



STUDENT ACTIVITIES CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PERMIAN BASIN, ODESSA

SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

The UIL/UTPB Student Activities Conference will acquaint students and coaches with the nature and rules of the UIL academic contests. Conference workshops help prepare you for the Spring Meet competitions and provide opportunities to meet state directors and experts for each contest.

PARKING: Buses can drop off students at the Welcome Center and park in the library parking lot. See campus map. Parking passes are not required.

INFORMATION DESK: The UTPB Welcome Center will open at 9 am. All sessions will begin at 10 am.

BUILDINGS: Sessions will be located in the Mesa Building, Student Activities Center (SAC), the Kirk Human Performance Center, Science and Technology Building, Dunagan Library, and Courtyard. Please refer to the campus map or ask one of our volunteers for assistance.

ELEVATOR: At the current time, we have one operational elevator in the Mesa Building that has a capacity of 3000 pounds. We apologize in advance the second elevator is currently under renovation. For those who are physically able, we would appreciate your consideration in using the stairs.

HOSPITALITY: Snacks and beverages may be purchased at any of our dining cafés. The University will provide coffee, light snacks, and water at no cost throughout the day. A hospitality room will be available for the presenters.

Meals may be purchased at the Residence & Dining Hall, the Falcon Café in the library, and The Eatery in the SAC. The Mesa Market (Starbucks) on the 2nd floor of the Mesa Building provides a variety of snacks and beverages.

CAMPUS POLICE: The UT Permian Basin Police Department is located in the Mesa Building by the Welcome Center. The staff is available on a 24-hour basis for assistance on campus and the Communications Center non-emergency number is 432.552.2786.

LOST ITEMS: Lost items will be turned in at the Welcome Center.

PROGRAM: The program is sorted by topic (Academic Coordinators/Coaches, STEM, Speech and Theatre) and session time. Sessions are listed as:

Session Number. Session Title. Session Description. Presenter. **Building Room Number.**

ATTENDANCE: Coaches and students please register your attendance for EACH session you attend.

NOTE: Available PDF files of presentation materials will be posted and accessible during and after the event (uiltexas.org/academics/student-activity-conferences). Wi-fi Internet access may be available but is not guaranteed. No tech support is available. Those wishing to access online handouts during the event should plan to use data services available through their own service providers (3G/4G, LTE, mobile hot spots, etc.).

ACADEMIC COORDINATORS/COACHES

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

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. ([This session is scheduled as a late start to accommodate those getting students into sessions.](#))

Session 100. 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. **Mesa Bldg Room 4202**

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Session 101. From the Coordinator's Perspective. This will cover the basics for those new to the coordinator role as well as veterans. A long-time coordinator will share ideas for recruiting, retention, contest preparations, travel ideas, solutions for schedule conflicts and will include opportunities to ask questions. Sara Pittman, Fort Davis HS. **Mesa Bldg Room 4202**

1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. ([This session is scheduled to end early to accommodate for departure from the conference.](#))

Session 102. Coach and Coordinator Q&A. The dialogue continues from where we were in the first session with time for questions. Dr. David Stevens, UIL director of academics. **Mesa Bldg Room 4202**

ACCOUNTING: Kay Whitton, state contest director

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Session 103. 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. **Kirk Bldg Room 1205**

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Session 104. 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. **Kirk Bldg Room 1205**

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS: Linda Tarrant, state contest director

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Session 105. From Zero to Invitational A. BYOC (computer) for a fun-filled workshop intended for students and coaches who are just starting. We will discuss the basics of how to get started in Computer Applications, including what happens at a contest, what equipment you will need, how to practice and what to learn. The hands-on lesson will include some Excel basics, including how to create an Excel worksheet and chart and more. **Kirk Bldg Room 1206**

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Session 106. Invitational B to District. BYOC (computer) for this session as it will be all hands-on for a database learning session. We will learn about Access tables, select queries, update queries and reports and more. Along the way contest strategies will be presented that might help you score just a few more points. **Kirk Bldg Room 1206**

