



CAP CON

2023



UIL CAPITAL CONFERENCE

AT&T Conference Center
University of Texas at Austin
June 20-21, 2023



Welcome back to Austin...

and to the AT&T Conference Center at the University of Texas. We invite you to use this program as a guide as you navigate the different sessions at the event.

This summer's conference offers a wide array of sessions designed for academic coordinators, coaches and administrators for grades 2-12 of all academic contests.

We offer plenty of opportunities for first-time and veteran coordinators/coaches for high school, elementary, middle school and junior high.

Sessions will include every academic event for high school academic coaches for literary events, journalism, STEM, theatre, and speech and debate, as well as an assortment for A+ coaches and coordinators.

Please visit the conference web page to submit for attendance credit, view instructor hand-outs and more.

SESSION TOPICS
ACADEMIC COORDINATORS
ACADEMICS
A+ ACADEMICS
SPEECH
STEM
THEATRE

STUDY MATERIALS

Study materials can be ordered online at store.uiltexas.org.

PARKING

Parking is on a self-pay basis. Please do not park in UT spaces that are reserved on the street. You will be ticketed and towed. The UIL is not responsible for parking tickets received during the conference.

PROGRAM LEGEND

Session number. Title of session next. Then, comes a description of the session followed by presenter names and session location.

CPE CREDIT

The form to record your workshop attendance for Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credit and the certificate are located at Capital Conference Online. Online attendance should be completed each session. No signatures from presenters are needed.

ATTENDANCE ROSTERS

Attendance will be taken electronically. Attendees are asked to go to Capital Conference Online and register attendance during each session. Click the Online Roster link, then enter your name, school and the session number that is located next to each workshop description in the program. This is the official record for CPE attendance.

FOOD

Hotel restaurants (Gabriel's Café, Carillon Restaurant and One Twenty 5 Café) and other nearby eating options are available. The Tejas Dining Room will only be available for those who pre-paid and must present their vouchers provided by UIL at check-in.

ONE MORE THING ...

A Conference Evaluation Form will be available online after the event. We welcome constructive criticism as well as compliments. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of the input we receive from these evaluation forms.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, JUNE 20 8 a.m.

Conference Check-In

- Upon arrival, check in will be in lobby area of AT&T Conference Center.
- If you have a balance due or are registering on-site, please visit the registration desk first. If you have pre-paid, there will be a kiosk for you to print your badge.
- Please plan to download program prior to arriving or use your personal device and UT guest wi-fi to retrieve electronic program and handouts/presenters may share.

9 – 10:15 a.m.

ACADEMIC COORDINATORS

Session 100: Surviving as a Coordinator

Make it fun and enjoyable. This will cover the basics for those new to the coordinator role as well as the experienced. **Angie Culberson-Espinosa and Ofelia Garza, Sharyland HS**
Room 104

ACADEMICS

Session 101: Leaguetown, Texas. Population: YOU

Welcome to Leaguetown — where the people are strange, and the school board is active. In this session, we'll introduce all five journalism contests and give you the tools you need to coach a successful journalism team. Bring lots of questions about News, Feature, Editorial, Headline and Copy Editing and maybe one day you'll earn your very own Hometown Hero Award from the mayor herself. **Alyssa**

Boehringer, director of journalism
Room 106

Session 102: Accounting Contest Basics

Review of contest procedures and demonstration of a problem-solving technique for a simple district-level concept that can be applied to a variety of problem formats. **LaVerne Funderburk, CPA, retiring state contest director**
Room 115

STEM

Session 103: Bits and Bots

An overview of the UIL STEM program with a focus on Robotics — options and considerations for building a program at your school. **David Trussell, state STEM director**
Room 116

Session 104: Mental Math: UIL High School Number Sense Contest

Where does a beginner begin? Do you know your ONESIES? How about your squares, cubes, etc.? This session is designed to assist NOVICE coaches; however, everyone is welcome. We will discuss: the contest rules; types of problems from the sequence chart; available resources; coaching techniques; practice techniques; test taking strategies; and any questions that arise. **Larry White, state contest director**
Room 101

A+ ACADEMICS

Session 105: UIL A+ Academics Overview and FAQs

This session will cover the basics to starting and growing an A+ Academic program as well as an overview of some of the rules that pertain to UIL A+ Academics. **Lisa Parker, A+ academics director**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 4

With sincere gratitude and appreciation to Laverne Funderburk for 39 years of distinguished service as UIL Accounting State Contest Director. Her contributions have made a significant impact promoting academic and extracurricular excellence.

[Click here to submit session attendance.](#)

[Click here to submit session attendance.](#)

Session 106: More than Winning UIL One-Act Play Does MS UIL One-Act Play have a formula for success? Of course! Colin Wells will outline the methods he has used to teach & direct UIL OAP over the last 20 years. Expect to receive free scripts and priceless ideas that will take your 2023-24 contest season to the next level. **Colin Wells, Prosper ISD**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 5

SPEECH

Session 107: Basic Training for Beginning Speech Coaches
For novice coaches. Meet your UIL Speech, Debate and Congress Director to share an overview of the UIL speech and debate high school forensic program. Rules and important dates will be reviewed. Share your questions to get the answers you need for a successful start to your coaching career. **Jana Riggins, state speech director**
Room 203

Session 108: Hosting a Speech & Debate Tournament
For all coaches. The more tournaments hosted, the more opportunity for students to achieve. Join this pro as he walks you through organizing and successfully hosting a meet. **Lots of tricks of the trade will be shared. Rory McKenzie, Lindale HS.**
Room: Salon D&E

Session 109: Activities That Teach Debate Concepts For all coaches. Debate concepts are often challenging to make clear and understandable for your debaters. This is a sharing session, so bring 30 copies of your most creative classroom activity to share with other participants that will emphasize a debate concept. **Mellessa Denny, Amarillo HS, Chris Dickson, Pine Tree HS**
Room 103

THEATRE

Session 110: Theatrical Design. Focus: Set Design (Double Session)

Skill building for everything you need to know about the Set Design category. (set models, drafting and rendering) **Bryan Honl, PSJA North High School**
Room: Salons AB

Session 111: OAP Rules, Updates and Starting the Season Strong
This session will start with updates to the contest for all levels followed by a question and answers session. **Paula Rodriguez, state theatre director**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 3

Session 112: One Act Play – What to expect when you are NOT expecting it
This workshop is for the “young at heart” or school assigned OAP directors who have been doing the OAP play for 10 years or less. The focus will be starting at the beginning and moving through the OAP process as the director, classroom teacher, bus driver, cheerleader, role model, parent and school psychologist. **Sandy Spears, Union Grove ISD**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 1

Session 113: Lighting Design in One Act Play: Dynamic lighting with few resources
We will discuss the possibility of making your lighting look dynamic and striking using resources that you may have laying around. This workshop aims for directors at all skill levels as it will focus on the design aspect of successfully designing lighting for your One Act Play. **Grayson Merchant, Keller Central HS**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 6

Session 114: UIL Theatrical Design in the Classroom Practical advice for using the theatrical design contest guidelines in the classroom to instruct students in elements and principles of design, play and character analysis, and research. A theatre design lesson plan will be included. **Denise Larsen, Cameron, Yoe HS**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 2

10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

ACADEMIC COORDINATORS

Session 200: Program Building 101: Recruiting Students and Coaches to Your Academic Program
How to find opportunities and make successes possible in smaller programs with limited resources. This session will be a dialogue between coaches about their successes and challenges in building and maintaining program success. **Robert Blain, Aldine Carver Magnet HS**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 6

ACADEMICS

Session 201: 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. **Kay Whitton, state contest director**
Room 115

Session 202: Literary Criticism
The Absolute Basics, **Mark Bernier, state contest director**
Room 104

Sessio 203: Beyond Commas
Teaching editing – and competing in the UIL copy editing contest – is more than teaching about commas. It involves everything from media law and ethics to math and geography to grammar, spelling, punctuation and Associated Press Style. Come learn some effective techniques for teaching editing across the curriculum and competing in the copy editing competition. **Bradley Wilson, Midwestern State University**
Room 101

STEM

Session 204: Mathematics Overview
This session will include contest rules, topics covered, testing and coaching strategies, and more. **Cliff McCurdy, state contest director**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 4

Session 205: Best Robotics – Part 1
Join a 5-time state champion coach for an introduction to BEST Robotics, with tips and strategies for building and maintaining a successful program at your school. **Andrew Haub, Hutto HS**
Room 116

A+ ACADEMICS

Session 206: Finding Your Footing as an A+ Coordinator
New A+ coordinator wondering where to start? Come and hear tips and receive documents I use each year as our district UIL Coordinator. Experienced coordinator wondering if there are ways to simplify the process or maybe you have some great tips to share too? We will allow time at the end of the session for questions and sharing. **Kimberly Sloane, Chireno ISD**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 1

Session 207: The UIL Test Writer’s Perspective in Writing Elementary/ Junior High/Middle School Number Sense Tests
We’ll look at the A+ Elementary/ Junior High Number Sense Problem Sequencing and discuss the various problem types with matching sequencing arrangement. We should also discuss your queries as to perhaps shortcuts for solving various problems from the past year of UIL tests. **Andy Zapata, A+ Consultant**
Room 106

Session 208: A+ Science Overview
In this session, a overview of the A+ Science contest will be discussed. In addition, participants will receive coaching hints as well as useful links to help communicate and prepare your team. **Becky Arndt Key**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 5





