

# BEYOND THE BELL

TEXAS GEAR UP  
STATE CONFERENCE 2016



**SAN ANTONIO, TX**

NOVEMBER 13-15

THE WESTIN  
RIVERWALK  
SAN ANTONIO

TEXAS  
GEAR UP  
STATE GRANT

TEA  
Texas Education Agency

# GEAR UP FAST FACTS

*GEAR UP is a federal grant program designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. GEAR UP provides six- or seven-year competitive matching grants to provide services at high-poverty middle and high schools. GEAR UP grantees serve an entire cohort of students beginning no later than the seventh grade and follow the cohort through high school. GEAR UP funds may also be used to provide college scholarships to low-income students.*

Texas GEAR UP consists of state and partnership grants that provide services to students, schools, and families designed to increase college attendance and success. This is accomplished through outreach, rigorous coursework, mentoring, tutoring, college access, and college-financing education. All GEAR UP grants operate through partnerships with public and private entities in order to best coordinate and leverage

the wealth of resources available to students within state and local communities.

Additionally, Texas GEAR UP spearheads initiatives to enhance college awareness and readiness statewide. This includes: free college-success education resources for all secondary students in the state; professional development related to college success for GEAR UP and

non-GEAR UP schools; information about best practices related to college access and success.

The Texas GEAR UP state grant convenes all Texas GEAR UP grants through conferences, trainings, and workgroups to build resources and professional skills that will help us to increase college-going rates across the state.

## 2005–2011

**Houston ISD**  
4,843 Students

**Region One ESC**  
8,000 Students

**San Antonio ISD**  
4,419 Students

**Spring Branch ISD**  
467 Students

**Stephen F. Austin State University**  
1,361 Students

**Sul Ross State University**  
716 Students

**Texas A&M International University**  
921 Students

**The University of Texas at El Paso**  
1,313 Students

**The University of Texas at Tyler**  
1,167 Students



The University of Texas-Pan American  
9,038 Students

---

### 2006–2012

Baylor University  
2,639 Students

El Paso Community College  
1,070 Students

El Paso ISD  
3,037 Students

Pasadena ISD  
4,523 Students

Texas Education Agency  
8,335 Students

---

### 2007–2013

Amarillo College  
1,651 Students

Texas A&M International University  
974 Students

---

### 2008–2014

Texas A&M University  
1,098 Students

The University of Texas at El Paso  
3,281 Students

### 2011–2017

ESC Region 12  
4,400 Students

Region One ESC  
10,000 Students

San Antonio ISD  
5,000 Students

Stephen F. Austin State University  
1,909 Students

Sul Ross State University  
965 Students

Texas A&M International University  
8,800 Students

The University of Texas at El Paso  
3,390 Students

---

### 2012–2019

IDEA Public Schools  
2,400 Students

Texas Education Agency  
1,594 Students

---

### 2014–2021

DeSoto Independent School District  
1,407 Students

Texas A&M University-Kingsville  
1,305 Students





Dear College Access and Readiness Colleagues:

Welcome to the 2016 Texas GEAR UP State Conference and to the San Antonio Riverwalk! This year's theme, "Beyond the Bell," reflects our shared commitment to serve students and their families through our programs as they transition to college.

Calling attention to success in higher education, we are pleased to feature higher educational leaders and Texas university presidents as our keynote speakers. These leaders will set the path and vision for the institutions that will serve many of our current GEAR UP students, and we want them to know that our students are on the way. This year's Parent Leadership Institute has the largest number of registrants since its inception three years ago. We are pleased that the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) will present this dual-language program for over 80 families from across the state. The importance of good college counseling in these critical transition years cannot be overstated. This year, the Texas Association for College Admission Counseling (TACAC) will provide school counselors with information about the college application process, admissions, and financial aid as part of a new professional development track. To support our teachers in the classroom, Dr. Cathy Moak and Joanna Oliver from the UT Austin Institute for Public School Initiatives will provide a full day of professional development and instructional strategies to increase student engagement in the classroom.

We are pleased to bring back the Texas GEAR UP Lounge, and we encourage you to use the breaks and time before and after sessions to explore the latest tools, information, and resources provided by the Texas GEAR UP State Grant. There's also plenty of "swag" up for grabs!

We extend our appreciation to the many people who made this conference possible, including our presenters, partners, advertisers, exhibitors, and sponsors. We would especially like to thank the Texas Education Agency, AMS Public Interest, NCCEP, UT Austin's College of Education, the Westin Riverwalk Hotel, and all exhibitors, who you might meet during the conference and at the Monday reception starting at 5:00 PM. Thank you for participating, and we hope the energy and knowledge you take from this conference will extend Beyond the Bell!



# 2016 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

---

## 2016 Texas GEAR UP State Conference Committee Members

### Kelly Ocasio

Director of Pathways within the Department of College, Career, and Military Preparation, Texas Education Agency

### Andrae Rhyne

GEAR UP Project Director, Linking Education to Success (LETS) GEAR UP, DeSoto ISD

### Norma McCormick

GEAR UP Coordinator, Region One ESC GEAR UP: Ready, Set, College!, ESC Region One

### Yanira Aguilar

GEAR UP Program Manager, IDEA Public Schools GEAR UP, IDEA Public Schools

### Ricardo Lopez, Jr.

GEAR UP Specialist, Region One ESC GEAR UP: Ready, Set, College!, ESC Region One

### Martha Trevino

Former Program Manager, GEAR UP "Creating a Vision IV," Texas A&M International University