1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Session 107. Region and State. BYOC (computer) This session is a deep dive into Microsoft Access and Excel. We'll be adding fields to queries and reports. We'll create relationships and populate

fields with lookup tables. We'll modify reports after creating, learn to merge into Word and use format switches. **Kirk Bldg Room 1206**

CURRENT ISSUES & EVENTS: Dr. Bradley Wilson, state contest director

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Session 108. 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. **Mesa Bldg Room 3261**

1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Session 109. 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. **Mesa Bldg Room 3261**

ESSAY CONTESTS: Lisa Parker, UIL director of essay contests

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Session 110. Honoring Our Texas Heroes with the UIL Essay Contests. This session is an introduction to the UIL Barbara Jordan Historical Essay Competition and Latino History Essay Competition and will include an exploration of successful essays and useful resources. Emily Thurman, Andrews HS. **Mesa Bldg Room 3251**

JOURNALISM: Alyssa Boehringer, UIL director of journalism

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Session 111. Copy Editing 101. This contest means more than checking spelling. Involving a skill that 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. Dr. Bradley Wilson, state contest director. **Mesa Bldg Room 4250**

10:40 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Session 112. 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. **Mesa Bldg Room 4250**

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session 113. 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. **Mesa Bldg Room 4250**

12:40 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.

Session 114. 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. **Mesa Bldg Room 4250**

1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Session 115. 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. Jolene Taylor, Plains HS. **Mesa Bldg Room 4250**

LITERARY CRITICISM: Mark Bernier, state contest director

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Session 116. The Absolute Basics. Introducing the contest to students and coaches new to the challenge (introduction to poetry explication included). **Mesa Bldg Room 4147**

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Session 117. Poetry Explication for the Contest. Review poetry in terms of the contest's expectations. **Mesa Bldg Room 4147**

1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Session 118. The 2024 Reading List. Review the reading list and the part 4's Tie-Breaking Essay. **Mesa Bldg Room 4147**

READY WRITING: Ruben Rodriguez, state contest director

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Session 119. 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. **Mesa Bldg Room 3247**

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Session 120. A Round Table Discussion with Ready Writing Coaches. A Q&A discussion of the contest and what coaches want to know. **Mesa Bldg Room 3247**

SOCIAL STUDIES: Andy Bates, state contest director

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Session 121. 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. **Mesa Bldg Room 3261**

1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Session 122. 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. **Mesa Bldg Room 3261**

SPELLING & VOCABULARY: Linda Berrey, state contest director

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Session 123. Becoming Legitimate Logophilic Laureates: Strategies for Upping Your Spelling Game. A look at the 23-24 Spelling Contest's test format, rules and changes. **Mesa Bldg Room 3269**

1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Session 124. Spelling & Vocabulary Practice Test. A sample test will be given and scored. **Mesa Bldg Room 3269**

STEM & ROBOTICS

CALCULATOR APPLICATIONS: Dr. Dave Bourell, state contest director

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Session 200. Beginning: Introduction to the Calculator Applications Contest. Kirk Bldg Room 1204

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Session 201. Intermediate: State of the 2024 Contest and Workshop on Geometry Problems. Kirk Bldg Room 1204

1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Session 202. Advanced: Taking and Scoring the 2023 State Contest. Kirk Bldg Room 1204

COMPUTER SCIENCE: Dr. Shyamal Mitra, state contest advisor

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Session 203. Introduction to the Computer Science Contest. Includes rules, news, updates and a short practice test. **Science & Tech Bldg Room 1104**

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Session 204. Computer Science Written Contest. Covers selected topics in Java and strategies for preparing for the written test. **Science & Tech Bldg Room 1104**

1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Session 205. Computer Science Programming Contest. Covers selected topics on data structures and algorithms to prepare for the programming contest. Includes a discussion on online resources. **Science & Tech Bldg Room 1104**

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

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Session 206. 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. **Kirk Bldg Room 1014**

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Session 207. Mathematics Contest. Rules, strategies and suggestions. SAC 2023 Mathematics Test – NEW 60 question test with Q&A to discuss. **Kirk Bldg Room 1014**