SPEECH

Session 209: Teambuilding
For all coaches. "Teamwork makes the dream work!" Relationships and a belief in the squad as a whole are the magic that produces true success and makes the journey along the way fun! This session explores ideas on how to build a cohesive team.
Jimmy Smith, Collinsville HS
Room: Salons DE

Session 201: High School Prose & Poetry for Beginning Coaches
For novice coaches. Where do I begin? Join us for a discussion of contest rules, fundamentals for turning students into interpretive readers and tips, tricks and reminders that can make you a confident coach. **Shawn Duthie, Holliday HS; state advisory committee member**
Room: Salon C

Session 211: Getting Started in Coaching Extemporaneous Speaking
For novice coaches. What is Informative and Persuasive Speaking and how do you coach them? This session covers the contest rules and procedures, as well as strategies for coaching Extemporaneous Speaking. **Ann Shofner, UIL speaking consultant**
Room 103

Session 212: A Firm Foundation Part I: Beginning Policy Debate
For novice coaches. An explanation of cross-examination debate UIL rules, policy terminology, basic theory. **Clint Adams, Big Spring HS**
Room 203

Session 213: Roundtable: UIL Debate- CX and LD
For varsity coaches. Discussion areas include new time formats, introducing debate at the middle school level, increasing participation, judges and consultants, along with audience topic areas. **Jana Riggins, UIL Director and Rich Edwards, UIL Debate consultant**
Room 202

THEATRE

Session 214: Theatrical Design. Focus: Set Design (Part 2)
Skill building for everything you need to know about the Set Design category. (set models, drafting and rendering. **Bryan Honl, PSJA North HS**
Room: Salons AB

Session 215: OAP Process: Tools and tricks to build an OAP around the ensemble
Join Nicole and Michael as they demonstrate acting and directing strategies to build and strengthen your OAP team. **Nicole Malone and Michael Fisher, Pflugerville Hendrickson HS**
Room 301

Session 216: Scenery Tips & Tricks
The purpose of this workshop is to provide solutions to scenic challenges including ways to use UIL OAP set, budget friendly scenery construction, and the advantages of building stock scenic pieces for your department. **Denise Larsen, Cameron: Yoe HS**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 2

Session 217: No Budget, No Stage, No Degree, No Problem!
An in-depth look at how to build a successful OAP program with little to no resources or support. This workshop is open to all classifications and highly recommended for smaller schools. Please join the discussion with an open mind and a willingness to change. **Gary Brister, Hico ISD**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 3

1:15 – 2:30 p.m.

ACADEMIC COORDINATORS

Session 300: The "Hey Friends" Approach: Strategies for Hosting Tournaments in Ways That Make No Enemies
Join us as we navigate procedures and practices that help hosting

any tournament – be it a small scrimmage or a major qualifying meet – a fun and FRIENDLY experience for everyone involved. **Michael Donaldson, Grandview HS**
Salons DE

ACADEMICS

Session 301: Getting Started in Computer Applications
BYOC (Bring Your Own Computer) for a workshop aimed at coaches just starting out but will also be a great refresher for coaches at all levels. Full of introductory information for this contest, the session will present hands-on Excel and Word to teach your competitors enough to get through Invitational A. **Linda Tarrant, state contest director and Beth Bryant**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 2

Session 302: Literary Criticism: Poetry Explication and the Tie-Breaking Essay for New Coaches
Mark Bernier, state contest director
Room 104

Session 303: Becoming Legitimate Logophilic Laureates
Strategies for upping your spelling game. **Linda Berrey, state contest director,**
Room 115

STEM

Session 304: Breaking Down the 2023 Mathematics State Test
This session will look at the topics covered on the test, breaking them down by which classes teach the topics. We will also work through some of the problems. Participants are encouraged to bring graphing calculators. **Cliff McCurdy, state contest director**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 4

Session 305: BEST Robotics – Part 2
Continues from previous session. **Andrew Haub, Hutto HS,**
Room 116

Session 306: Mental Math: UIL High School Number Sense Contest.

(Repeat of 9 a.m. session) This session is designed to assist NOVICE coaches; however, everyone is welcome. We will discuss: the contest rules; types of problems from the sequence chart; available resources; coaching techniques; practice techniques; test taking strategies; and more. **Larry White, state contest director**
Room 101

A+ ACADEMICS

Session 307: Learning How to Play and Teach Chess
(Repeats Wednesday) This fun session has two primary objectives: 1) to provide to you a brief overview of how to play the game and 2) to introduce you to tools that will help you more effectively teach chess to your students. We will cover the basic rules, but also touch on the two most commonly misunderstood moves in the game: castling and en passant. Finally, you will learn some of the basic principles which will help your students improve their play more quickly and efficiently. **Dr. Jeff Day, Texas Tech Chess**
Room Zlotnik Ballroom 6

SPEECH

Session 308: Using SpeechWire
For all coaches. This program has been adopted by UIL as the official entry and tournament management system. Come learn about SpeechWire and all that it can digitally do to run your tournament. **Dr. Rich Edwards, Baylor University**
Room 202

Session 309: Premiering the New Prose & Poetry Categories
For novice and veteran coaches. 2023 brings new literary categories in high school prose and poetry. Come learn the details of each category. **Jana Riggins, state director; M'Liss Hindman, state contest director; Gary Brister, Hico HS; Mellessa Denny, Amarillo HS; Shawn Duthie, Holliday HS; Emily King, Liberty Hill HS**
Room: Salon C

[Click here to submit session attendance.](#)

UIL STUDENT ACTIVITIES CONFERENCES 2023

INTENSIVE SESSIONS
ON ALL UIL ACADEMIC
EVENTS, INCLUDING
THEATRE, STEM AND
SPEECH AND DEBATE

SCAN
FOR MORE
INFO!



SAVE THE DATE

SEPT. 9

University of Texas
Permian Basin – Odessa

SEPT. 23

University of Texas
at Austin

OCT. 21

Prosper ISD

NOV. 11

Texas A&M University –
Corpus Christi

CLICK TO VISIT
THE WEBSITE

Session 310: Informative and Persuasive Speaking: What's the Difference?

For all coaches. This session will cover the contrasts between the two extemporaneous speaking events. From answering the question to organizing the speech and even delivery, there is a different approach. Hear perspectives from a state champion and your UIL Extemp consultant on how to best prepare your students. **Ann Shofner, consultant and Cadi Powers, Texas State University**
Room 103

Session 311: A Firm Foundation Part II: Policy Debate Teacher Tools

For novice and veteran coaches. A continuation of policy debate discussion from Part I, including teacher resources. **Clint Adams, Big Spring HS**
Room 203

THEATRE

Session 312: The Actor's Physical Viewpoint

This session is designed to provide directors with tool for guiding their actors on their journey of physical awareness through the foundational elements of yoga, breath work, viewpoints, and social emotional learning. Providing students with an opportunity to get out of their heads and into their bodies will further enhance their development as an artist, allowing them to work towards achieving a character through physicality. Yoga mats and movement clothes are encouraged, but not required. **Eddy Cavazos, Harlingen South HS and Christopher Esparza, Harlingen HS**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 3

Session 313: Scenic Design for One Act Play: How to advance plot through design

We will discuss ways that scenery in your contest play can elevate storytelling all while creating striking visuals that are legal in the One Act Play contest all while watching the budget. **Grayson Merchant, Keller Central HS**

Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 5

Session 314: Let Them Shine!

Allowing your students to take ownership of the theatre department is a key element to a successful program. Engage your students in leadership roles, provide them opportunities to create and allow them to grow. **Erin Moore, Sealy HS**
Room 301

Session 315: Costume storage woes? Intimidated by the sewing machine? Are budget restraints stifling your creativity? Seeking guidance teaching students to sew in the classroom?

Whatever the costume challenge or question, this workshop will provide solutions and answers. Sewing Unit lesson plan included. **Denise Larsen, Cameron: Yoe HS**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 1

Session 316: What is Theatrical Design and How to Get Started

The basics for beginning teachers and incorporating the contest into your classwork. For those looking to start in the contest and strategies for building your theatre program. **Rachael Gomez, theatrical design contest director, Jacqueline Zepeda and Bryan Honl, PSJA North HS**
Room: Salons AB

Session 317: 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 find some time to talk through them. **Mel Edwards, Rouse HS, MAB**
Room 106

2:45 – 4 p.m.

