session will also include specific ideas regarding effective ways to prepare for competition.

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- **Preparing to Write an Essay.** Come discuss and learn techniques on how to write an essay that covers the topic and earns 20% of the total score in Current Issues & Events and Social Studies. Review how essay writing is a valuable skill, helping students prepare for college and any work environment.

SPELLING & VOCABULARY: Linda Berrey, state contest director*10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.*

- **Becoming Legitimate Logophilic Laureates: Strategies for Upping Your Spelling Game.** A look at the 23-24 Spelling Contest's test format, rules and changes.

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- **Spelling & Vocabulary Practice Test.** A sample test will be given and scored.

STEM & ROBOTICS

CALCULATOR APPLICATIONS: Dr. Dave Bourell, state contest director*9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.*

- **Beginning: Introduction to the Calculator Applications Contest.**

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **Intermediate: State of the 2024 Contest and Workshop on Geometry Problems.**

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- **Advanced: Taking and Scoring the 2023 State Contest.**

COMPUTER SCIENCE: Dr. Shyamal Mitra, state contest advisor and Matthew Sheldon, state contest consultant

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- **Introduction to the Computer Science Contest.** Includes rules, news, updates and a short practice test.

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **Computer Science Written Contest.** Covers selected topics in Java and strategies for preparing for the written test.

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- **Computer Science Programming Contest.** Covers selected topics on data structures and algorithms to prepare for the programming contest. Includes a discussion on online resources.

MATHEMATICS & NUMBER SENSE: Cliff McCurdy and Larry White, state contest directors

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- **Number Sense Contest.** Guidelines, rules, resources, practice materials, etc. SAC 2023 Number Sense Test (take/grade). NEW 10 min-80 question test with Q&A to discuss and answer questions.

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **Mathematics Contest.** Rules, strategies and suggestions. SAC 2023 Mathematics Test – NEW 60 question test with Q&A to discuss.

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- **Number Sense and Mathematics Joint Q&A Session.**

SCIENCE: Dr. Michelle McGehee, Dr. Brian Anderson and Dr. David Bixler, state contest directors

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- **Introduction to the UIL Science Contest.** A contest overview including rules and practice questions. (For students and coaches)

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **Science Contest Deep Dive.** Deconstructing the Science test, with insights into how each section is developed. (For students and coaches)

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- **UIL Science Roundtable.** Discussion and Q&A. Bring your questions for the contest directors and ideas to help new coaches build a successful team. (For coaches)

ROBOTICS & STEM: David Trussell, UIL director of STEM

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- **Bits & Bots – The Basics of UIL Robotics.** This session for coaches and coordinators will cover options, factors to consider, helpful resources and strategies for those interested in starting or expanding Robotics at their school.

10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

- **Branching Out With STEM.** A successful UIL STEM program can be a great asset for your school community. This session for coordinators and coaches will tie together the different components of UIL STEM with helpful tips and resources to grow your program.

SPEECH, DEBATE AND CONGRESS

ORAL INTERPRETATION: M'Liss Hindman, state contest director

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- **Prose and Poetry: Let's Start at the Very Beginning.** For novice competitors. Starting at the very beginning is a very good place to start if you're new to oral performance in high school. This workshop introduces novice and new prose/poetry coaches to the contest rules and procedures. Includes a student demonstration. Shawn Duthie, Holliday HS.
- **Celebrating Positive Change Over Time:** For advanced prose and poetry competitors. This discussion will take a deep dive into the intent of the new Category B for both of the Prose and Poetry contests providing insight into how to approach building your literary program. Stef Cambra, Royse City HS.

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **New Categories for 2023-24.** For novice and varsity competitors and coaches. This year debuts brand new categories for prose and poetry. This session will provide a comprehensive discussion of each category, the intent behind them, and the new documentation forms required for contest. Jana Riggins, UIL State Director; Shawn Duthie, Holliday HS and Stef Cambra, Royse City HS, members of the current Prose & Poetry State Advisory Committee.