### Patrick Clingman

Director, Project ReACH, Sul Ross University

### Robyn Beck

Creative Operations Manager, Texas GEAR UP State Grant, AMS Public Interest

### Sara Gauchat

Content Director, Texas GEAR UP State Grant, AMS Public Interest

### Ryann Malone

Managing Director, Texas GEAR UP State Grant, AMS Public Interest

### Matt Orem

Implementation Director, Texas GEAR UP State Grant, The University of Texas at Austin

### Phyllis Broz

Project Specialist, Texas GEAR UP State Grant, The University of Texas at Austin

### Cathy Moak

Educator Outreach Coach, Texas GEAR UP State Grant, The University of Texas at Austin

### Michael King

Special Projects and Outreach Specialist, Texas GEAR UP State Grant, The University of Texas at Austin

### Monica Saenz

Assistant Project Director, GEAR UP Project ReACH, Sul Ross State University

### Marisela Esquinca

Educational Outreach Manager, GEAR UP SOAR (SISD), The University of Texas at El Paso

### Angela Delamar

Education Specialist, Region One ESC GEAR UP: Ready, Set, College!, ESC Region One

---

## Texas GEAR UP Technical Assistance Team

### Matt Orem

Director of College Readiness, Institute for Public School Initiatives, UT Austin

### Connie Dawes

Project Manager, Institute for Public School Initiatives, UT Austin

### Michael King

Special Projects and Outreach Specialist, Institute for Public School Initiatives, UT Austin

### Phyllis Broz

Project Specialist, Institute for Public School Initiatives, UT Austin

### Pratik Mhatre

Data and Research Administrator, Institute for Public School Initiatives, UT Austin

### Bomin Kim

Data Specialist, Institute for Public School Initiatives, UT Austin

### Cathy Moak

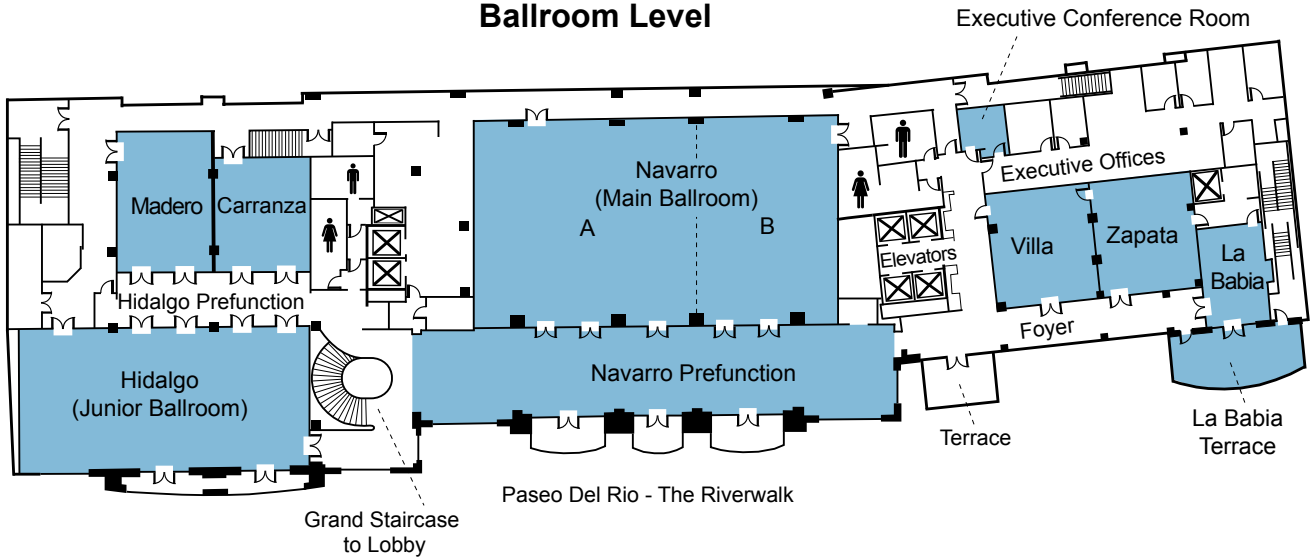
Educator Outreach Coach, Institute for Public School Initiatives, UT Austin

### Kimberly Mennel

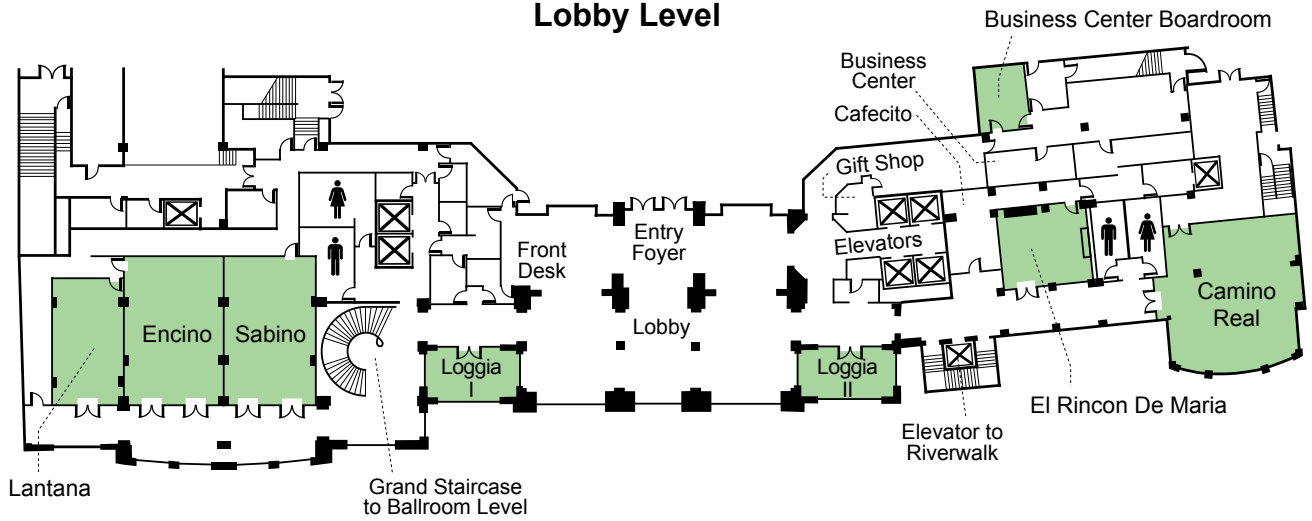
Administrative Associate, Institute for Public School Initiatives, UT Austin