ACADEMICS

Session 400: Intermediate Skills and Beyond in Computer Applications BYOC. A hands-on session, this



[Click here to submit session attendance.](#)



will cover basic Access to get your participants through Invitational B and many of the skills that crop up at District. This session is for both new and experienced Computer Applications coaches. **Linda Tarrant, state contest director and Beth Bryant**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 2

Session 401: Using Current Events in the Classroom Discuss some strategies for how and why any classroom from science to government to history to math should include current events. Then get some tips for student success in the Current Issues and Events competition including why it's so important to practice essay writing. **Bradley Wilson, state contest director**
Room 104

Session 402: If you plant it, it will grow Join us and learn how to build a UIL Journalism team from scratch. From a veteran journalism coach of 30+ years, these techniques will help boost your journalism team – well, any team – so come gather some useful tips and tricks on how to recruit and grow a successful team year after year. Also, we'd love to hear from you, so there will be time to share your tried-and-true ideas, too. **Cindy Berry, Slidell HS**
Room 106

Session 403: A Roundtable Q&A with the State Spelling Contest Director Question and answer with the state spelling contest director **Linda Berrey, state contest director**
Room 115

STEM

Session 404: Solving Significant Digit Problems The "SD" problem solving rules will be explained with examples. **Dr. Dave Bourell, state contest director**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 4

Session 405: Cracking the Code – The Computer Science Contest UIL CS presents a great opportunity for students, but its unique format can be confusing for coaches,

coordinators and meet directors. This session will serve as a guide for successful management of Computer Science at your campus and your district meet. **David Trussell, state STEM director**
Room 101

Session 406: RECF-VEX Robotics – Part 1. An introduction to the newest competition option in UIL Robotics. Important info you need to know about starting a team and growing your program, equipment needs, helpful resources, and more. **Raul Torres, RECF**
Room 116

A+ ACADEMICS

Sessio 407: Get Into the Groove Preparing for the Music Memory Contest. **Nancy Garza, Pflugerville ISD**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 5

Session 408: The UIL Test Writer's Perspective in Writing Junior High/Middle School Calculator Applications Tests We'll look at the A+ Junior High/Middle School Calculator Applications Contest and discuss the various problem types of problems (Number Crunchers, Stated and Geometry). We should also discuss your queries as to perhaps shortcuts for solving various problems from the past year of UIL tests. Don't forget to bring your calculator! **Andy Zapata, A+ Consultant**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 1

Session 409: Chess Drop-In Session: Come and Go (Repeats Wednesday) This informal session will provide us an opportunity to talk in greater detail about how you can more effectively start, run, and grow a chess club / program in your school. We can talk about the various chess resources that are available to you that will help your kids learn more about the game and, of equal importance, become stronger players. **Dr. Jeff Day, Texas Tech Chess**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 6

SPEECH

Session 410: Lincoln Douglas Debate: An Introduction For novice coaches. Getting familiar with value debate, including the format, speaker responsibilities, and case construction of LD Debate. **Jennifer Adams, Big Spring**
Room 203

Session 411: Documentation Made Simple For all coaches. Clear up the confusion as your presenter walks you through how easy prose and poetry documentation can be! As an official checker of state documentation the past two years, he's seen paperwork that misses the mark. Feel confident about understanding the requirements as well as how to approach digital documentation. **Gary Brister, Hico HS**
Room: Salon C

Session 412: Congress 101: Understanding the Contest For novice coaches. A discussion that focuses on the structure, rules and mechanics of the Congress contest. **Jimmy Smith, Collinsville HS**
Room: Salon DE

Session 413: Roundtable: Speech – Oral Interpretation & Extemporaneous Speaking For veteran coaches. Join your state director and interp and extemp consultants in casual conversation about contemporary issues such as trigger warnings in interp, ChatGPT and internet, grace time, documentation and share your thoughts and concerns. **Jana Riggins, director, M'Liss Hindman, Interp consultant, Ann Shofner, Extemporaneous speaking consultant**
Room 103

Session 414: Cross-Examination Debate Judge Training For novice and veteran coaches. Qualifying a policy debate team to state means being required to provide a well-trained judge for the tournament. Coaches are

encouraged to fulfill that judging obligation. Avoid the time-consuming effort and needless cost to your district to hire a judge by getting trained and confident as a judge yourself. Even veteran coaches can benefit from the discussions generated in this training that includes examining judging paradigms, ethics. An added benefit: understanding the role of the judge can make you a better coach. **Dr. Rich Edwards, Baylor University**
Room 202

THEATRE

Session 415: Theatrical Design Contest: The Contest Prompt – Hadestown Dig in to what this year's prompt is all about and focus on communicating it through writing and design. We will share strategies for how to explore the prompt with your students and help them to build their design voice. **Rachael Gomez, theatrical design contest director**
Room: Salons AB

Session 416: OAP Tricks of the Trade: Preparing for your OAP site rehearsal Preparing for your OAP Site Rehearsal: Learn some tricks for making your official OAP site rehearsal easy and smooth for you and your students. **Amy Jordan, Texas Thespians and OAP state stage supervisor and Jessica Brewster, Prosper ISD and state meet stage manager**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 3

Session 417: Six Questions in Search of a Director The Six Questions are a concise articulation of the director's personal understanding of and vision for a play. These questions may be new to you, or they may be ideas you've heard before, but either way, I invite you to experience them anew now. These Six Questions are the foundation of all of my work as a director. And like The Great Bear and The Big Dipper are different names for the same stars, no two directors' answers to the Six Questions are ever the same. It's a deeply personal exercise. But that's what makes it so interesting. It's fascinating and

[Click here to submit session attendance.](#)

wonderful to discover the different ways we all make sense of the same sky. **Steward Savage, Carnegie Vanguard HS**
Room 301

4:15 – 5:30 p.m.

ACADEMIC
COORDINATORS

Session 500: Coordinator and Coaches Advisory Committee Meeting
We met last year, but we didn't take flight. Calling all individuals interested in creating the academic coordinator and coaches advisory committee. If you have an interest in helping shape the future of UIL Academics, this meeting is for you. **David Stevens, state academic director and Ofelia Garza, Sharyland HS**
Room 115

ACADEMICS

Session 501: Advanced Skills in Computer Applications
BYOC. This is a fast-paced session covering everything we can think of for advanced contenders. We will take a deep dive into Microsoft Access and Excel and some high-level Word skills. This session is primarily for seasoned coaches and may outpace new coaches, but all are welcome. **Linda Tarrant, state contest director and Beth Bryant,**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 2

Session 502: Power Revision for Any Type of Writing
These strategies offer immediate and constructive feedback to your writers without reading every draft. A+ Academics, Journalism and Ready Writing coaches as well as coaches of essay contestants will find useful tips. **Lori Oglesbee, writing consultant**
Room 106

Session 503: Introduction to the Social Studies Contest
A review of the rules, contest format,

and what to expect this year. With keys on how to succeed and an initial exploration of this year's topic. **Andrew Bates, state contest director**
Room 104

STEM

Session 504: State of the Contest, Trajectories, and Logarithmic Solutions
The 2024 contest will be discussed along with a general Q&A opportunity. Trajectory stated problems and logarithmic solutions will be presented. **Dr. Dave Bourell, state contest director**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 4

Session 505: Computer Science – WeTeach_CS
Certified Computer Science teachers are critical for our schools (and having a certified teacher is the most important predictor for success in UIL CS). WeTeach_CS provides multiple opportunities and incentives for CS certification, including a new program focused on rural schools. Attend this session to find out more for yourself, or get info to take back to colleagues in your district. **John Owen, WeTeach_CS**
Room 101

Session 506: RECF-VEX Robotics – Part 2
Continues from previous session. **Raul Torres, RECF**
Room 116

A+ ACADEMICS

Session 507: Keeping Your Sanity While Hosting an A+ Meet
When you combine all events and all grades, you could be in charge of making sure 80 contests run smoothly and efficiently at a district meet. This is a huge undertaking. Learn tips and tricks for hosting a great meet and keeping your sanity too from this veteran A+ Meet Director. Digital examples of documents used throughout the season will also be provided. **Kimberly Sloane, Chireno ISD**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 5

Session 508: Power Revision for Any Type of Writing
These strategies offer immediate and

constructive feedback to your writers without reading every draft. A+ Academics, Journalism and Ready Writing coaches as well as coaches of essay contestants will find useful tips. **Lori Oglesbee, writing consultant**
Room 106

Session 509: How to Build Your A+ Program on Your Campus (Roundtable Discussion)
Come with ideas to share and leave with new ways to promote Academic UIL on your campus! Colin Wells will facilitate discussion and share a Kahoot game he uses at the annual kickoff event at his school. Winners will receive prizes! **Colin Wells, Prosper ISD**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 1

SPEECH

Session 510: Small School Challenges
For all coaches. This panel discussion examines the special challenges small schools face when fielding competitors for UIL and how they have addressed these issues with positive results. **Adrian Gallardo and Tim Haynes, Rankin HS, Sue Jane Sullivan, Borden County HS**
Room 103

Session 511: Shining "Light" on the New Prose & Poetry Categories
For all coaches. Let's dig deeper into the new prose and poetry categories by brainstorming ideas for recognizing joy in the small things and finding areas where we strive toward a better tomorrow through inspired change. Get ready for a hands-on workshop! Please bring a computer or phone to use. **Mellessa Denny and Ann Shofner, members of the state advisory committee**
Room: Salon C

Session 512: Congress: How to Survive Your First Meet
For novice coaches. Many coaches are excited to help their students compete in Congressional Debate but when the new school year rolls around, actually making it to that first contest seems impossible. The presenter shares his checklist of the most basic things you need to do to

survive the first meet and get your competitors hooked on Congress! **John Pierce, Mason HS**
Room: Salon DE

Session 513: Extemporaneous Speaking: Building Files Multiple Ways
For novice and veteran coaches. Meet two coaches who use different extemp software to demonstrate how to set up files and share successful tips whatever way you choose to build files. **Michael Donaldson, Grandview HS; Rory McKenzie, Lindale HS**
Room 203

Session 514: Cross-Examination Debate Judge Training
For novice and veteran coaches. Qualifying a policy debate team to state means being required to provide a well-trained judge for the tournament. Coaches are encouraged to fulfill that judging obligation. Avoid the time-consuming effort and needless cost to your district to hire a judge by getting trained and confident as a judge yourself. This session contrasts from the first judge training session. Even veteran coaches can benefit from the discussions generated in this training that focuses on how to write a strong ballot. **Dr. Rich Edwards, Baylor University, UIL debate consultant**
Room 202

THEATRE

Session 515: Theatrical Design FOCUS: Tools and Tricks of the Trade: Supplies and Resources for Success and Program Building
Learn from Experienced Theatrical Design Coaches; what has worked for them and where they turn for ideas and inspiration. **Rachael Gomez, theatrical design contest director, Jacqueline Zepeda and Bryan Honl, PSJA North HS**
Room: Salons AB

Session 516: Contest Manager session for OAP Director: What I've learned by working State Meet
Presentation of photos from past State Meet contests showing set designs, technical tricks, and theatrical



CONFERENCE
BREAK
Tuesday, 4 p.m.
A light snack will be provided.