1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Session 208. Number Sense and Mathematics Joint Q&A Session. Kirk Bldg Room 1014

SCIENCE: Dr. David Bixler, state contest director

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Session 209. Introduction to the UIL Science Contest. A contest overview including rules and practice questions. (For students and coaches) **Science & Tech Bldg Room 1010**

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Session 210. Science Contest Deep Dive. Deconstructing the Science test, with insights into how each section is developed. (For students and coaches) **Science & Tech Bldg Room 1010**

1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Session 211. 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) **Science & Tech Bldg Room 1010**

ROBOTICS & STEM: David Trussell, UIL director of STEM*11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.*

Session 212. 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. **Science & Tech Bldg Room 1108**

1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Session 213. 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. **Science & Tech Bldg Room 1108**

SPEECH/DEBATE/CONGRESS

ORAL INTERPRETATION: M'Liss Hindman, state contest director*10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.*

Session 300. 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. Ann Shofner, UIL consultant. **Mesa Bldg Room 2130**

Session 301. Starting on the Right Track. To be the best performer you can be, you need to start on the right track of developing a good work ethic. Tips as well as tried-and-true exercises for mastering focus, developing characters and perfecting book work will be revealed. Overcoming anxiety and managing the stress of competition will be included in the discussion. M'Liss Hindman, Director of Forensics, Tyler Junior College and UIL Prose/Poetry consultant. **Mesa Bldg Room 2110**

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Session 302. New Categories for 2023-24. For novice and varsity competitors and coaches. This year debuts brand new categories for prose and poetry. Contest officials will share the details of each category, documentation requirements and the intent behind each one. Jana Riggins, UIL State Director; M'Liss Hindman, UIL Prose/Poetry consultant. **Mesa Bldg Room 2130**

1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Session 303. 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: M'Liss Hindman, UIL consultant; Wendy Glaze, Grady HS and Timothy Haynes, retired. **Mesa Bldg Room 2130**

EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING: Ann Shofner, state contest director*10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.*

- Session 304. 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. Clint Adams, Big Spring HS. **Mesa Bldg Room 2270**

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

- Session 305. Extemporaneous Speaking: Never Surrender!** For novice and varsity speakers. Let this be your battle cry as you invest time in preparing and practicing becoming a champion. Our state contest director and a state champion coach will share how to make practice time productive and you'll hear an extemp speech delivered by the 2023 Conference 1A State Champion. Wendy Glaze, Grady HS; Ann Shofner, UIL Extemporaneous Speaking consultant. **Mesa Bldg Room 2239**

1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

- Session 306. 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. **Mesa Bldg Room 2239**
- Session 307. 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 questions. 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, and how to raise average incomes, for example. Greg Rehmke, Economic Thinking. **Mesa Bldg Room 2221**

DEBATE: Dr. Rich Edwards, state contest director*10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.*

- Session 308. The Basics of Lincoln Douglas Debate.** For novice competitors. Familiarizes beginning students with value debate. Learn LD Debate format, speaker responsibilities and case construction. Sara Pittman, Fort Davis HS. **Mesa Bldg Room 2247**
- Session 309. 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. **Mesa Bldg Room 2260**
- Session 310. Getting Started in Cross-Examination Debate.** For beginners. Come listen to CX debate made user-friendly. Learn the contest format, speaker responsibilities and understand basic terminology. Adrian Gallardo, Rankin HS. **Mesa Bldg Room 2239**
- Session 311. Advanced CX Debate: Understanding the Economics of Economic 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. **Mesa Bldg Room 2221**

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

- Session 312. Lincoln Douglas Debate: A Demonstration.** Watch a live round of LD Debate with commentary. Moderator: Jennifer Adams, Big Spring HS. **Mesa Bldg Room 2270**
- Session 313. Advanced Lincoln Douglas Debate: Economics, Wealth Inequality ad 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 session will analyze important research surrounding the UIL Fall Debate topic area. Greg Rehmke, Economic Thinking. **Mesa Bldg Room 2221**