# WESTIN RIVERWALK

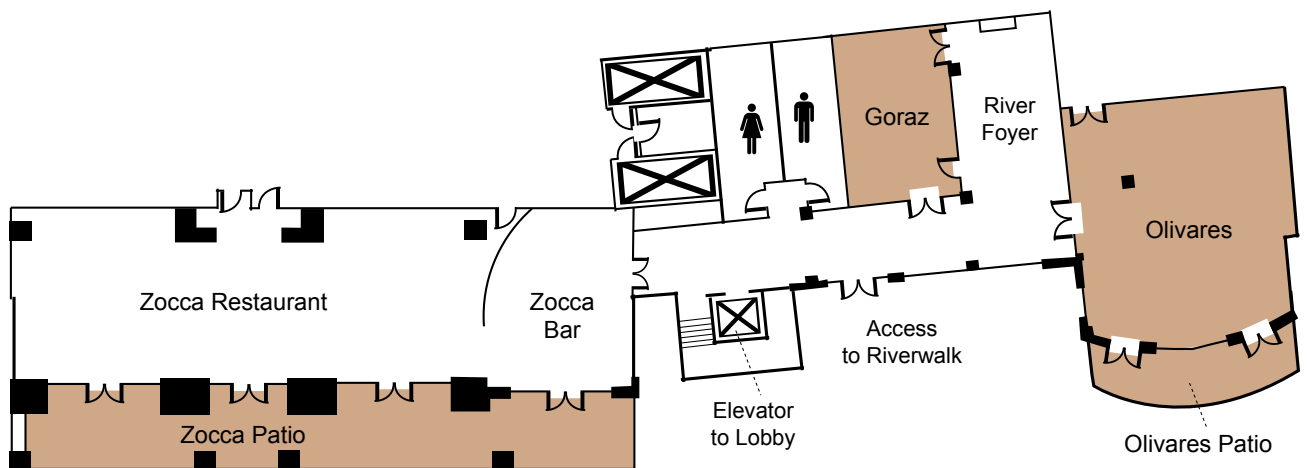
## Ballroom Level



## Lobby Level



## River Level



# 2016 TEXAS GEAR UP STATE CONFERENCE: BEYOND THE BELL: AGENDA

---

## **Sunday** **November 13, 2016**

4:00 PM – 7:00 PM  
Conference Registration, Exhibitor Opening

---

## **Monday** **November 14, 2016**

7:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Registration and Information Open

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM  
Networking Breakfast

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM  
Morning Plenary – Keynote Presentation by Dr. Guy Bailey, Founding President of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

9:30 AM – 9:45 AM  
First raffle drawing in Exhibitor Area

10:00 AM – 10:45 AM  
Concurrent Sessions One

10:45 AM – 11:30 AM  
Networking Break – Second Raffle Drawing in Exhibitor Area

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM  
Networking Luncheon and Plenary – Keynote Presentation by Dr. Juliet García, Senior Advisor to the Chancellor for Community, National and Global Engagement, UT System

1:15 PM – 2:00 PM  
Concurrent Sessions Two

2:00 PM – 2:30 PM  
Networking Break – Third Raffle Drawing in Exhibitor Area

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM  
Concurrent Sessions Three

3:45 PM – 4:30 PM  
Concurrent Sessions Four

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM  
Networking Exhibitor Reception (Cash Bar, Raffle Items, Live Music!)

---

## **Tuesday** **November 15, 2016**

7:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Registration and Information Open

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM  
Networking Breakfast

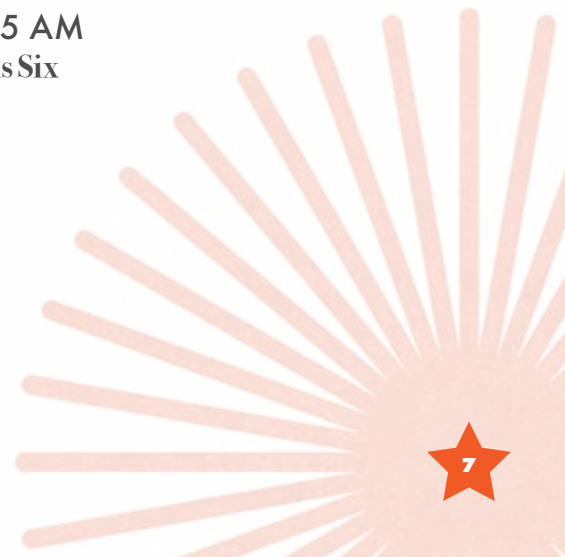
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM  
Morning Plenary – Keynote Presentation by Dr. Ricardo Romo, President of The University of Texas at San Antonio

9:30 AM – 9:45 AM  
Networking Break – Fourth Raffle Drawing in Exhibitor Area

10:00 AM – 10:45 AM  
Concurrent Sessions Five

11:00 AM – 11:45 AM  
Concurrent Sessions Six

12:00 PM  
Adjourn



# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



## **Dr. Guy Bailey**

*Founding President of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley*

Dr. Guy Bailey was named Founding President of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) in May of 2014.