Click here to submit session attendance.



CONFERENCE BREAK

Wednesday,
8 a.m.

A light breakfast
will be provided
outside the
Zlotnik Family
Ballroom

elements. Ask questions and get some answers. **Amy Jordan, Texas Thespians and OAP State Stage Supervisor and Jessica Brewster, Prosper ISD and state meet stage manager**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 3

Session 517: OPEN FORUM: Thinking in Color

OAP Doesn't Have to be Black and White and UIL Gray. Lighting can be done without all the bells and whistles. Props can be done with some imagination. You can create, you have to believe you can! Let's talk about problems and trends in OAP. How can you create and problem solve on a budget? Bring some problems or concerns and we can help. **Steward Savage, Carnegie Vanguard HS**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 6

Session 518: Vulnerability for the Actors
Strategies for the safe training of young actors for authentic performances. **Christopher Esparza and Eddy Cavazos, Harlingen ISD**
Room 301

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21 9 – 10:15 a.m.

ACADEMIC COORDINATORS

Session 600: Hosting an Invitational Meet in the Fall

We do it. You can too. We will show you all the ins and outs for ordering materials, recruiting schools, and making it beneficial for your students and attendees during the fall semester. These ideas are also easily applied in the spring when you cannot utilize UIL created materials. **Ofelia Garza and Angie Culberson-Espinosa, Sharyland HS**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 6

ACADEMICS

Session 601: Ready Writing: A Writing and READING Competition – Part 1

Often Ready Writing contestants tend to focus preparation efforts primarily on composition skills with little regard given the importance of reading. Instead, contestants should realize that effective reading equals effective writing. Session participants will read, discuss, and evaluate the 2023 State winning essays. **Ruben Rodriguez, state contest director**, Room 115

STEM

Session 602: Science – The Big Picture

A complete overview of the Science contest, how to prepare your students and what to expect from the test writers. Includes a roundtable discussion about topics of interest to you and that you want the test writers to know. **Dr. Brian Anderson, Dr. David Bixler and Dr. Michelle McGehee, state contest directors**
Room 101

Session 603: NO TRICKS in Number Sense!

We will demonstrate and discuss the types of problems and shortcuts from the HS sequence chart #1–20 and #21–40. Participants are encouraged to bring problems from each section they would like to discuss. **Larry White, state contest director**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 4

Session 604: FIRST Robotics

Do you know your FTCs from your FRCs? Learn the basics of FIRST Robotics competitions and how to get a program started at your school. **David Trussell, state STEM director**
Room 116

A+ ACADEMICS

Session 605: The UIL Test Writer's Perspective in Writing Junior High/Middle School Mathematics Tests

We'll look at the A+ Junior High/Middle School Mathematics and discuss the various problem types of problems. We should also discuss your queries as to perhaps shortcuts for solving various problems from the past year of UIL tests. **Andy Zapata, UIL A+ consultant**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 1

Session 606: A+ Coordinating
Michael Mattis, Grand Saline HS
Room 106

SPEECH

Session 607: A Light Along the Path: Making the Journey Easier

For novice and veteran coaches. A panel of veteran speech coaches share how they learned the ropes (sometimes the hard way) in order to realize that it's the "journey", not the destination. Listen as they shed light to make your path easier. **Shawn Duthie, Holliday HS; Kenneth Adcock, Ore City HS; Chris Dickson, Pine Tree HS; Elizabeth Wilborn, Chillicothe HS**
Room 202

Session 608: Finding "JOY" Through Practice & Performance.

For novice and veteran coaches. Rediscover how much fun working with interpreters can be. Ideas of how to do various forms of practices will be reviewed. Ballot analysis will also be discussed and the session will include a prose performance of a college national semi-finalist. **M'Liss Hindman, Director of Forensics for Tyler Junior College, Josh Lockaby, TJC collegiate competitor**
Room: Salon DE

Session 609: Roundtable: Congress

For veteran coaches. Join the table discussion as we explore rule change considerations, how to grow this event even more, and what makes it the unique contest that it is. **Jana Riggins, UIL director and Brian Alford, A&M Consolidated HS**
Room 103

Session 610: CX Debate Topic Analysis (Part I)

For novice and veteran coaches. Hear a comprehensive introduction to this year's policy debate resolution, including a discussion of the terms in the topic and potential affirmative cases. Resource materials provided. **Dr. Rich Edwards, Baylor University**
Room 203

THEATRE

Session 611: So, you want to do a musical?

This workshop is for the small school program. How do you budget, prepare and rehearse for a musical and still teach classes? **Sandy Spears, Union Grove ISD**
Room 104

Session 612: But How Do I Do That?

Critiques are great but can be confusing. Learn how to read the critique form and apply the advice to future performances. **Erin Moore, Sealy HS**
Room: Salon C

Session 613: Modern Documentary Filmmaking

An in-depth look into the UIL Documentary Film category and exploring ways to enhance your films with modern techniques. **Charlie Palacios, PSJA Southwest HS**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 5

Session 614: Theatrical Design Focus: HAIR/MAKEUP: Rethinking the Schematic and Realized and Rendered designs

The hair/makeup contest is being restructured slightly to accommodate best practices in the industry as well as keeping it consistent with our other contests. Learn how to master this approach. **Rachael Gomez, theatrical design contest director, Jacqueline Zepeda and Bryan Honl, PSJA North HS**
Room: Salons AB

Session 615: Nurturing and Building a Tech Program

Do you struggle communicating with your student technicians? Is there a culture of technicians vs actors that you are trying to change? Did you take over a program that needs an attitude adjustment? Let's talk about ways you can show your student technicians respect and bring your program out of the shadows. **Mel Edwards, Co-Founder, MAB Technical Theatre**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 2

Session 616: The Actor's Physical Viewpoint
(REPEAT SESSION) This session is

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ASW Enterprises

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TAJE – Texas Association
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TMSCA – Texas Math
& Science Coaches
Association

Texas Thespians

TSCA – Texas Speech
Communication
Association

TxETA

ValuTeachers

The Virtual Challenge
Meets

Exhibitors will display
material from 8 a.m. to 3
p.m. WEDNESDAY, JUNE
21. We encourage you
to visit vendors before,
between sessions and
during lunch. Sales are
not permitted, but order
forms will be available
for you to take with you
so you can order later.

Exhibitors will be set
up outside the Zlotnik
Family Ballrooms in
Rowling Hall (AT&T first
floor leads to Rowling
Hall). The UIL does not
review nor endorse any
supplemental resources.

[Click here to submit
session attendance.](#)

designed to provide directors with tools for guiding their actors on their journey of physical awareness through the foundational elements of yoga, breath work, viewpoints, and social emotional learning. Providing students with an opportunity to get out of their heads and into their bodies will further enhance their development as an artist, allowing them to work towards achieving a character through physicality. Yoga mats and movement clothes are encouraged, but not required. **Eddy Cavazos Harlingen South HS and Christopher Esparza, Harlingen HS**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 3

10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

ACADEMIC COORDINATORS

Session 700: Kick Starting an Academic UIL Program in your School

Practical strategies for starting, maintaining and celebrating active UIL academic program by gaining buy-in from your students, teachers, administrators and community. **Sally Cariker and Kenny Adcock, Ore City HS**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 6

ACADEMICS

Session 701: Accounting Coaches Forum: Building Community

An open discussion and opportunity for connecting with and building relationships with other accounting coaches. Bring your tips, strategies, and questions about all things accounting UIL. **Kay Whitton, state contest director**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 2

Sessio 702: Ready Writing: A Writing and READING Competition – Part 2

This session will pick up where Part 1 ended. **Ruben Rodriguez, state contest director**
Room 115

Session 703: How to Excel in the UIL Essay Competitions

Come learn about two of UIL's

lesserknown contest opportunities and how your student can become a UIL state finalist by submitting one research paper online. **Lisa Parker, UIL essay contest director**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 5

STEM

Session 704: Science – Physics Deep Dive

A demonstration of how the contest director comes up with questions, an overview of what to expect in the 2023–2024 UIL season including the new book, and a Q&A session on 2023 contest problems. **Dr. David Bixler, state contest director**
Room 101

Session 705: Still NO TRICKS in Number Sense!

We will demonstrate and discuss the types of problems and shortcuts from the HS sequence chart #41–60 and #61–80. Participants are encouraged to bring problems from each section they would like to discuss. **Larry White, state contest director.**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 4

Session 706: Computer Science – How Do I Make it to State?

