Texas State Teachers Association
2022 Educational Support Professionals Conference

CELEBRATING ESPs:
Coming Together for a Brighter Future

2022 TSTA ESP Conference – Houston, Texas

May 1, 2022
Dear #TeamTSTA,

Welcome to the Texas State Teachers Association Education Support Professionals Conference! It is good to come together as a union family. This year’s conference theme, *Celebrating ESPs: Coming Together for a Brighter Future*, recognizes our accomplishments and calls us to action. As we begin to move out of this pandemic, we must seize the opportunity to create a brighter future for ourselves and our students. Our mission to “provide a quality public school for every child” has never been more in keeping with the theme for this conference.

As a union we value the power of the collective to make things better for all. Together, through organizing, we’ve accomplished vital things to keep our students, colleagues, and communities safe throughout the past year. We accomplished this despite elected leaders at the state level prioritizing their political careers over the wellbeing of our students and educators, making a near impossible situation even worse. It was never clearer than during this pandemic, that we must elect leadership in this state that cares about us and our public schools. Our livelihoods and our very lives depend on electing the right people.

We must organize going into the 2022 election like we never have before. We must register our colleagues, families, and friends to vote, and then organize them to get to the polls. We must vote education first! We can create a brighter future, but only if we elect the right people to office. Organizing is what brings greatness to our union.

Thank you for being here for this conference. We are honored to stand with you and thank you for your active participation in our union. Take care and stay safe.

In solidarity,

Ovidia Molina, TSTA President
# Conference Schedule

NOTE: Your workshop *sequence* below will be based on the color dot on your name badge – **purple**, **orange**, or **green**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7:00 - 7:45 AM</th>
<th><strong>WELCOME / BREAKFAST</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 - 9:00 AM</td>
<td>Membership Doesn’t Cost, It Pays</td>
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<td>9:15 - 10:15 AM</td>
<td>Diversity: Understanding and Acknowledging Personal Identities</td>
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<td>10:30 - 11:30 AM</td>
<td>Stress, burnout, fatigue, oh my!: Mental well-being and self-care during the pandemic</td>
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| 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM | **KEYNOTE / LUNCH** |
Antonio Salinas Galindo is an Affiliate Relations Specialist with NEA Member Benefits servicing New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and the great state of Texas. As an NEA MB Representative his job is to help make members lives better by highlighting our programs and services designed to help members save time. Above all his passion professionally is organizing and building a better association by helping members find their professional power. He believes Member Benefits can assist members to build their own professional power and be the best advocates for themselves, colleagues, and students. Previously he was an Organizer with Texas State Teachers Association in Houston and El Paso areas. In addition, his previous experience includes California Casualty Insurance in Nevada, California, and Texas. He is a proud Texan born and raised in Fort Worth.

Earley Barnes-Ullrich is a LCSW, Board-Approved Supervisor and Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor. She received her BSW in 2006 and MSSW in 2009 from the University of Texas School of Social Work. She is the owner of Hopeful Waters Counseling, PLLC in Cedar Park, TX where she provides psychotherapy for kids, teens, adults and families. She is a TBRI Practitioner, EMDR Certified Therapist, Heart Math Certified Practitioner, Safe and Sound Protocol (SSP) Certified Professional and is certified in TF-CBT.
Deshauntia Benn serves as an advocate for public education. She is a native of New Orleans, La. After college, she began her education career as a High School Social Studies Teacher in New Orleans, La. After several years in Orleans Parish School District, she was offered the opportunity to teach in a district that was growing rapidly in North Texas. Although she was in another state, she was still passionate about being an advocate for public education employees. She worked with the local union staff to organize teachers to join the Texas State Teachers Association to help create a work environment where teachers could succeed, and students could achieve. Currently, Deshauntia is working in Port Arthur and Houston, Tx, continuing her goal to organize and build power in her locals and community while working on her Doctorate in Organizational Leadership. Her current work includes being an active member of the Brazoria County NAACP, Social & Racial Justice Coordinator with Texas State Teachers Association, Activist, Grant Writer, and sharing her healing journey to help others. Deshauntia is the fur mom of a feisty Miniature Schnauzer named 9. When she is not spending time with and advocating for public education, she helps other grieving mothers as they cope with loss of their children. Her journey in healing with the grief of losing her son has led her to work with others to assist with the healing process.
"Membership Doesn’t Cost, It Pays"
*Presenter: Antonio Salinas Galindo*

Join us to learn how your NEA Benefits can save you time and money. From travel, online discounts to insurance and planning for the future. In addition learn how you can position Member Benefits to help your local recruit potential members and engage current members. Your membership gets you so much, don’t miss out.