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- **Prose and Poetry Performance Hour.** This session is always a highlight, providing insight into what it takes to make it to the highest level of UIL competition. Be inspired by performances by state medalists with oral critiques by experienced state meet judges/coaches. Adjudicators: Stef Cambra, Royse City HS; Shawn Duthie, Holliday HS; Phyllis Tucker, Gainesville, state meet judge.

EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING: Ann Shofner, state contest director

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- **An Introduction to Extemporaneous Speaking.** For novice competitors. Gain insight about the rules, draw room procedures and strategies for competing in Informative and Persuasive Speaking. Includes a live demonstration. Ann Shofner, UIL consultant.
- **Advanced Extemporaneous Speaking: A Cut Above.** For varsity competitors. An examination of the qualities of a champion speech and the attributes of the Informative and Persuasive speakers who are "a cut above" the average contestant. Cody Morris, Chapel Hill HS.

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **Extemporaneous Speaking: #Preparation#Practice#Perfection.** For novice and varsity speakers. Let this be your battle cry as you invest time in preparing and practicing to become a champion. Our state contest director will share how to make practice time productive and how the proper approach to preparation can produce perfection. Ann Shofner, UIL consultant.
- **Extemporaneous Speaking: Nailing Your Introduction!** For novice and varsity speakers. Data reveals that the first 7 seconds can make or break your speech. This workshop will delve into how to

develop and deliver that all-important first impression in an extemp speech. Shelby Zarro, Prosper: Walnut Grove HS.

12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

- **Look at that Body! (of the Extemp Speech!)** The body is the heart and soul of every speech and is critical to truly answering the question you draw in the Informative or Persuasive contest. We'll take a good hard look at how to make it exceptional. Ann Shofner, UIL consultant.
- **A Toolkit for Extemporaneous Speaking.** For advanced speakers. The economic way of thinking provides a toolkit for making sense of complex issues often addressed in informative and persuasive speaking topics. Economic principles help explain battles over trade, labor mobility and industrial policy so speakers can explain reductions in housing and energy costs, how to make the electric grid more resilient, how to raise average incomes, all in realistic terms to strengthen your speech. Greg Rehmke, Economic Thinking.

DEBATE: Rich Edwards, state contest director

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- **The Basics of Lincoln Douglas Debate.** For novice competitors. Familiarizes beginning students with value debate. Learn LD Debate format, speaker responsibilities and case construction.
- **Advanced Lincoln Douglas Debate: A Deep Dive.** Analyzing the UIL Fall LD Debate topic and important research surrounding the topic of wealth inequality. Dr. Rich Edwards, Baylor University, UIL Debate consultant.
- **Getting Started in Cross-Examination Debate.** For beginners. Come listen to CX team debate made user-friendly. Learn the contest format, speaker responsibilities and understand basic terminology so you can have the confidence to compete in policy debate.
- **Advanced CX Debate: Understanding the Economics of Income Inequality.** Economists disagree on how to best measure income inequality. Many blame globalization and outsourcing to other countries for reducing wage increases in the U.S. This workshop will focus on arguments for the current policy debate topic. Greg Rehmke, Economic Thinking.

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **Lincoln Douglas Debate: A Demonstration.** For all debaters. Watch a live round of LD Debate.
- **Advanced Lincoln Douglas Debate: Economics, Wealth Inequality and Democracy.** Wealth inequality has persisted over generations. Billionaires such as Warren Buffett, Bill Gates, Elon Musk and others have accumulated wealth that far exceeds others. Is this detrimental to democracy? This discussion analyzes important research surrounding the UIL Fall Debate topic area. Greg Rehmke, Economic Thinking.
- **CX Debate Topic Analysis: The Affirmative.** For all team debaters. The author of the *Policy Debate Quarterly* will examine the **affirmative** position providing great information and insight in this year's policy debate topic. Common affirmative cases you are likely to run up against in rounds will be analyzed and questions are encouraged. Dr. Rich Edwards, Baylor University and UIL Debate consultant.