This session provides answers to that question with a systematic approach to preparation that will help you guide and coach your students. **Dr. Shyamal Mitra, state contest advisor**
Room 116

A+ ACADEMICS

Session 707: A+ Modern Oratory and Impromptu Speaking

Michael Mattis, Grand Saline HS
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 1

Session 708: Learning How to Play and Teach Chess

(Repeat from Tuesday) This fun session has two primary objectives: 1) to provide to you a brief overview of how to play the game and 2) to introduce you to tools that will help you more effectively teach chess to your students. We will cover the basic rules, but also touch on the two most commonly misunderstood moves in

the game: castling and en passant. Finally, you will learn some of the basic principles which will help your students improve their play more quickly and efficiently. **Dr. Jeff Day, Texas Tech Chess**
Room 106

SPEECH

Session 709: Speech Coach Certification

For novice and veteran coaches. Learn all about a program where you can receive a sense of pride and professional skills by completing nationally recognized coursework and certifications. Convenient, self-paced and online learning that you can complete from anywhere on any device. **Jana Riggins, UIL, and NFHS Chair of National Speech, Debate, Theatre & Academics Committee**
Room 103

Session 710: A Second Look at the new CX Topic (Part II)

For novice and veteran coaches. This session will explore additional affirmative cases beyond those covered in the CX Topic Analysis session, Part I. In addition, numerous generic negative positions on the new topic will be examined. **Dr. Rich Edwards, Baylor University**
Room 203

Session 711: Advanced LD: A Discussion

For veteran coaches. Building solid strategies in varsity LD Debate is essential. A successful seasoned coach will share some argumentation strategies to try with your advanced debaters. **Jennifer Adams, Big Spring HS**
Salon DE

Session 712: Congress: How to Judge the Event

For novice and veteran coaches. Many times, people enjoy watching Congress but when placed in the role of the Scorer, they just aren't quite sure how to apply the rubric. A state-winning coach of Congress will share how you can become confident at adjudicating accurately and fairly. **Brian Alford, A&M Consolidated HS, member of the State Advisory Committee**
Room 202

THEATRE

Session 713: Theatrical Design Focus: Costume

Rethinking the Schematic and Realized and Rendered Costume designs. How to capitalize on your student's abilities to make the most of their options within the Costume Contest including realized designs. **Rachael Gomez, theatrical design contest director, Jacqueline Zepeda and Bryan Honl, PSJA North HS**
Room: Salons AB

Session 714: Big Looks on Big Stages with Curtis Ashby

One-Act Play Tech Success: effective ways to use scenery, lighting and props to support the play and still work within the rules. **Curtis Ashby, Tuloso-Midway HS**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 3

Session 715: Now What Do We Do?

The show is cast and now it's time to rehearse. But what does a rehearsal look like? Discuss and learn ways to organize your rehearsal process and create meaningful rehearsals that push your show forward. **Erin Moore, Sealy HS**
Room: Salon C

1:15 – 2:30 p.m.

ACADEMIC COORDINATORS

Session 800: Preparing for Invitational and District Competition(s)

How to survive overseeing numerous students and teachers hosting and/or attending invitational and district meets. Come gain knowledge and enthusiasm for UIL Academics from an experienced coordinator and meet host while learning a few things to make your life easier as a coordinator and/or meet director. First-time and experienced coordinators are welcome. **Teresa Wilcox, Brock HS**
Room: Zolotnik Ballroom 6



[Click here to submit session attendance.](#)



ACADEMICS

Session 801: Literary Criticism: The 2022-2023 Reading List
Mark Bernier, state contest director
Room 104

Session 802: Make the Most of Coaching Time with Your Writers
Practice with student writers to generate supporting evidence. Brainstorm together to create the best writing pieces. Write just the lead of a prompt five different ways. We'll take you through the strategies we used coaching state champion writers in journalism and ready writing. **Lori Oglesbee, writing consultant, and Alyssa Boehringer, director of journalism**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 2

Session 803: In-Depth with Social Studies
A discussion of the key components of this year's topic and its areas of focus with sample questions and essay topics. **Andrew Bates, state contest director**
Room 115

STEM

Session 804: Science – Biology Deep Dive
A demonstration of how the contest director comes up with questions, an overview of what to expect in the 2023-2024 UIL season, including any possible addition of topics and a Q&A on 2023 contest questions. **Dr. Michelle McGehee, state contest director**
Room 101

Session 805: High School Calculator – Special Questions from 2023
In this session we'll work through some of the more interesting problems from the 2023 tests. **Andy Zapata, state math consultant**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 4

Session 806: Small School Success in FIRST Robotics
FRC competition involves big robots, but it's not just for big schools! This session provides a coach's perspective on building a successful FRC program at a 2A school – tips, strategies and lessons learned. **Shannon Creager, Johnson City LBJ HS**

Room 116

A+ ACADEMICS

Session 807: A+ Oral Reading...
You want me to coach what? An in-depth look at the A+ speaking contest focusing on oral reading. Learn tricks, tips, and strategies on building a successful A+ speech team. **Gary Brister, Hico ISD**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 1

Session 808: Chess Drop-In Session
Come and Go. (Repeat from Tuesday)
This informal session will provide us an opportunity to talk in greater detail about how you can more effectively start, run, and grow a chess club / program in your school. We can talk about the various chess resources that are available to you that will help your kids learn more about the game and, of equal importance, become stronger players. **Dr. Jeff Day, Texas Tech Chess**
Room 106

SPEECH

Session 809: Artificial Intelligence: Friend or Foe of Forensics?
For novice and veteran coaches. Artificial Intelligence is taking the education world by storm. Is it good, evil or somewhere in between? What impact will it have over the future of competition, contest rules and forensics in general? These presenters do a deep drive into AI and what impact it may have over speech and debate competition in the days and months to come. **Dr. Rich Edwards, Baylor University, Rory McKenzie, Lindale HS**
Room: Salon C

Session 810: Starting Interp Students on the Right Track
For novice and veteran coaches. Suggestions of how to get your students on the positive track of developing a good work ethic will be discussed. Tips and tried and true exercises for focus, developing characters and book work will also be discussed. Overcoming anxiety

and stress will be included. Bring your questions and be ready to be positive!
M'Liss Hindman, UIL oral interpretation consultant, Tyler Junior College
Room: Salon DE

Session 811: Building a Debate Program in a Small School Setting
For novice and veteran coaches. A coach shares his strategies for building a strong debate program while facing the many challenges unique to small schools. **Kenneth Adcock, Ore City HS**
Room 202

Session 812: Extemporaneous Speaking: It's the Little Things That Count!
For novice and veteran coaches. A discussion that draws the spotlight on the "little things" that make a speaker stand out from the rest of the round. **Ann Shofner, UIL Extemporaneous Speaking consultant**
Room 103

THEATRE

Session 813: Theatrical Design Focus: MARKETING Zero in on Pitch Plate as our newest challenge item How to address the Pitch Plate in the Marketing Design contest and let your designers flex their muscle. **Rachael Gomez, theatrical design contest director, Jacqueline Zepeda and Bryan Honl, PSJA North HS**
Room: Salons AB

Session 814: UIL Film Contest 101
For teachers getting started with the UIL Film Contest, here is everything you need to know: the rules, the categories, the judging process, equipment suggestions. We will also discuss strategies to help make your students' films "contestworthy." **Heidi Whitus, UIL film contest consultant**
Room 203

Session 815: OAP/TTAO Roundtable: The Play Evaluation
Join seasoned OAP Adjudicators as they discuss the current OAP form for evaluating contest plays, how they arrive at acting awards and making

those tough decisions. UIL and TTAO collaboration, **Paula Rodriguez, UIL state theatre director**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 3

2:45 – 4 p.m.

ACADEMIC COORDINATORS

Session 900: Preparing High School Academic Coordinators and Coaches Update
This is an overview for the academic coordinator for creating a successful UIL Academic program. New and experienced coaches are welcome to join in the conversation. **David Stevens, state academic director**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 6

ACADEMICS

Session 901: Preparing for the Essay Portion of the CI&E and Social Studies Contest
Techniques and examples to write an essay that gives students the best chance to receive the full 20% of the total score. **Andrew Bates and Bradley Wilson, state contest directors**
Room 115

Session 902: Literary Criticism: Poetry Explication for Part 2 and Part 3 of the Test
Mark Bernier, state contest director
Room 104

STEM

Session 903: Science – Chemistry Deep Dive
A demonstration of how the contest director comes up with questions, an overview of what to expect in the 2023-2024 UIL season, including any possible addition of topics, and a Q&A on 2023 contest problems. **Dr. Brian Anderson, state contest director**
Room 101

[Click here to submit session attendance.](#)



Session 904: Branching Out with STEM in 2023-2024

A wrap-up session hitting the highlights from this year's conference and looking ahead to next school year.