Prior to being named President of UTRGV, Dr. Bailey served as President of the University of Alabama and of Texas Tech University; Chancellor of the University of Missouri - Kansas City (UMKC); Provost and Executive Vice President at The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA); Dean of Liberal Arts at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Chair of the English Department at Oklahoma State University and the University of Memphis; and as a faculty member at Texas A&M and Emory Universities.

During his time at Texas Tech, the university met the criteria established by the Texas State Legislature for participation in the National Research University Fund; enrollment grew by 3,905 students (14%); research expenditures grew by \$89.9 million (170%); and graduation rates increased by five percentage points.

During his tenure at UTSA, the university was named an emerging research university by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; 16 new doctoral programs were added; external funding for research more than doubled; enrollment grew by more than 40%; and graduate enrollment grew by almost 50%.

While Dr. Bailey was at UMKC, the university completed a \$200 million capital campaign and built or gained approval for \$175 million in new construction. From 2010 to 2012, Dr. Bailey served on the Board of Directors of the NCAA and on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Big XII athletic conference. He has also served on the Board of Trustees of Midwest Research Institute since 2007.

Dr. Bailey continues to do research on language change and variation. His research with his late wife, Jan, has been featured in a front-page article in *The New York Times*, on National Public Radio, on CNN Headline News, on BBC Radio, in *Texas Monthly*, and in the *San Antonio Express-News*. Since 1984, Dr. Bailey has brought in over \$1 million in external funding for his research.



# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

---



## **Dr. Juliet V. García**

*Senior Advisor to the Chancellor for Community, National and Global Engagement, UT System*

Dr. Juliet V. García is a national thought leader who has devoted her life's work to higher education, focused on sustaining the democracy of our nation by empowering first-generation college students. As Senior Advisor to the Chancellor for Community, National and Global Engagement, she is committed to developing creative ways to expand the impact The UT System can have in accelerating success for all Texans.

Among the many honors she has received for her work is recognition by *Fortune* magazine as one of the World's 50 Greatest Leaders, and the American Council on Education Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2009, *Time* magazine named her one of the Top 10 College Presidents in the U.S. Most recently, she was awarded the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Chair's Medallion Award and the League of United Latin American Citizens National Leadership Award.

Named the first female Mexican-American president of a U.S. college or university in 1986, Dr. García's presidency spanned 28 years and is marked by her innovation in conceiving and implementing new higher education models in response to rapidly shifting demographics.

Dr. García was born in Brownsville, Texas, where her father and his family immigrated when fleeing the Mexican Revolution. On her mother's side, she is a fifth-generation Texan. She is a first-generation college graduate, earning two degrees from the University of Houston and a Ph.D. in communication from The University of Texas at Austin. She has been married to Oscar E. Garcia for 47 years. They have two grown children and five grandchildren.

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



## Dr. Ricardo Romo

*President, The University of Texas at San Antonio*

Ricardo Romo became the fifth president of The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) in 1999. Under his leadership, UTSA was designated an emerging Tier One university and a leader in access to excellence in teaching, research and outreach. During his tenure, UTSA enrollment has grown 68 percent, and numerous programs and facilities were added to enhance student life.

A San Antonio native, Dr. Romo graduated from Fox Tech High School and attended The University of Texas at Austin on a track scholarship. He was the first Texan to run the mile in less than four minutes, holding the record 41 years. He earned a B.S. in education (1967).

Dr. Romo has a master's from Loyola Marymount University (1970) and a Ph.D. from UCLA (1975), both in history. A nationally respected urban historian, he is the author of *East Los Angeles: History of a Barrio*, now in its ninth printing.

He has received many honors, such as the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) Chief Executive Leadership Award. For his work in education and public service, Dr. Romo earned the Wheaton College Otis Social Justice Award. He has held numerous appointments, including the U.S. White House Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics and served as Chair for the Southwest Research Institute and Vice Chair for Air University.

Dr. Romo is married to Dr. Harriett Romo, director of the UTSA Mexico Center and Bank of America Child and Adolescent Policy Research Institute. Avid art collectors, more than 60 prints from their collection were displayed at the McNay Museum in an exhibit on the U.S. Latino experience.

A talented photographer, Dr. Romo's photographs from travels to Cuba, Mexico, Africa and small-town Texas have been included in many regional exhibits and one in China.

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

---



## Michael King

*Special Projects and Outreach Specialist,  
Institute for Public School Initiatives, UT Austin*

Michael King serves as Special Projects and Outreach Specialist at UT Austin’s Institute for Public School Initiatives, where he supports districts in the Texas GEAR UP State Grant. He is also director of the Texas GEAR UP for College Summer Camp and host of *To College and Beyond*, a podcast which examines the multifaceted world of college and career readiness.

King brings nearly 10 years of program management, community outreach, marketing, and public relations experience to his role. He has coordinated programs with Communities in Schools – San Antonio, Family Service Association, The University of Texas at San Antonio P-20 Initiatives, the Harris Foundation, and Public Allies to assist and empower students in low-income communities. King’s ability to connect with people has been showcased through his personal blog, entertainment company, TV, and radio show appearances.