"Stress, burnout, fatigue, oh my!: Mental well-being and self-care during the pandemic"
*Presenter: Earley Barnes-Ullrich*

All school district employees have been impacted personally and professionally by the pandemic. ESPs were often given extra responsibilities and risked their own health and their loved ones health to support the day to day operations of the district to benefit students. Participants will have an opportunity to reflect on how the pandemic might have impacted their well-being. Participants will learn about common mental health challenges and be given resources to gain support. Participants will have an opportunity to evaluate their own self-care practices. Participants will also learn and practice activities that can help reduce stress, burnout and fatigue.

“Diversity: Understanding and Acknowledging Personal Identities"
*Presenter: Deshauntia Benn*

This training emphasizes on building individual capacity to engage diverse students through empowering and competent approaches. There are numerous barriers to such engagement, some conscious, and some unconscious. Race, class, and cultural communication styles all influence the ways in which diverse people relate and interact. This session will introduce participants to equity, identities, socialization, and how to think collaboratively about ways to effectively engage diverse student populations.
Maria grew up in Ysleta, the daughter of amazing parents who raised their children on a motto of always having respect, being honest, keeping the faith, and love. Her family wasn't rich, but Maria learned early in life that riches don't make a person happy. After high school, she worked and married and was blessed with three beautiful children. When the marriage ended, Maria became father, mother, and more for her children, and her community service began with them.

She coached a T-Ball team, volunteered at Ysleta elementary, and started fundraising for the children. Maria then began to fundraise for other worthy causes. As a volunteer for their local church, Maria went to local stores to request donations and made gorditas and churros for sale to raise funds. At one point, she raised up to $6,000 in donations.

In 1985, Maria became a substitute for Ysleta ISD and substituted for 13 years before becoming a teacher assistant in 1998. She was hired into the Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities (PPCD) Unit in the Special Education Department, and since then has continued to be a Special Education aide. Currently, she works in the Specialized Support Behavior (SSB) Unit where she assists students in learning social skills with a goal toward strengthening life skills.

Her approach is to take things day by day, with patience and empathy. Maria loves her job, "because it is gratifying when all your hard work becomes a successful story."

Maria has applied everything she has learned on the job to her work with the Ysleta Teachers Association. She has been involved in school board elections, and works hard to recruit more members to YTA. Maria has been an Association Representative, a Coordinator, and has won several awards for being the Best Recruiter for YTA. She sits on the YTA Board, and says "there is nothing I would not do for YTA. I believe in this organization." Her work with Ysleta Teachers Association has given her skills she needs in order to help her colleagues.

Maria has an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education, and a Bachelor's degree in multi-disciplinary studies with a minor in Chicano studies. She believes her strength and passion for helping others comes from her parents. Her dad, especially, believed in her and there was nothing she could do wrong in his eyes. "For him, I could accomplish whatever my heart desired. I believe that with all my heart."
~Acknowledgements~

ESP Committee Members

Melissa Torres-Whitmer, Chairperson
Hays Educators Association

Karen Barnes-Ullrich
Education Austin

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San Antonio Alliance

Sherri Harper-Walker
Cy-Fair TSTA/NEA

Maria Hernandez
Ysleta Teachers Association

Joyce Johnson
Beaumont Teachers Association

Leticia Martinez-Oregon
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Lajon Pennix
Fort Worth Education Association

Norman Quigley
TSTA-Retired

Federico Rios Jr.
Donna TSTA/NEA

Leonor Terrazas
TSTA-Retired

Trasell Underwood
Education Austin
~Acknowledgements~

Malinda McKee
TSTA Staff Liaison

Mary Kennedy
TSTA Staff Liaison

Tara Trautman
OCALD Administrative Support

Rosie Castillo
OCALD Administrative Support

Kay Williams
OCALD Administrative Manager