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, Carlton 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.

CONFERECE SCHEDULE
TUESDAY, JUNE 20
8 a.m.
Conference Check-In
Doors open; 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 ESPs.
Espinosa and Ofelia Garza, Sharyland HS
Room 104

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. 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 Bets
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 110

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; 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.
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: 208

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. Melissa 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 Hoel, 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 Blair, 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 Whilton 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 Whilton, state contest director Room: 115

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

Session 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 Slowane, 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, we will review the various 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 Arnold 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.

Room: Salons DE
Room: Salons AB

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.

Room: Room 103

Session 212: A Firm Foundation Part 1: Beginning Policy Debate
For novice coaches. An explanation of cross-examination debate. UIL rules, policy terminology, basic theory. Clint Adams, Big Spring HS

Room: 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, and audience topics. Jana Riggins, UIL Director and Rich Edwards, UIL Debate consultant

Room: Room 202

THEATRE

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

Room: Salons AB

Session 215: OAP Process: Tools and tips to build an OAP around the ensemble
Join Nicole and Michael as they demonstrate tools and tips for building your OAP ensemble.

Room: 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.

Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 2

Session 217: No Budget, No Stage, No Dream Work!
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.

Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 3

Session 218: 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 Logophiles Laureates
Strategies for upsing 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: 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: Room 101

A+ ACADEMICS

Session 307: Learning How to Play and Teach Chess
(Repeat of Wednesday) This fun session has two primary objectives: 1) to provide 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: 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, Nico HS; Melissa Danny, Amarillo HS; Shaun Duthie, Holliday HS; Emily King, Liberty Hill HS
Room: Salon C

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.

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Salons DE

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Room: Salon C

Click here to submit session attendance.
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 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

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 Larson, 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

Session 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 Assessments 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, Noco 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. Jeannette 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 Join 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 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 Breuster, 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
A review of the rules, contest format, 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 116
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 111

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 Hughes, 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 tablet to use. Melissa Denny and Ann Shoefner, 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 however 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. Rachel Gomaz, theatrical design contest director, Jacqueline Zepeda and Bryan Honl, PSA North HS
Room: Salons AB
Session 516: Contest Manager session
Learn about the process of scheduling events, running contests, communicating with contest directors, and making sure 80 contests run smoothly and efficiently at a district meet. Hosting an A+ Meet! workshop! Please bring a computer or tablet to use. Melissa Denny and Ann Shoefner, members of the state advisory committee
Room, Salon C
Session 517: Presenting at the State Meet
Presentation of photos from past State Meet contests showing set designs, technical tricks, and theatrical displays.
elements. Ask questions and get some answers. Amy Jordan, Texas Thespians and OAP State Stage Supervisor and Jessica Breusner, Prosper ISD and state meet stage manager.

Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 3

Session 517: OPEN FORUM: Thinking in Color
CQAP 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 CQAP. How can you create and problem solve on a budget? Bring some problems or concerns and we can help. Steuard 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 Cazavos, Harlingen ISD
Room: 301

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21
9 - 10:15 a.m.

ACADEMIC COORDINATORS

Session 600: Hosting an Invitational Meet in the Fall
We did 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 adapted in the spring when you cannot apply UIL created materials. Ofelia Garza and Angie Culberson-Espinosa, Sharkey ISD
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 6

ACADEMICS

Session 601: Ready Writing: A Writing and READING Competition - Part I

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 113

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 McGeehey, 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 Trutza, 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. Shauna Duttle, Holliday HS; Kenneth Adcock, One City HS; Chris Dickson, Pine Tree HS; Elizabeth Willborn, Chillocohe HS
Room 202

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 presentation of a colleague’s experiences across national semi-finalists. MLisa Hindman, Director of Forensics for Tyler Junior College; Josh Lockaby, TJC collegiate coach
Room: Salon DE

Session 609: Roundtable: Congress
For veteran coaches. Join the table discussion as we explore rule change for veteran coaches. Discussion on composition skills with little regard given the importance of reading. Session participants will read, discuss, and evaluate the 2023 State winning essays. Shauna Duttle, Holliday HS; Kenneth Adcock, One City HS; Chris Dickson, Pine Tree HS; Elizabeth Willborn, Chillocohe HS
Room 210

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

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, Seal HS
Room: Salon C

Session 613: Modern Documentary Filmmaking
An in-depth look into the UIL Documentary Filmmaking category and exploring ways to enhance your films with modern techniques. Charlie Palacios, Pflugerville Northwest 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. Rochael Gomez, theatrical design director; Jacqueline Zepeda and Bryan Honl, Pflugerville 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 Click here to submit session attendance.
Click here to submit session attendance.
Session 801: Literary Criticism: The 2023-2024 Reading List
Mark Bernard, 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 Olgiesbee, writing consultant, and Alyssa Boebringer, 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. Andrea 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 additions of topics and a Q&A on 2023 contest questions. Dr. Michelle McDeere, 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 FRC Tech Chess
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 LB JHS
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 Bristow, 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 at 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 dive 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’Lise 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 Shoefner, 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.
Rafael Gomez, theatrical design contest director,
Jacqueline Zepeda and Bryan Horo, 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 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, UIL state contest directors
Room: 115