David Trussell, state STEM director
Room 116

A+ ACADEMICS

Session 905: Herding "Cats" an A+ approach to feeding your HS OAP program. (A+/OAP)

Strategies on how to build a JH OAP program that will benefit your HS OAP program starting day one. **Gary Brister, Hico ISD**
Room 106

Session 906: UIL A+ Academics Discussion

Bring any questions or feedback to share for UIL A+ Academics in this drop-in session. **Lisa Parker, A+ Academics director**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 1

SPEECH

Session 907: G.I.F.T.S. (Great Ideas for Teaching Speech)

For novice and veterans alike. An annual favorite, carousel from one presenter to another to discover innovative lesson plans, classroom activities, and coaching techniques. Take home new ideas to jumpstart or rejuvenate your curriculum and coaching practices. Audience participation and having fun is required! **Jana Riggins, facilitator; Mellessa Denny, Amarillo HS, Ann Shofner, consultant, , Chris Dickson, Pine Tree HS, Maribeth Harlow, Three Rivers HS and additional presenters**
Room: Salon C

THEATRE

Session 908: Theatrical Design Focus: GROUP DESIGN: Introduce Prop Option now offered within group

There's a new option in GROUP DESIGN this year and this session will tell you everything you need to know about it so you can decide if it works for your group. **Rachael Gomez, theatrical design contest director, Jacqueline Zepeda and**

Bryan Honl, PSJA North HS
Salons AB

Session 909: 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, Co-Founder, MAB Technical Theatre. Room**
Room: Salon DE

Session 910: UIL Animation

Explore the Traditional and Digital Animation Categories and find ways to channel your students' creativity into animated storytelling. **Patrick Tejeda, John Paul Stevens High School, Northside ISD**
Room 203

Session 911: OAP Rules, Updates and Starting the Season Strong

(REPEAT) This session will start with updates to the contest followed for all levels followed by question and answers session. **Paula Rodriguez, UIL State Theatre Director**
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 3

Session 912: Herding "Cats" an A+ approach to feeding your HS OAP program (A+/OAP)

Strategies on how to build a JH OAP program that will benefit your HS OAP program starting day one. **Gary Brister, Hico ISD**
Room 106

PRESENTERS

Clint Adams teaches social studies and coaches speech and debate at Big Spring High School. Along with his wife Jennifer, their program has produced multiple state champions. He is an active participant in the National Debate Topic Selection process, authoring study reports for several years.

****Jennifer Adams** coaches speech and debate, along with Spelling and Ready Writing at Big Spring High School. A Sponsor Excellence Award winner, she actively serves on the Regional Speech Advisory Committee at Texas Tech and is a member of the state meet extemporaneous speaking prep room team. Currently, she serves on the Wording Committee of the Debate Topic Selection national process.

Kenny Adcock teaches dual credit speech courses at Ore City High School. He coaches speech, debate and journalism and is the yearbook advisor. This year, his debaters captured the Conference 2A state championship in Cross-Examination Debate.

****Brian Alford** is currently the coach at A&M Consolidated HS and serves as an officer in TFA. He is a member of the UIL State Advisory Committee for Congress, the Regional Advisory Committee and is a Sponsor Excellence Award recipient.

Dr. Brian Anderson, UIL state contest director for Science (Chemistry), is an Assistant Professor of Instruction at UT-Austin where he teaches general chemistry courses. Dr. Anderson has a B.A. in chemistry from Knox College, and an M.A. in marine science and Ph.D. in chemistry from UT-Austin.

Curtis Ashby has received training throughout the Texas hill country, Austin, Dallas, San Antonio, Chicago and Las Vegas. He is fulfilled being back in the educational setting of theatre. Recent accomplishments include 6 UIL One-Act Play state appearances: UIL One-Act Play 5A State Finalist These Shining Lives (2015) and The Caucasian Chalk Circle (2016), the 2018 5A State Champion Moon Over Buffalo, the 2019 5A 2nd Runner-Up Lend Me A Tenor, the 2021 4A State Champion Over The River And Through The Woods and the 2022 4A 2nd Runner-Up The Circus Animals' Desertion. In addition to directing, Mr. Ashby has served as Contest Manager for 3A Region IV Area 2 Contests (2016, 2017, 2018, 2022, 2023) and 4A Region IV Contests (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018). Gratitude and

love to the Tuloso-Midway, Corpus Christi, Austin and San Antonio communities!

**** Andrew Bates** has been the UIL state contest director for Social Studies for nearly a decade. He has been in education for 21 years as a teacher, coach, and administrator. As a coach, his students captured over a dozen team titles and over 40 state medals in events such as Social Studies, Current Events, Spelling, Speech, and OAP. As a coordinator, he has helped lead Sabine Pass to ten overall Academic State Championships.

Mark Bernier has taught English, philosophy, and history and has been involved with UIL academics in one way or another since 1987. For over twenty years he has served as UIL academic meets director for five district and two region meets annually. During the past fifteen years Mark has enjoyed the direct interaction with students and academic coaches that comes with being state director of Literary Criticism.

Linda Berrey, UIL state contest director for Spelling and Vocabulary, taught at Waxahachie HS for 21 years and served as the school's first UIL spelling and vocabulary coach while also serving as academic co-director.

Cindy Berry just finished her 32nd year of teaching - well sort of. She retired from Bridgeport High School two years ago and now works as part-time teacher, UIL coordinator and journalism coach in rural Slidell. Cindy is past president of the Texas Association of Journalism Educators and a recipient of the Edith Fox King award. In 2019 Cindy was named a UIL Sponsor Excellence Award recipient. Her students have made numerous appearances at the State UIL Academic Meet, garnering several gold medals along the way. She has advised yearbook, newspaper, online publications, and taught everything from theatre arts to German. She also served on the inaugural All-State UIL/ILPC Journalism staff committee in 1998. In her spare time, she bakes wedding cakes, many for former students. Cindy believes in having fun in the classroom, celebrating her students in everything they do, and fashions herself as the biggest UIL nerd there is.

Dr. David Bixler, UIL state contest director for Science (Physics), is a professor of Physics and dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research at Angelo State University. Dr. Bixler holds

a B.S. in Physics and Mathematics from Tarleton State University, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Physics from Rice University. Robert Blain is the UIL Coordinator at Aldine Carver High School. Has worked as a UIL coach and coordinator for over 10 years at both Spring Westfield and Aldine Carver HS. His teams have qualified students for Region annually and he has mentored dozens of team coaches and coordinators.

Robert Blain is a Social Studies teacher and UIL Academic Coordinator at Aldine Carver HS, as well as Region VI Academic Decathlon Coordinator. His students have won individual and team honors at Region and State in numerous events while at Spring Westfield and at Carver.

Alyssa Boehringer is the UIL Director of Journalism and ILPC Director. She served as journalism coach, academic coordinator, yearbook adviser, broadcast adviser and online news adviser at McKinney High School for 16 years before working for one year in communications at Princeton ISD. She now lives in Leaguetown with her husband, their daughter and a dog and a cat.

Dr. Dave Bourell, UIL state contest director for Calculator Applications, is the Temple Foundation Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science and Engineering at The University of Texas at Austin. He is an international expert in 3D printing. Dr. Bourell has directed the Calculator Applications Contest for 41 years.

Gary Brister is a graduate of TSU and has a BS in Speech Communications and a Med. In Administration. He has worked at Hico ISD for 27 years and has 20 plus years of experience coaching Oral Reading, Modern Oratory, Impromptu, Oral Interpretation, Extemporaneous Speaking in both the high school and junior high levels. He has also served as a high school and junior high academic coordinator and been a member of the regional and state advisory committees. His philosophy is to create a spirit of competitiveness where students are given the opportunity to discover their full potential in meaningful and engaging extracurricular activities that will create a climate that cultivates a lifelong passion for knowledge.

Beth Bryant has a long history with competing and working with Computer Applications. She is employed with Hexco Academic Publishing.

Click here to submit session attendance.

Sally Cariker is the UIL Academic Coordinator at Ore City High School. Eddy Cavazos holds a B.M. in Vocal Performance from Texas A&M University-Kingsville and an M.F.A. in Musical Theatre from The Boston Conservatory. In addition, Cavazos is a 200 Hour Registered Yoga Teacher and Social Emotional Learning Facilitator via Breathe4Change. Cavazos serves as Theatre Director, Speech Coach, and UIL Academic Coordinator at Harlingen High School South and Director of Musical Theatre at the Harlingen Performing Arts Conservatory. Since beginning his teaching career in 2020, Cavazos' work has appeared at the 2021 6A One Act Play State Meet (Anatomy of Gray), 2022 6A One Act Play State Meet (Things I Know to be True), and 2023 5A One Act Play State Meet (Indecent). Cavazos coached the 2022 6A UIL Poetry State Champion and the 2022 National Speech & Debate Association National Champions and Interp Bowl Winners in Duo Interpretation.

Shannon Creager has taught Mathematics at the college and high school levels since 2001, including the past 4 years at Johnson City LBJ HS. She also coaches the Johnson City Joules FIRST Robotics Team, which was founded in 2022. In their first two competitions, the Joules received the Rookie Inspiration Award and Rookie All-Star Award.

Angie Culberson-Espinosa is the co-academic coordinator, science teacher and department chair at Sharyland High School. She finished her 15th year teaching physics and coaching UIL science. She turly enjoys the teaching profession and looks forward to many more years to come.

Dr. Jeff Day is the Program Manager for the Texas Tech University Chess Program. He earned his BA in English from Monmouth College in Illinois, his MFA in Directing (Theatre) from Western Illinois University, and his Ph.D. in Fine Arts (Theatre) from Texas Tech University. His research interests revolve around the philosophical notion of the Paradox of Fiction as it applies to how and why we imagine, create, and, ultimately, come to believe in theatre's fictional worlds. In 2019, he was selected to participate in the prestigious Kennedy Center Playwriting Intensive in Washington, DC. Here at Texas Tech, he has served on the University Disciplinary Committee, the Study Abroad Competitive Scholarship Committee, and the Staff Senate. He teaches the Introduction to Chess course, and he designed a Multicultural course that, once approved, will meet the University's Multicultural Core requirement. The course places chess as a constant reference point as the student moves through history, learning how

culture shaped the evolution and spread of the royal game. Without shame, and to constant derision, he stubbornly continues to play the Bird's Opening with the white pieces; he does not fear the From's Gambit.

****Mellessa Denny** has taught speech and debate since 1998. A UIL Sponsor Excellence Award winner, she is a state tab room official for UIL Congress State Meet, a past-president of the Texas Speech Communication Association and has served as Chair of the Educator Training Committee that produces teaching materials for educators.