- Session 314. CX Debate Topic Analysis: The Affirmative.** 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 will be covered. Dr. Rich Edwards, Baylor University and UIL Debate consultant. **Mesa Bldg Room 2260**

1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

- Session 315. Advanced LD Debate: Concepts and Strategies.** This workshop will explore effective arguments and strategies for varsity LD debaters. Jennifer Adams, Big Spring HS. **Mesa Bldg Room 2270**

- Session 316. 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. **Mesa Bldg Room 2260**

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

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

- Session 317. 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. Melissa Witt, Hereford HS. **Mesa Bldg Room 2110**

1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

- Session 318. Congress: Unlocking the Door to Success.** A discussion of the keys to success in Congress competition with advice on how to prepare and strategies within the chamber to make legislators more competitive. A question/answer period will be provided. Melissa Witt, Hereford HS. **Mesa Bldg Room 2110**

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

10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

- Session 319. A Dialogue with your Director.** For coaches. ([This session is scheduled as a late start to accommodate those getting students into sessions.](#)) Need clarification on rules or contest procedures? Want to share a creative idea? Meet your state speech and debate director and let's dialogue! Jana Riggins, UIL director. **Mesa Bldg Room 3227**

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

- Session 320. New Coaches: Where Do You Go from Here?** For coaches. As a new coach, navigating the world of speech and debate can seem daunting. This session will offer clarity for the road ahead and help you set reasonable goals for year one. Topics include choosing events to focus on, tournament planning, goal setting for coaches and competitors and planning for the future. Clint Adams, Big Spring HS. **Mesa Bldg Room 3227**

THEATRE

ONE-ACT PLAY: Paula Rodriguez, UIL director of theatre

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

- Session 400. 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. **Room: Library Lecture Hall 2**
- Session 401. Become the Greatest Stage Manager, EVER!** What does every stage manager need in their kit? How do I support my cast, crew, and director? What is my job during a UIL contest? What even IS stage management? A session for students and teachers, let's walk through the ins-and-outs of being an effective stage manager, from the very first read-through to the final performance. Logan Holmes, Midland HS theatre director. **Science & Tech Building Room 1102 Lecture Hall**
- Session 402. Projections: DIY Guide and How-To.** This is a course for students who are interested in projection design. Let's talk about how you can design scenic projections with free software. We will also touch on the projectors you can use and recommend to your teacher. This is a class for total beginners who are interested in learning about how to use projections. Bring a phone or a laptop. Rodrigo Sanchez, Midland HS. **Room: Library 104**
- Session 403. Trust, Focus, and Reflection.** Students will participate in hands-on exercises to increase their trust and focus when a part of an ensemble. Students will also participate in activities that will allow them to reflect on experiences and determine if they can call up those emotions during character development. Katie Henson, Theatre Director, Pecos HS. **Room: Library 100 Event Studio**
- Session 404. Diving Deeper, Digging In.** Students will explore improv scenes in pairs/small groups in the first half of the session. The second half they will work on developing fully realized characters from those improv scenes, exploring how to take a character from caricature to character when given very little source information. Micaela Grenier, Odessa Permian HS theatre director. **Room: Library Lecture Hall 1**

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

- Session 405. Staging the Perfect Picture.** Lots of bodies on stage but not sure how to place them? Are you stuck standing in a group or line? Unsure of how to best stage a group scene? This session will dive into how to create dynamic stage pictures with ensembles large and small! Learn best practices for staging groups, creating interesting ensemble looks, and making sure everyone fits into place. Gain new tools to help make your group scenes picturesque and dynamic. Rachel Innes, Midland Legacy HS theatre director. **Room: Library Lecture Hall 1**
- Session 406. Trust, Focus and Reflection.** Students will participate in hands-on exercises to increase their trust and focus when a part of an ensemble. Students will also participate in activities that will allow them to reflect on experiences and determine if they can call up those emotions during character development. Katie Henson, Pecos HS theatre director. **Room: Library 100 Event Studio**
- Session 407. There Are No Small Parts, Just Small Actors.** How to make your ensemble role as big as a leading role. So, you were cast in an ensemble role. Is it a bummer or an opportunity to fully

explore character creation? This session will give you tools as an ensemble member to build a complete character with story arc into your ensemble role. It not only will make your experience as an ensemble member more fulfilling, but it will also impress your director to consider you for larger roles in the future. Clark Reed, Seminole HS theatre director. **Room: Library Lecture Hall 2**