Session 902: Literary Criticism: Poetry Explication for Part 2 and Part 3 of the Test
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 Shoefner, UIL Extemporaneous Speaking consultant
Room: 103

ACADEMICS

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 additions of topics, and a Q&A on 2023 contest problems. Dr. Brian Anderson, state contest director
Room: Zlotnik Ballroom 4

Session 904: 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 905: 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, UIL state contest directors
Room: 115

Session 906: Literary Criticism: Poetry Explication for Part 2 and Part 3 of the Test
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 Shoefner, UIL Extemporaneous Speaking consultant
Room: 103
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 members are expected to have fun.
Jana Riggan, facilitator
Melissa Denny, Amarillo HS, Ann Shofner, consultant...Chris Dickson, Pine Tree HS, Marbeth Harlow, Three Rivers HS and additional presenters
Room: Salon C

Bryan Hon, 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, sets and even costumes but everyone needs to start somewhere. Mel Edwards, Co-Founder, MAB Technical Theatre, 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 HS, North Richland 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 answer time.
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

CLEMT A. ADAMS

teaches social studies and coaches speech and debate at Big Spring High School. A lifetime of hard work with his wife Jennifer, their program has produced multiple state and national winners. He is an active participant in the National Debate Topic Selection Process and has been involved in the process for nearly a decade. He has been in education for 24 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.

**Andrew Bates** has been the UIL state contest director for Social Studies for nearly a decade. He has been in education for 24 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 an Academic Coach and Academic advisor at being state director of Library of Congress.

Linda Berry, UIL state contest director for Spelling and Vocabulary, taught at Waskahachie 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 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 theater arts to German. She also served on the inaugural All-State UIL/JLPC Coordinator, she has helped lead Sabine Pass to ten overall Academic State Champions.

**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 VI Academic Meet. He has taught for 16 years before working for one year in communications at Princeton ISD. She now lives in Leagueteam with her husband, their daughter and a dog and a cat.

**Dave Bourland** is an Academic Coach and Journalism teacher. He has coached 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 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 theater arts to German. She also served on the inaugural All-State UIL/JLPC Coordinator, she has helped lead Sabine Pass to ten overall Academic State Champions.

**Paula Rodriguez** is a UIL state contest director for Social Studies, debate, and Spelling and Ready Writing at Big Spring High School. She is a member of the state Academic Decathlon Selection Board, a member of the Academic Team, and a member of the Academic Team. She is a member of the Academic Team, and a member of the Academic Team. She is a member of the Academic Team, and a member of the Academic Team. She is a member of the Academic Team, and a member of the Academic Team. She is a...
moves through history, learning how his course, and he designed a Multicultural University Disciplinary Committee, the Playwriting Intensive in Washington, DC. to believe in theatre’s fictional worlds. His research interests revolve around the (Theatre) from Texas Tech University. His first two competitions, the Joules received Team, which was founded in 2022. In their first year ahead inspired by a great piece of From’s Gambit. Shannon Creager is the UIL Academic Coordinator at UT-Austin High School. She has been a technician, and was named the Executive Director of the American Forensics Association. He has taught in Hutto ISD for 10 years. A graduate from The University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor degree, he has taught Theatre and English at Austin High School, where he was named the Executive Director in the District’s UIL One Act Play State Meet Contest in 2021. Mike Fisher and Nicole Malmoe have taught together at Warren High School for 13 years. We’ve had 5 appearances at the 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. Maribeth Harlow has coached speech, debate and directed the One-Act Play the past two years. She currently teaches at Three Rivers High School. Timothy Haynes is the Speech and Debate Coach at Hutto High School. He has helped coach several State and National Qualifiers. Tim has also assisted with One-Act Play and has advanced to all levels. He has taught speech and debate in several schools ranging from size to 2A to 6A. Andrew Husb has taught in Hutto ED for 17 years in various roles at Hutto HS. He teaches engineering and robotics and is the Lead Robotics Instructor for Hutto ISD. He has coached students to national and regional meets held on the Blinn College campus. Dr. Michael McGhee, UIL state contest director for Science (Biology), is Dean for Academic Affairs at Blinn College, where he has taught general biology, anatomy & physiology, microbiology, genetics and nutrition. He earned his Bachelor’s degree in Biochemistry and his PhD in Biochemistry from Penn State University and The Ohio State University. He also holds a Master of Arts degree in Education from the Shakespeare’s Globe Center, USA and a recent graduate of Pflugerville High School. Dr. Shyam Mitra is a teacher, director, and was named the Executive Director in the District’s UIL One Act Play State Meet Contest in 2021. Amy Jordan has been a teacher and coach at Lindale High School where she achieved State champion and has coached in numerical and critical thinking. She is honored to serve as the Vice-President Elect for the Texas Speech Communication Association — and you are not already involved, the organization, you need to be! Grover Merchant is a teacher, director, and was named the Executive Director in the District’s UIL One Act Play State Meet Contest in 2021. As a Scenic designer, he has designed multiple plays for Sharyland All-Star Award. As a former student and state champion, he does not fear the white pieces; he does not fear the philosophy of the Paradox of the royal game. Without shame, you are also the Scho Show Coordinator for Summer Camp at Baylor University. They are also the Scholastic Co-Curricular Division for the Round Rock State Meet and have an online shop, Mighty With All Trades, for fun Tech Theatre inspired things as a LJ co-coordinator of MAB Technical Theatre, providing curriculum and workshops to technical theatre educators.