Chris Dickson has coached speech and debate and golf for many years. He currently is involved in theatre education at Pine Tree High School. Chris has served on the Regional Speech Advisory Committee, a judge at State Meet and has taught workshops at UIL Student Activity Conferences.

Michael Allen Donaldson served as the UIL Coordinator and Speech/Debate/ Journalism coach at Grandview ISD. Prior to working at Grandview, he served in a similar role at China Spring High School in Waco. In college, Michael worked at the UIL State Office in the academic and theatre departments and helped run a variety of state tournaments. Michael has hosted a variety of workshops and camps as well as multiple invitational and district meets over the course of his career. He specializes in using an almost obnoxious level of positivity to help motivate students to step out of the comfort zone and try new things in the academic arena.

****Shawn Duthie** has taught Theatre and Speech at Holliday High School for over twenty years. He has coached individual State Champions in every speaking event and advanced to the State meet in One-Act Play. Shawn has received the University Interscholastic League Sponsor Excellence Award. Shawn was named a Distinguished Alumni for the Fain College of Fine Arts at Midwestern State University in 2019.

Dr. Rich Edwards is a professor of communication studies at Baylor University and has served as president of the American Forensics Association. He is author of the topic introduction issue of the Policy Debate Quarterly and the debate text, Competitive Debate: The Official Guide. Dr. Edwards has made invaluable contributions to high school debate and to UIL, serving as the Region 6A – II Speech Director and UIL state contest director for CX and LD Debate. He has been inducted into the National Federation Hall of Fame and elected to the National Speech and Debate Association Hall of Fame.

Mel Edwards has been a technician, educator and Technical Director for over 10 years. A graduate from The University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and Dance with a concentration in Scenic Technology. After college, they took on a position at Studio Theatre in Washington, DC where they served as one of three scenic carpenters building 9–10 shows a season. After returning to Texas, they continued woodworking skills building cabinets and furniture with an Austin company named The WIM Group. Every summer they serve as the Production Technical Director for Tal's Theatre Summer Camp at Baylor University. They are also the Scho Show Coordinator for the Round Rock State Meet and has an online shop, Mighty With All Trades, for fun Tech Theatre inspired things as a 1/3 co-creator of MAB Technical Theatre, providing curriculum and workshops to technical theatre educators.

Mike Fisher and Nicole Malone have taught together at Hendrickson HS for 13 years. We've had 5 appearances at the UIL State Meet in addition to numerous recognitions at the Heller Awards for Young Artists, including Best Production and Best Direction multiple years. As a directing team our philosophy is focused on building a community of artist through storytelling and ensemble.

LaVerne Funderburk started working with UIL Accounting during the pilot phase and then was tapped to be the contest director having held this position for 39 years. As she retires following this conference, she will be remembered for her generosity and dedication to this event while faithfully serving the students and teachers and encouraging their participation. She is a Certified Public Accountant in Joshua. In addition to her public accounting and tax practice, she writes accounting education products and practice materials for the UIL Accounting contest.

Adrian Gallardo is the debate coach, theatre director and principal at Rankin High School. He has been teaching debate and theatre for 17 years and has been the District's UIL Coordinator for over 10 years. Adrian has coached state qualifiers in CX Debate, Congress, Interp and Extemp, coaching gold and silver medalist teams in CX Debate and top speakers. He has advanced OAP shows to the region and state level. His shows have placed I the top three at state competition, winning the state championship in 2021.

Ofelia Garza is the UIL Academic Co-Coordinator at Sharyland High School where she teaches chemistry. She is a former UIL competitor and is a proud graduate of the University of Texas at

Austin. She loves all things associated with UIL and loves to provide these opportunities to students that helped encourage her learning and led her to the education profession.

Nancy Garza is an elementary music teacher at Brookhollow Elementary in Pflugerville, Texas. In fifth grade, she begged her father to join the Ready Writing team so that she could be better prepared for writing in college. (She had a crush on a boy.) Forty-one years later, she is still involved with Academic UIL but as a coach and campus coordinator. Her people include a husband and two sons. The oldest is a third-year music performance major at UTSA. The other is a recent graduate of Pflugerville High School who will attend Austin Community College, majoring in fine arts.

Rachael Gomez serves as the State Contest Director for UIL Theatrical Design. This year marks the beginning of her 8th Contest. Throughout the challenges of running a competition during a pandemic, Theatrical Design never missed a beat. After two years of digital only, contestants returned in person this year and Mrs. Gomez is excited to see new growth in participation in the year ahead inspired by a great piece of literature.

Maribeth Harlow has coached speech, debate and directed the One-Act Play through her years associated with UIL. She currently teaches at Three Rivers High School.

Timothy Haynes is the Speech and Debate Coach at Rankin High School. Tim has helped coach several State and National Qualifiers. Tim also assists with One-Act Play and has advanced to all levels. He has worked at several schools ranging in size from 1A to 6A.

Andrew Haub has taught in Hutto ISD for 13 years including the past 6 at Hutto HS. He teaches engineering and robotics and is the Lead Robotics Instructor for Hutto ISD. Hutto's BEST Robotics teams have won 5 UIL State Championships.

M'Liss Hindman has been a speech professor and Director of Speech/Debate at Tyler Junior College for forty-six years. Her teams have been the top community college squad multiple years at the national tournament. She has served as the UIL Prose Poetry Consultant for over twelve years.

Amy Jordan has served as Texas Thespians Chapter Director since 2012 and was named the Executive Director in 2021. Amy holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Drama, with an emphasis in Stage Management and Design from Texas Woman's University where she

also holds a Master of Arts degree in Theatrical Design and Theatre Education. Before beginning her 20-year career at Denison High School in 2001, Amy spent two years as an Actors Equity Stage Manager in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Along with her team of co-directors at Denison, Amy qualified for the State level of competition in U.I.L. One-Act Play, four consecutive times in 2010-2013-winning 1st Runner Up in 2010. She has served as the UIL One Act Play State Meet Stage Supervisor since 2014, as a State Meet Theatrical Design Judge in 2022-2023, and the 5A UIL One Act Play State Meet Contest Manager in 2021.

Mike Fisher and Nicole Malone have taught together at Hendrickson HS for 13 years. We've had 5 appearances at the UIL State Meet in addition to numerous recognitions at the Heller Awards for Young Artists, including Best Production and Best Direction multiple years. As a directing team our philosophy is focused on building a community of artist through storytelling and ensemble.

Emily King has coached multiple state champions in oral interpretation and currently serves on the Prose and Poetry State Advisory Committee that designed the newest literary categories. She has taught at Sundown High School and now teaches and coaches at Liberty Hill High School.

Josh Lockaby is a sophomore at Tyler Junior College. He graduated from Canton High School. He is a Biology major and is a drummer in the TJC Apache Band.

Cliff McCurdy, is a retired teacher of 40 years and has coached math for 20 years. He has taught classes from Algebra I up to BC Calculus. McCurdy has also coached state champion teams in 1A, 2A, 3A and 4A.

Dr. Michelle McGehee, UIL state contest director for Science (Biology), is Dean for Academic Affairs at Blinn College, where she has taught general biology, anatomy & physiology, and microbiology. Dr. McGehee earned a Ph.D. in molecular biology, microbiology, and biochemistry from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL. She also serves as the science contest director for UIL district and regional meets held on the Blinn College Brenham campus.

Rory McKenzie has been a teacher and coach for over 15 years and currently teaches at Lindale High School where he attended high school. He is a former state champion and has coached numerous state champions and other medalists. He is honored to serve as the Vice President-Elect for the Texas Speech Communication Association –

and if you are not already involved in the organization, you need to be!

Grayson Merchant is a teacher, director, and designer at Keller Central High School. As a Scenic designer, he has designed multiple productions, his favorites being Dogfight and We Are Proud to Present. He has worked Off-Broadway and Regionally while working under notable Scenic Designers as an assistant and associate designer. He is beyond excited to be a part of this year's Capital Conference!

Dr. Shyamal Mitra, state contest advisor for Computer Science, is an Associate Professor of Instruction in the Computer Science Department at UT–Austin. Dr. Mitra holds a BS in Physics from Calcutta University, an MS in Astronomy from Osmania University and an MA and PhD in Astronomy from UT–Austin. He has worked with UIL Computer Science for 15 years.

Erin Moore is the current President-Elect of TXETA. She has presented over 60 workshops at Theatrefest, Summerfest and Round Up. She has served as K–12 Chair, Secretary to the Board of Directors and as a member of the Curriculum Committee. She has been a Fine Arts presenter for Regions IV, VI and VII, CEDFA, UIL Superconference and Capital Conference. She has served on the Board of Directors for Texas Thespians and Shakespeare's Globe Center, US. A graduate of the University of Houston (BA Theatre Teacher Certification), Lamar University (MS Instructional Leadership) and a former student at Texas A&M Commerce (Theatre MA Studies). She has directed OAP for 30 years and has been fortunate to advance to the state level five times. Erin teaches Theatre at Sealy High School and is the Sealy ISD Fine Arts Director. She also teaches dual credit theatre classes through Blinn College. She lives in Sealy, Texas with her husband, and son.

Lori Oglesbee of McKinney coached district, regional and state UIL individual and team championships in ready writing and journalism events at McKinney HS and Prosper HS. She was the 2009 JEA national Yearbook Adviser of the Year and the 2005 Max R. Haddick Texas Journalism Teacher of the Year. After 35 years in the classroom, she retired and is now the Education Ambassador for Cady Studios. She's proud to claim UIL journalism director Alyssa Boehringer as one of her former star students and state competitors.