# GEAR UP IN TEXAS

---

## 2014-2021

### DeSoto Independent School District

**Debbye Garner**, Director

Phone: (972) 274-8212

debbye.garner@desotoisd.org

### Texas A&M University-Kingsville

**Mary L. Gonzalez**, Director

Phone: (361) 593-2129

Mary.gonzalez@tamuk.edu

### GEAR UP "Creating a Vision IV" Texas A&M International University

**Dr. Rick Moreno**, Director

Phone: (956) 326-2764

rick.moreno@tamiu.edu

### Project ReACH Sul Ross State University

**Patrick Clingman**, Director

Phone: (432) 837-8807

pclingman@sulross.edu

---

### Region One ESC GEAR UP: Ready, Set, College! Region One Education Service Center

**Tina Atkins**, Director

Phone: (956) 984-6220

tatkins@esc1.net

---

## 2012-2019

### IDEA Public Schools GEAR UP

**Marisol Flores-Henderson**

Phone: (956) 373-5471

marisol.flores-henderson@ideapublicschools.org

### Texas GEAR UP State Grant Texas Education Agency

**Dr. Kelly Ocasio**, Director of Pathways within the  
Department of College, Career, and Military Preparation

Phone: (512) 936-0356

Kelly.ocasio@tea.texas.gov

**Matt Orem**, Director, Texas GEAR UP Support Center

Phone: (512) 963-9473

texasgearup@ipsi.utexas.edu

### GU2

#### San Antonio ISD

**Roxanne Rosales**, Director

Phone: (210) 554-2610

rrosales@saisd.net

**Annette Castillo**, Facilitator

Phone: (210) 554-2615

acastillo2@saisd.net

### UTEP Solutions for Optimal Academic Readiness (SOAR)

The University of Texas at El Paso

**Juliette Caire**, Director

Phone: (915) 747-5367

jcaire@utep.edu

---

## 2011-2018

### East Texas GEAR UP for Success Stephen F. Austin State University

**Barbara "Bobbie" Davis**, Director

Phone: (936) 468-1813

davisbarba@sfasu.edu

### ESC Region 12 GEAR UP College Link Education Service Center Region 12

**Sharon Henson**, Director

Phone: (254) 297-1113

shenson@esc12.net

# THE TEXAS GEAR UP COALITION

---

The Texas GEAR UP Coalition is comprised of GEAR UP directors from across the state and works toward the following mission statement:

*The Texas GEAR UP Coalition provides leadership and a unified voice at the local, state, and national level; while sharing and leveraging resources to positively impact students' lives.*

The Coalition is active in ensuring that the collective Texas GEAR UP voice is rallying around the needs of its programs, communities, students and families. The Coalition meets four times per year in various locations across the state so that promising practices can be visited and shared.

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS ONE: 10:00 AM – 10:45 AM

### Session 101 – Villa

#### Collaboration for Success: Building Programs That Engage Students Experiencing Foster Care or Homelessness

Participants will increase understanding of students experiencing foster care or homelessness and gain valuable information for building bridges and expanding networks to engage students impacted by these circumstances, in their programs. Additionally, the Every Student Succeeds Act has significant changes for both groups. Information about the laws, resources, and tools available will be provided.

**Presenter:**

**Kelly Kravitz**

*State Coordinator, Foster Care Education & Policy and McKinney-Vento Homeless Education, Texas Education Agency*

### Session 102 – Goraz

#### Medical Careers Summer Camp / Exploring Careers in the Community

Participants attending this joint session will hear about unique career exploration opportunities in their

local communities. They will also learn about a four-day summer camp during which attendees experience a multitude of health care careers and all things revolving around medical opportunities.

**Presenters:**

**Jennifer Kolar**

*GEAR UP Facilitator, ESC Region 12 College Link, Region 12 ESC Waco*

**Traci Keele**

*GEAR UP Facilitator, ESC Region 12 College Link, Region 12 ESC Waco*

### Session 103 – Sabino

#### Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) Best Practices

Participants will receive a brief history of the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) and learn about its Best Practice Model. The PIQE Best Practice Model is designed for school districts that wish to implement the entire PIQE experience, but are not located near a PIQE Regional Office.

**Presenters:**

**Mildred Gains**

*Executive Director, Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE)*

**Paty Mayers**

*Vice President of Program Development, Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE)*

### Session 104 – Zapata

#### Powering Persistence: Evidence-Based Tools for Schools

Why do some students persist in pursuing higher achievement where others don't? And what can we do about it? We'll examine how emerging brain research on students' social-emotional and engagement skills provides new answers to those questions. We'll discuss examples of how Texas GEAR UP leaders in urban and rural schools are achieving measurable results by applying the research. And we'll come away with strategies and a free hands-on activity that you can put to work with your students from the nonprofit EduGuide program.

**Presenter:**

**Bryan Taylor**

*President, EduGuide*

---

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS TWO: 1:15 PM – 2:00 PM

### Session 201 – Villa

## I Know What Mentoring Is, But What Does It Look Like?

Mentoring is a challenge for many programs. Come learn how Somerset High School tackled mentoring to help ensure that over 90% of students were mentored! You will learn about activities we did, strategies we implemented, and ways we worked within the high school day to provide more targeted mentoring opportunities to our students.

#### Presenters:

**Maria Hernandez**

*GEAR UP Tutor, Texas GEAR UP State Grant, Somerset ISD*

**Elizabeth Severance**

*GEAR UP Coordinator, Texas GEAR UP State Grant, Somerset ISD*

**Willie Castrejon**

*College Preparation Advisor, Texas GEAR UP State Grant, Institute for Public School Initiatives*

### Session 202 – Goraz

## How to Effectively Create a College-Going Culture in Texas: A Case Study

Creating a college-going culture is one of the most effective strategies your GEAR UP grant can implement to increase student success rates, especially in the Texas area. But it's hard to get students to change from old ways of thinking, while getting professional staff and parents to buy in and get on the same page. Estacado High School has implemented a college-going, rigorous curriculum geared toward addressing all major GEAR UP stakeholders and has experienced great success. Learn how they implemented this effective programming and how you can as well. Learn how to get students excited about college through:

- Putting on high-impact events and utilizing GEAR UP leaders to carry on important messages such as how to get students signed up and applying for scholarships
- Discovering how to get professional staff across your school on the same page to help students achieve GEAR UP objectives
- Receiving actual, replicable examples of how to engage parents in the GEAR UP mission

- Identifying effective ways to engage students throughout the year using different mediums of contact
- Demystifying the most common misunderstandings students today have of getting into and going to college

#### Presenters:

**Jennifer Nilvo**

*Event Planner, The College Success Program*

**Nichole Gonzalez**

*GEAR UP Coordinator, Texas GEAR UP State Grant, Lubbock ISD*

---

### Session 203 – Sabino

## TSI and College Readiness

This session explains the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) statute and ways students can meet TSI requirements while still in high school. We will also address the TSI Assessment and how the results are used as part of the assessment and placement of students entering higher education who have not yet demonstrated college readiness or qualified for a TSI exemption.