**Shawn Dutte** has taught Theatre and Speech at Hutto High School for over twenty years. He has coached individual State Qualifiers in every event and advanced to the State meet in One-Act Play. He then coached the University Interscholastic League Sponsor Excellence Award. Shawn was named Distinguished Alumnus for the Fair Coliseum of Fine Arts at Midwestern State University in 2018. Dr. Richard Edwards is a professor of communication studies at Baylor University and has served as president of the American Forensics Association (AFA). He is one of the topics that have been addressed in the Policy Debate Quarterly and the Executive Debate test, Competitive Debate. The Official Guide, Dr. Edwards has made invaluable contributions to high school debate and to UIL as the Region 6A – I lE speech Director and UIL state contest director for CX and the 44th Annual State Meet. He has been inducted into the National Speech and Debate Hall of Fame. Dr. Edwards has been a teacher and educational director for over forty years. He has been teaching at the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor degree, he has taught Theatre and English at Austin High School, where he was named the Executive Director in the District’s UIL One Act Play State Meet Contest in 2021. Ofele Garza is the UIL Academic Coordinator at UT-Austin. He has served as a teacher and coach at Lindale High School where he achieved State champion and has coached in numerical and critical thinking. He is honored to serve as the Vice-President Elect for the Texas Speech Communication Association — and you are not already involved, the organization, you need to be!
John retired from Rockport-Fulton HS after more than 20 years of teaching and coaching. He has coached at or directed multiple UIL state champions. He received the U.S. Sponsor Excellence Award in 2008.

Charlie Podolski has been the state director of the Texas State High School Speech Team since 2017. He has served on the State Speech and Debate Committee. He coached and directed the UIL state championship team in 2022 and three state runners-up in 2021, 2022, and 2023. PSJA Southwest has won the title for Top High School a school for the last three consecutive years as well as the UIL academic title for 2023.

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

**John Pierce** teaches English and serves as the UIL Coordinator of Mason High School. At Mason, he has coached state champions in Current Events, LD Debate, Essay Contests.

Cadi Powers is a 2022 UIL State Champion in Extemporaneous Speaking and Lincoln Douglas Debate as well as a silver medalist in Congress. She was named Texas Forensic Association. She has served as the State Director of Extemporaneous Speaking and has 6 State appearances with UIL and is pleased to hold the title of 2014 UIL 5A State Champion with the production of “When The Rain Stops Falling” and the 2016 UIL 5A State Champion with the production of “Holy Day.”

**Sandy Spears** is a T eam Engagement Manager for the Robotics Education and Competition Department at Carnegie Vanguard High School in Houston, TX. Under his direction, Carnegie Vanguard Theatre Company has State appearances with UIL and has been a member of the Poetry and Prose Committee. She has coached students for various events at the junior high and high school level.

**Sue Jane Sullivan** has been a theatre teacher and director for over two decades. She has coached Computer Science, including overseeing the launch of UIL Robotics in 2015.

Larry White, UIL state contest director for Number Sense, retired after 26 years in education and 3 years at Southwestern University. After retiring he was a member of the Intel sponsored Computer Science Systems for Mathematics for English Language Learners team for six years, followed by two years as the Texas Quality Grant program team. He has been the UIL state contest director for more than 20 years.

**Kathy Yin** is a 2013 UIL State Champions team and a 2015 UIL State Champions team for all things UIL. She received her BA in Film Studies from the University of Texas at Austin in 2015. As the UIL state contest director and A+ test writer. She taught in the classroom for 43 years including in Austin 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 teacher theatre at PSJA North Early College High School. She graduated from Trinity University and received her MFA in Theatre from the University of Texas at Austin. In 2019 she was awarded the Texas’ Rising Star Award for her as well as the current and upcoming teachers in the state of Texas. She currently coaches, UIL Prose and Poetry, Extramural Speaking, OAP, Film, and Theatrical Design where she has coached students to the UIL state final and sponsored UIL math and science competitions for 40 years, coaching numerous individuals and teams to the UIL state meet.