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- **LD Debate: Concepts and Strategies.** For all LD debaters. This workshop will explore effective arguments and strategies for use in LD Debate rounds.
- **CX Debate Topic Analysis: The Negative.** The author of the *Policy Debate Quarterly*, which is the first and most authoritative research released on the policy topic each year, will examine the **negative** position of this year's policy debate topic. Dr. Rich Edwards, Baylor University and UIL debate consultant.
- **Advanced CX Debate.** For varsity team debaters. Strategies that can make you a successful debater in UIL, including judge adaptation, using cross-examination period to your advantage, and clash in the rounds. Cody Morris, Chapel Hill HS.

CONGRESS: Jana Riggins, UIL director of Speech, Debate and Congress

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **An Introduction to Congress.** If this is your first experience competing in Congress, come learn about this exciting event – we'll cover the rules, legislation, chamber roles and parliamentary procedure. Jimmy Smith, Collinsville HS.

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- **Congress: Research, Clash and Argumentation.** This discussion will examine how to approach researching the docket, as well as bringing necessary clash and strong argumentation into the chamber debate to be successful in this event. Shelby Zarro, Region 10 Congress Clerk, Prosper: Walnut Grove HS.

GENERAL SPEECH SESSION: Jana Riggins, UIL director of Speech, Debate and Congress

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- **UIL Speaking Events in a Nutshell.** For students and coaches new to UIL. This workshop introduces all seven of the UIL Speech and Debate events, helping students to know which event might be their "fit" and providing a compass for new coaches navigating the speech world for the first time. Jana Riggins, UIL Director; Phyllis Tucker, Gainesville.

SPEECH COACH SESSION: Jana Riggins, UIL director of Speech, Debate and Congress

12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

- **Dialogue with your Director.** For coaches. Need clarification on rules or contest procedures? Want to share a creative idea or a potential rule change? Meet your state speech and debate director and let's dialogue! Jana Riggins, UIL director.

THEATRE, DESIGN AND FILM

ONE-ACT PLAY

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- **Let's start from the very beginning.** UIL One Act Play Rules, Planning, Updates and Questions! This session is for all OAP directors. Overview of calendar and updates to the Handbook will be shared. Paula Rodriguez, UIL director of theatre.
- **Only an Hour?...How to make the most of the official rehearsal slot.** In one hour, our students have to learn an entire new facility, light board, sound board, and backstage! This session will help students stay calm and help teachers feel prepared for the most important part of the contest day. Empower your students and leave your contest manager with their jaw on the floor! .Daniel Gambill, Sunnyvale HS.
- **Living Statues.** Students research a statue (history, why it is there, etc.) and compose a monologue of their statue getting to the point of the statue's pose and perform. Students give constructive feedback and perform again. Students compose another monologue from the statue's current POV and perform. Students give constructive feedback and perform again... Kolby Campbell, Theatre Instructor, Creekview HS.
- "Take us on a journey" -- the most common words used by UIL Judges to explain what is wanted in One Act Play. But... how do you do that? That journey involves everyone onstage, no matter the size of the part you play: all characters are integral to the story. Every character has a struggle that contributes to this. We will explore the steps needed to work through a character's struggle, and how actors can relate to any character (no matter how unlike you are). Sariea Haney, Theatre Instructor, Rock Hill HS.
- **CSI: Character/Scene Investigation.** Students, learn how to search the script to find the evidence of your character's true motives. This script analysis workshop breaks down ways to exam beats, discover actions, and kill your performance using the Ivana Chubbuck approach. Brandon Smith, Theatre Instructor, Heritage HS.

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **Foam Capitals.** Get some tips and tricks to building capitals out of foam and other materials. What is the best glue? How to make them durable for transport? How do I get a specific shape I want? Bring your ideas and we can talk through them. Mel Edwards, state theatre & film consultant.
- **Neo-Futurist Fundamentals.** In this 1-hour introductory workshop, participants will be taught the fundamentals of the Neo-Futurist aesthetic: performing as your authentic self, dismantling the fourth wall, creating task-based theatre, and how to eliminate writer's block. By the end of this workshop, participants will have written, performed and workshopped both individual and collectively written short plays. Daniel Mirsky, Theatre Instructor, Creekview HS.
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- **Living, Breathing Performances.** This active performance session focuses on empowering students to make bold choices and to become un-afraid in their performances. Teachers are

welcome to observe this session, but make room for students! Daniel Gambill, Theatre Instructor, Sunnyvale HS.