#### Presenter:

**Suzanne Morales-Vale, Ph.D.**

*Director, Developmental and Adult Education, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board*

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS TWO (CONTINUED): 1:15 PM – 2:00 PM

### Session 204 – Zapata Discovering the Path to Your Future

Over the course of the past 13 years, Region One ESC GEAR UP has developed specific strategies to increase college and career readiness. Attendees will be introduced to the MyRegionOne.org platform, which guides students through the process of connecting their interests with their career pathway, and prepares them for the college application process. Special focus will be given to a customized resource available to support Region One GEAR UP cohort students in the college essay writing process. Participants will receive access to a demo version of the platform and experience the software firsthand.

#### Presenters:

##### Nicole Saenz

*Education Specialist, Region One ESC GEAR UP: Ready, Set, College!, Region One ESC*

##### Angela Delamar

*Education Specialist, Region One ESC GEAR UP: Ready, Set, College!, Region One ESC*

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS THREE: 2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

### Session 301 – Villa How to Make It POP: The Power of Partnerships!

Region One GEAR UP has created partnerships that have enabled connections between the private/public sectors. Through these partnerships, the project has been able to expand its network of resources in an effort to better serve students and families. Join Region One GEAR UP as they showcase promising practices targeting specific populations through their “I AM” Conference for females and their mothers/mentors, “TIES” leadership events for males and their fathers/mentors, and the career-focused “College for All Conferences” for students and parents.

#### Presenters:

##### Nicole Saenz

*Education Specialist, Region One ESC GEAR UP: Ready, Set, College!, Region One ESC*

##### Ricardo L. Lopez, Jr.

*Education Specialist, Region One ESC GEAR UP: Ready, Set, College!, Region One ESC*

## Session 302 – Goraz

### Academic Extracurriculars, Summer Away Programs, and Model United Nations: Holistically Preparing Students for College Success

In partnership with Best Delegate, a global Model United Nations (MUN) education enterprise, IDEA Public Schools has pioneered the creation of a MUN League for high school students across 14 campuses in order for students to improve their leadership, debate techniques, public-speaking skills, global awareness, and confidence to increase their college readiness. In 2014, a small group of students from IDEA Mission participated in Best Delegate’s MUN Institute summer program. They returned from the program with the lesson plans, presentations, and leadership skills to implement a high quality and sustainable MUN program at their school with virtually no long-term costs. Over the past three summers, more than 100 students and teachers received training from the MUN Institute at Georgetown, Harvard, Columbia, and Austin College. Learning MUN is FUN for students, and summer away programs give students the opportunity to experience a diverse college life, develop their college graduate identity, and convince Mom and Dad that going to school away



# MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH, 2016

---

from home may be the best way for them to succeed! Attendees will learn how participants in the program are experiencing great success, including students like Rebecca, who is now a Harvard sophomore and an advisor to the IDEA MUN League. Attendees will also learn about school-specific strategies for success, along with ways to incorporate academic extracurriculars into middle schools and high schools.

## **Presenters:**

### **Yanira Aguilar**

*Manager of College Success, IDEA Public Schools GEAR UP, IDEA Public Schools*

### **Laurabeth Goldsmith**

*Program Director, Best Delegate*

---

## **Session 303 – Sabino**

### **Let's Go to the Movies: A Special Texas GEAR UP Resource Screening**

When it comes to TEXASGEARUP.com's latest and greatest college and career readiness resources, we've got just the ticket! Join us as we bring a set of our "feature films" to the big screen: brand-new videos for students, educators, and parents that tackle financial aid, college life, letting go, and more. Comedy, action, drama... these new releases have it all! And since every movie needs a great script, attendees will leave with some of the

tools (think lesson plans, worksheets, and info packets) that accompany the videos. Once the final credits roll, we'll be on hand to talk about the resources, answer questions, and get your feedback so that we can incorporate your reviews into the upcoming sequels. And yes, there will be popcorn...

## **Presenters:**

### **Ryann Malone**

*Managing Director, AMS Public Interest, Texas GEAR UP State Grant*

### **Robyn Beck**

*Creative Operations Manager, AMS Public Interest, Texas GEAR UP State Grant*

### **Sara Gauchat**

*Content Director, AMS Public Interest, Texas GEAR UP State Grant*

---

## **Session 304 – Zapata**

### **Motivation Theory**

Understanding your students (and your peers) is instrumental in facilitating the learning process. This session focuses first on how and why we learn best, then extends into how your facilitation style can attune to various motivations.

## **Presenter:**

### **Matt Meuleners**

*Managing Partner & Executive Trainer, FOCUS Training*

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS FOUR: 3:45 PM – 4:30 PM

### **Session 401 – Villa** **The Future of Mentoring: How Online Mentors Increase Student Motivation, Parent Engagement, and Solve Your Tracking Challenges**

Your students and parents are always on the go, so the best way to reach them is to go where they are... on their cell phone. In this session, you will learn how Harlandale GEAR UP built an online mentoring program to give each kid and parent a mentor in their pocket that they can connect with after school. Harlandale GEAR UP has connected 550 students with an online mentor and 475 of their parents with an online parent coach. Every student and parent connects with their mentor or coach via their cell phone. The technology allows Harlandale to collect data from text messages and phone conversations to improve their school services and programming. One example is a three-day camp they put on that allowed students to meet their online

mentor in person after a year of texting and talking via phone.