Session 408. 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. **Room: ST Foyer**

Session 409. AI in the Theatre Classroom. How AI can be used as a tool to make lives easier for directors & students. We will explore how AI can be used to flesh out lesson plans, develop exercises, assist with research, and more, as well as what to avoid. If we don't advance with the times, we risk being left behind. Micaela Grenier, Odessa Permian HS theatre director. **Room: Library 104**

Session 410. Become the Greatest Stage Manager, EVER! What does every stage manager need in their kit? How do I support my cast, crew, and director? What is my job during a UIL contest? What even IS stage management? A session for students and teachers, let's walk through the ins-and-outs of being an effective stage manager, from the very first read-through to the final performance. Logan Holmes, Midland HS theatre director. **Science & Tech Building Room 1102 Lecture Hall**

1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Session 411. Nailing Your Musical Theatre Auditions. Covering the daunting world of Musical Theatre auditions, how to approach, what to choose, risk taking and the lovely world of cuts. Please have ready 16 bars of an a cappella musical theatre song cut. I will try to hear everyone and give first impressions. Ryley Flud, Goddard JH, Midland ISD. **Room: Library Lecture Hall 2**

Session 412. Staging the Perfect Picture. Lots of bodies on stage but not sure how to place them? Are you stuck standing in a group or line? Unsure of how to best stage a group scene? This session will dive into how to create dynamic stage pictures with ensembles large and small. Learn best practices for staging groups, creating interesting ensemble looks, and making sure everyone fits into place. Gain new tools to help make your group scenes picturesque and dynamic. Rachel Innes, Midland Legacy HS theatre director. **Room: Library Lecture Hall 1**

Session 413. Using Story the Right Way: Formula for Telling Compelling Stories. The best stories follow a simple, repeatable formula and it can be seen everywhere, from songs to movies, to books to even marketing. Writers have known the power of storytelling since the time of Ancient Greece. We use story as devices to make sense of the world and this formula to help us identify what's most important in each tale. This session is for student theatre artists, filmmakers, and designers; their teachers too. Mel Edwards, state theatre & film consultant. **Room: Library 100 Event Studio**

Session 414. Hand Stitching-Put a Pin in It! Students will create a pin cushion. They will use (be taught) hand sewing skills such as straight, back & whip stitches, as well as patterning and cutting. I will provide materials. They can take their pin cushions home with them. A session for students and teachers. Micaela Grenier, Odessa Permian HS theatre director. **Room: Library 104**

Session 415. UIL OAP Contest FAQ's, Q& A's or AMA. This session hopes to answer some popular question on the A+ OAP contest, Play selection, publishers and more. Paula Rodriguez, UIL director of theatre. **Science & Tech Building Room 1102 Lecture Hall**

THEATRICAL DESIGN: Rachael Gomez, state contest director

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

- Session 416. 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. Rachael Gomez, state contest director. **Science & Tech Building Room 1110 Lecture Hall**

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

- Session 417. 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. Rachael Gomez, contest director. **Science & Tech Building Room 1110 Lecture Hall**

1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

- Session 418. 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. Rachael Gomez, contest director. **Science & Tech Building Room 1110 Lecture Hall**

FILM: Paula Rodriguez, state contest director and Mel Edwards, consultant

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

- Session 419. 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. **Room: Library 142**

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

- Session 420. UIL Film Introduction: Learn the basics of how to create a short film for contest.** From script to shooting and editing, it's easier than you think. Darren McCrae, Digital Media and Jessica Zeigler, Monahans HS theatre director. **Room: Library 142**

1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

- Session 421. Using AI to Break the Mental Block.** How to write ChatGPT prompts to help you come up with ideas for scripts, projects, etc. Darren McCrae, Digital Media teacher and Jessica Zeigler, Monahans HS. **Room: Library 142**