John B. Owen serves as CS Project Manager for WeTeach_CS, a program of the Expanding Pathways in Computing (EPIC) at the Texas Advanced Computing Center. Prior to coming to WeTeach_CS,

John retired from Rockport-Fulton HS after more than 20 years of teaching and coaching Computer Science, including multiple UIL state champions. He received the UIL Sponsor Excellence Award in 2008.

Charlie Palacios has been a theatre director and film director at PSJA Southwest High School since 2017. He has achieved three state One Act Play appearances with a championship title in 2021. In addition, he has made 6 UIL Film state appearances earning two championship titles in 2021 and 2022 and three state runner ups in 2020, 2021, and 2022. PSJA Southwest holds to the title for Top Theatre a school for the last three consecutive years as well as the UIL academic title for 2021.

Lisa Parker's number one passion is providing support and assistance to Texas educators. She is grateful to work each day alongside the super amazing UIL Academic team as the director of A+ and Essay Contests.

****John Pierce** teaches English and serves as the UIL Coordinator at Mason High School. At Mason, he has coached state champions in Current Events, LD Debate, Poetry, Literary Criticism, and Congress. He serves as the Region XV Clerk for Congress and is a UIL Sponsor Excellence Award recipient.

Cadi Powers was a 2022 UIL State Champion in Informative Speaking, Lincoln Douglas Debate as well as a silver medalist in Congress. She was named Outstanding Presiding Officer, as well. The previous year, she captured the silver medal in Informative Speaking. She is currently attending Texas State University where she is highly involved on campus.

****Jana Riggins** has served as the State Director for Speech & Debate for 26 years. A 21-year veteran of the classroom at the middle school, high school and collegiate levels and coach of state champions, she has been recognized nationally with the prestigious Citation Award by the National Federation of State High School Associations for her contributions to interscholastic speech, debate & theatre and was named Texas Speech Teacher of the Year and Baylor University's Outstanding Woman in Speech. She currently serves as Chair of the National Speech, Debate, Theatre and Academics.

Paula Rodriguez is the UIL state theatre director. Her experiences in UIL, from directing in small and large schools, to adjudicating and contest managing, have taught her many life shaping lessons. She feels blessed to work with a team of rock stars and that includes the theatre teachers and students of Texas.

Ruben Rodriguez is the state contest director for Ready Writing, and is currently a Professor, Adjunct, at Austin Community College in the Integrated Reading and Writing Department and the English Department. He is also an independent contractor in ELA and AP Language, as well as serving on the SAT Reading Committee. Ruben trains and works with ELA, Pre-AP, and AP Language and Composition Teachers throughout Texas and the United States.

Steward Savage holds three BFA's graduating with high honors from the University of Pittsburgh; Art History (emphasis in Medieval to High Renaissance); Studio Arts (emphasis in drawing and painting) and theatre arts (emphasis in acting.) In addition, he holds a Master's in Directing and Scenography from The Chicago College of Performing Arts and Yale School of Drama. Before beginning his teaching career, Steward, worked and designed on and off Broadway and in regional and national theatres around the world. He currently serves as a committee member of Americans for The Arts and the National Coalition Against Censorship. Mr. Savage has worked since 2010 as the Director of Theatre and Fine Arts Department Chair at Carnegie Vanguard High School in Houston, TX. Under his direction, Carnegie Theatre Company has 6 State appearances with UIL and is pleased to hold the title of 2014 UIL 5A State Championship with the production of ""When The Rain Stops Falling" and the 2016 UIL 6A State Championship with the production of "Holy Day."

Ann Shofner taught at Tascosa High School in Amarillo for 36 years. She has served as President of the Texas Speech Communication Association and the Texas Forensic Association. She has been a member of the Poetry and Prose Selection Committee. She currently serves as the UIL Speech Consultant for Informative and Persuasive Speaking.

Kimberly Sloane is the UIL Coordinator for Chireno ISD (grades 2-12), and coaches various events at the junior high and high school level. Kimberly hosts or assists in multiple elementary and high school meets throughout the year. She has coached for 23 years, and her students have earned many state medals during that time.

****Jimmy Smith** is a Sponsor Excellence Award recipient. He's also been inducted into the National Speech and Debate Hall of Fame, and has over 40 years of teaching. He's always willing to mentor new coaches and conduct workshops to help build strong speech programs.

****Sandy Spears**, Union Grove ISD, has 37 years of public school educational

service in Theater and Debate. She loves her job and wears many hats in a 2A system. She has been blessed to find her passion in teaching. She has hosted many young theater and UIL coordinators to discuss what information and paperwork is needed to get their high school programs started. She serves as the NSDA organization treasurer. In her spare time she enjoys playing with her first grandchild, EJ.

Dr. David Stevens has been a theatre teacher, academic coordinator, fine arts director, spring meet director and is happy to now be the UIL academic director. He is privileged to work with the best UIL academic staff known to man. Other than serving the incredible schools in Texas, his favorite part of the job is explaining that the amateur and residency rules for UIL athletics do not apply to academic activities.

****Sue Jane Sullivan** currently works with the Borden County High School speech and debate program and high school UIL Social Studies. She has coached all UIL events except for math, science, and business-related contests. As a new teacher in 1978, with no formal background in UIL events, she learned along with her students by networking with experienced colleagues and by attending UIL Super Conferences.

Linda Tarrant, UIL state contest director for Computer Applications, is the owner of Hexco Academic, a company that has produced products for academic contests for over 30 years. With a BA from the University of Texas, she spent her early career with IBM.

Raul Torres is a Team Engagement Manger for the Robotics Education and Competition Foundation (RECF). He is a robotics advocate and his goals are to bring robotics to everyone as well support them with his 10 years experience in robotics.

David Trussell, UIL state director for STEM activities, has served as a UIL state contest director for more than 25 years. He has worked with numerous contest areas in high school and A+ academics, including overseeing the launch of UIL Robotics in 2015.

Colin Wells has been teaching and directing theatre for over two decades in Missouri and Texas. He has a Master of Arts in Theatre from Missouri State University and a Masters in Educational Administration from Texas A&M Commerce. When in the UIL OAP festival judge or clinician's seat, Mr. Wells commits to giving back to the students and teachers that have worked incredibly hard on the literature.

Larry White, UIL state contest director for Number Sense, retired after 26 years in public schools and 8 years at Angelo State University. After retiring he was a member of the Texas State University Systems Mathematics for English Language Learners team for six years, followed by seven years on the Angelo State Texas Quality Grant program team. He has served as a state contest director for more than 20 years.

Kay Whitton brings 30 years of UIL coaching experience and a true love for all things UIL to her incoming role as UIL State Accounting Contest Director. Kay served as the accounting teacher and UIL coach for Jim Ned High School for many years and is now officially retired and looking forward to her new UIL duties.

Heidi Klein Whitus has a B.F.A. in Cinema from Edinboro University, an M.F.A. in Video Research from Syracuse University, and an M.A. from the University of Texas at Austin in Foreign Language Education. Her work in photography, film and video has been shown in exhibits and festivals in the U.S. and abroad. Prior to teaching, Ms. Whitus worked in the film and video industry in New York. Ms. Whitus taught at Communications Arts High School in San Antonio for many years, where her students received city-wide, regional, state and national recognition for their video and multimedia projects. She also teaches Audio/Radio Production at San Antonio College. Ms. Whitus has been fortunate to combine her love of travel with her passion for teaching: she was an instructor for the Monteverde New Media Expedition in Costa Rica, and recently she has been a trainer for Digital Storytelling Workshops in Ghana, Qatar, Bosnia, Bangladesh and Washington, D.C. sponsored by the State Department.

Elizabeth Wilborn graduated from Brady High School in 1971. Attended Angelo State University, graduated in 1994 with a BA in English. Received her Master's in Library Science from Sam Houston State University in 2012. Teaches special education at Chillicothe High School, is the UIL coordinator, one act play director, and speech and debate coach.

Terea Wilcox is passionate about UIL Academics. Mrs. Wilcox earned her Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics degree from California State University, Fresno, then continued her education earning her Master of Science in Mathematics from Tarleton State University. She began teaching high school mathematics while in California in 1989 and relocated to Texas in 1995. In 2003, Mrs. Wilcox moved to Brock, TX, where she has been involved with UIL Academics, taking on various roles including coaching and coordinating, ever since. By sharing in her passion and competitive spirit, Mrs.

Wilcox's students have advanced to State every year since 2005.

Dr. Bradley Wilson is an associate professor of mass communication at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls. He is the state director for Current Issues and Events and Copy Editing. @bradleywilson09 @uilciande

****Andy Zapata** is a co-founder of Texas Math and Science Coaches Association (TMSCA) and serves as a UIL state contest director and A+ test writer. He taught in the classroom for 43 years including in Azle public schools and sponsored UIL math and science competitions for 40 years, coaching numerous individuals and teams to the UIL state meet.

Jacqueline Zepeda is a theater teacher at PSJA North Early College High School. Jackie graduated from Trinity University and headed to L.A. to work in the movie industry before returning to teach at her Alma Matter. She has been teaching for over 10 years and in 2012 she was awarded the Texas Exes "Rising Star Award" for new and upcoming teachers in the state of Texas. She currently coaches, UIL Prose and Poetry, Extemporaneous Speaking, OAP, Film, and Theatrical Design where she has had numerous state finalist in all events and several State Champions.

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