The students in the program are graduating this year, so the platform will be the solution to track the students' first year in postsecondary education. Our presenters include a mix of our staff, partners, parents, and students, so the audience can see how our small district created innovative change through our GEAR UP grant.

#### **Presenters:**

##### **EJ Carrion**

*CEO, Student Success Agency*

##### **Valerie Hernandez**

*College Readiness Coach, GU2,  
Harlandale ISD*

##### **Melinda Price**

*College Readiness Coach, GU2,  
Harlandale ISD*

##### **Magdalena Keller**

*Project Administrator, GU2,  
Harlandale ISD*

##### **Michael Benko**

*Director of Student Development,  
Student Success Agency*

### **Session 402 – Goraz**

### **How to Be the B.O.S.S. – A Summer Mentoring Program for At-Risk Young Men**

The presenter will share winning strategies with attendees about implementing a summer mentoring program designed to help at-risk young men realize their potential and envision a future where they are emotionally, socially and economically strong. The program focuses on developing leadership skills such as organization, conflict resolution, time management, empathy, patience and communication through hands-on activities, reflection and discussions. Personal fitness and health, financial literacy, postsecondary education options and civic responsibility are also topics addressed in the program. The presenter will provide a blueprint for working with school and community partners to develop a program where participants come away equipped with skills they can use to positively impact their school, family and community.

#### **Presenter:**

##### **Toni Trice**

*GEAR UP Facilitator, ESC Region 12  
College Link, Region 12 ESC Waco*

## Session 403 – Sabino

### GEAR UP Share Fair: Part 1

Following the edcamp model, Share Fair allows programs to own their professional development while contributing to a larger learning community. Participating attendees will be encouraged to share in an interactive session covering the topics below and come away from the session with multiple best practices from each attendee. In a collaborative, supportive space, GEAR UP programs create an organic learning environment driven by interests and expertise. Topics will include:

- Parent engagement
- Social media
- Financial literacy

#### Facilitator:

#### Andrae Rhyne

*GEAR UP Project Director, Linking Education to Success (LETS) GEAR UP, DeSoto ISD*

## Session 404 – Zapata

### Believe, Research & Impact: 5th GEAR Independent Study Project to Fine Tune College-Needed Skills

Learn how this initiative can increase student-led developmental research, independent study skills, presentation skills, perseverance, and ability to translate their learning into action and service. All are skills to help students be successful in college assignments; therefore, the project can target early college learning experiences to help support the transition into college. Additionally, students will voice their experiences in the selection of their research projects and their perspective on engaging in this project.

#### Presenters:

#### Rosario Franco-Lozano

*Education Specialist, Region One ESC GEAR UP: Ready, Set, College!, Region One ESC*

#### Doris Teague

*GEAR UP Consultant, Region One ESC GEAR UP: Ready, Set, College!, Region One ESC*

#### Lupita Cantu

*GEAR UP Facilitator, Region One ESC GEAR UP: Ready, Set, College!, Region One ESC*

---

## SPECIAL CONFERENCE OPTIONS

### Networking Reception

**Monday, November 14th  
5:00 PM – 6:30 PM**

#### Navarro Prefunction

Please join us for a reception with our conference exhibitors! The reception is a great opportunity to browse the exhibitors' tables, talk with them in person, and find exciting new ways to connect with your GEAR UP students. There will be a cash bar, live jazz, and a raffle.



## CONCURRENT SESSIONS FIVE: 10:00 AM – 10:45 AM

### Session 501 – Villa Parents As Partners

Come learn how Somerset High School reached one of its parent participation goals: 75% of parents attending at least one event. Hear from our parent liaison and data specialist, who do double duty as cohort parents. We will share strategies and tips for getting more parents and families engaged, especially during this crucial junior year!

#### Presenters:

**Jacqueline Garcia**

*Parent Liaison, Texas GEAR UP State Grant, Somerset ISD*

**Andrea Bryce**

*Data Specialist, Texas GEAR UP State Grant, Somerset ISD*

**Elizabeth Severance**

*GEAR UP Coordinator, Texas GEAR UP State Grant, Somerset ISD*

### Session 502 – Goraz

#### Tangled: Unraveling the Knots in the TSI

What is the Region One TSI Institute? Come learn how Region

One Education Service Center took on the challenge of becoming a resource for TSI professional development for districts and teachers. Region One ESC will share how they developed and implemented a TSI Institute to unravel the mystery of the diagnostics in math and ELA. Participants will be provided with an overview of the TSI diagnostic, an in-depth look into the TSI blueprint and an opportunity to begin the dialogue on TSI best practices and proven instructional approaches. A framework for the Region One TSI Institute will be shared.