- **Mapping your OAP.** A Tablework Journey for Students and Teachers--You've heard of what tablework is, but you aren't sure how to approach it... This workshop will cover what tablework is, how it can engage your company in finding deeper connections and make sure you have "unity of purpose" before you ever begin your first blocking rehearsal. Jessica Brewster, Theatre Instructor, Walnut Grove HS.

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- **Up Your Game With 3D Printing.** Want to get started with 3d printing but don't know where to start? The possibilities are endless with 3d printers but there are so many choices of machines, filament and budgets. 3d printing can elevate props, set and even costumes but everyone needs to start somewhere. Mel Edwards, UIL Theatre and Film Consultant.
- **Living Statues.** Students research a statue (history, why it is there, etc.) and compose a monologue of their statue getting to the point of the statue's pose and perform. Students give constructive feedback and perform again. Students compose another monologue from the statue's current POV and perform. Students give constructive feedback and perform again... Kolby Campbell, Theatre Instructor, Creekview HS.
- **Neo-Futurist Fundamentals.** In this 1-hour introductory workshop, participants will be taught the fundamentals of the Neo-Futurist aesthetic: performing as your authentic self, dismantling the fourth wall, creating task-based theatre, and how to eliminate writer's block. By the end of this workshop, participants will have written, performed and workshopped both individual and collectively written short plays. Daniel Mirsky, Theatre Instructor, Creekview HS.
- **Don't be Boring!** Creating Physical Characters through Movement and Dance! Exploring the physical and emotional traits of your characters have never been this much fun! Come ready to move! Brandon Smith, Heritage HS.
- **OAP Tricks of the Trade.** For Teachers and Students- How to prepare for your site rehearsal-- Have you ever felt lost and overwhelmed at your official One Act Play rehearsal? Do you run out of time and not through it all? Would you like to be more organized, efficient, and effective in your Tech rehearsal? If so, this is the workshop for you! This workshop, presented by two state meet veterans, will cover what you need to know to prepare effectively, how to maximize your time, and leave feeling prepared for contest! Amy Jordan, Texas Thespians and Jessica Brewster, Theatre Instructor, Walnut Grove HS.

THEATRICAL DESIGN: Rachael Gomez, state contest director

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

- **The Basics: What is the Theatrical Design Contest?** This Session is for those looking to enter the contest for the first time or who would like a refresher on the expectations. Because the challenge is different every year, it is important to update as you are starting your competition year. If you have never participated but would like to... hopefully this session will inspire you to compete in what promises to be our best year ever.

10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

- **Way Down to Hadestown- The Prompt.** Our contest this year is based on the musical HADESTOWN by Anais Mitchell. The design challenges are super exciting and offer some new project opportunities within the different categories. This session will dig into the many possibilities of themes to express them within your designs.

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- **What Makes a Winning Design.** The Theatrical Design Contest incorporates a 30/30/20/20 Evaluation system. Learn what to do to maximize success within the criteria. This is ultimately an artistic communication contest so let's talk about what that looks like for you. We will also talk pro-tips and tricks for making your entry stand out.

Film

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- **Getting Started with the UIL Film Festival.** Are you new to UIL Film? This session will give you a jump start. Get informed about the categories and rules, view examples of past winners, and find the inspiration to use film as a storytelling medium." For students and teachers. Mel Edwards, state theatre & film consultant.

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **TBA**

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- **Getting Started with the UIL Film Festival.** (Repeat) Are you new to UIL Film? This session will give you a jump start. Get informed about the categories and rules, view examples of past winners, and find the inspiration to use film as a storytelling medium." For students and teachers. Paula Rodriguez, UIL state theatre director.