#### Presenters:

**Norma O. McCormick**

*GEAR UP Coordinator, Region One ESC GEAR UP: Ready, Set, College!, Region One ESC*

**Joe M. Castillo**

*GEAR UP Education Specialist, Region One ESC GEAR UP: Ready, Set, College!, Region One ESC*

### Session 503 – Sabino

#### GEAR UP Share Fair: Part 2

Following the edcamp model, Share Fair allows programs to own their professional development while contributing to a larger learning community. Participating attendees will be encouraged to share in an interactive session covering the topics below and come away from the

session with multiple best practices from each attendee. In a collaborative, supportive space, GEAR UP programs create an organic learning environment driven by interests and expertise. Topics will include:

- College visits
- General student topics
- Miscellaneous topics

#### Facilitator:

**Andrae Rhyne**

*GEAR UP Project Director, Linking Education to Success (LETS) GEAR UP, DeSoto ISD*

### Session 504 – Zapata

#### How to Motivate the Unmotivated: “Teaching with Poverty in Mind”

Learn how to help at-risk students succeed in your classroom. It’s clear that students from poverty are habitually at a disadvantage when it comes to education, and educators can find it challenging to motivate such students to become positively engaged in their own learning. Above all, Craig J. Boykin advises educators to avoid giving up on “difficult” students by deciding that certain students “can’t be taught.” Craig’s father abandoned him at birth, and his mother started using drugs when he was in the 3rd grade. In 3rd grade Craig was held back, placed in special education and diagnosed

with a learning disability. Craig also repeated the fifth grade and dropped out in high school. In the workshop, you will learn how to motivate the unmotivated Craigs you teach daily. Today Craig is known as Mr. GEDTOPHD and credits two very inspiring educators who made him desire more!

**Presenter:**

**Dr. Craig J. Boykin**

*President, Make Education Count Inc., working with Bryan ISD GEAR UP*

---

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS  
SIX: 11:00 AM – 11:45 AM**

**Session 601 – Villa  
Cybermentoring:  
Interactive Coaching  
Sessions Ranging from  
Career Interest Inventories  
to Finding the Best  
College Fit**

Have you ever had trouble getting your kids to attend career fairs or getting professionals to speak to your students? Look no further than your computer. Cybermentoring is an interactive way to bring professionals, college professors, college students or even college admissions officers into your classroom via webinar. All you need is an Internet connection and a smart device to get your GEAR UP students connected once

a month. In middle school, it was all about introducing our students to careers. As the students entered high school, the need to introduce them to college students and professors became the focus. Finally, as seniors in high school, the need is to find out everything there is to know about the college application process, scholarships, financial aid and ultimately finding the college that best matches their postsecondary interests. The evolution of Cybermentoring has positively influenced thousands of students and teachers over the years. Come listen to how you can replicate this highly interactive process and get your kids involved from day one.

**Presenters:**

**Kristopher L. McKinney**

*GEAR UP Education Specialist,  
Region One ESC GEAR UP: Ready,  
Set, College!, Region One ESC*

**Ceci Hobbs**

*GEAR UP Facilitator, Region One  
ESC GEAR UP: Ready, Set, College!,  
Region One ESC*

**Celina Barrera-Scott**

*GEAR UP Facilitator, Region One  
ESC GEAR UP: Ready, Set, College!,  
Region One ESC*

**Session 602 – Sabino**

**The Key to GEAR UP  
Success: AWESOME  
Parents! Five Simple  
Strategies to Engage  
GEAR UP Families!**

Engaging the parents of your students can change the lives of an entire family! What makes GEAR UP special is that it gives the students hope and a vision for their future, but what is so life-transforming is when their parents are engaged in the process. Exposure to the information about how to pursue one's college and career dreams inspires parents to do the same. GEAR UP advisors and parents will learn to develop an inspiring family track that teaches simple parenting and goal-setting strategies to help their child achieve in school and in life.

**Presenter:**

**Aric Bostick**

*President/Author/Speaker, GEAR UP  
IV "Creating a Vision," Texas A&M  
International University*

---

**Session 603 – Zapata**

**Texas GEAR UP Coalition  
Meeting**



# 2016 TEXAS GEAR UP PARENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE AGENDA

All Parent Leadership Institute presentations (including Plenary Sessions) will take place in Navarro A/B.

## Monday November 14, 2016

7:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Registration and Information Open

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM

Networking Breakfast

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

Morning Plenary – Keynote Presentation by Dr. Guy Bailey, Founding President of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

9:30 AM – 9:45 AM

Networking Break – First raffle drawing in the Exhibitor Area

10:00 AM – 10:45 AM

Turning Our Dreams Into Goals – What Do We Want for Our Children?

10:45 AM – 11:30 AM

Networking Break – Second raffle drawing in the Exhibitor Area

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Networking Luncheon and Plenary – Keynote Presentation by Dr. Juliet García, Senior Advisor to the Chancellor for Community, National and Global Engagement, UT System

1:15 PM – 2:00 PM

Our Students' Supportive Environment – The Role of the School, Home and Community

2:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Networking Break – Third raffle drawing in the Exhibitor Area

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

Emotional Intelligence and Its Relationship with Self-Esteem and Student Achievement

3:45 PM – 4:30 PM

The Art of Negotiation with Our Children – The Win-Win Model

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Networking Exhibitor Reception

## Tuesday November 15, 2016

7:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Registration and Information Open

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM

Networking Breakfast

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

Morning Plenary – Keynote Presentation by Dr. Ricardo Romo, President of The University of Texas at San Antonio

9:30 AM – 9:45 AM

Networking Break – Fourth raffle drawing in the Exhibitor Area

10:00 AM – 10:45 AM

The Areas of Emotional Intelligence

11:00 AM – 11:45 AM

Putting the Ideas Into Practice

12:00 PM

Adjourn

# TOUR THE NEW TXGU WEB TOOLS



**NO BUS NEEDED.**



**CAMINO REAL (LOBBY LEVEL)**

**MONDAY 8AM-5PM + TUESDAY 8AM-12:30PM**

**NCCEP supports and celebrates the successes of the students, staff, teachers and parents of the Texas GEAR UP community!**

# SAVE THE DATE

**Mark your calendar for these upcoming events!**

# NCCEP & GEAR UP 2017



**NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS**

Visit us at [www.edpartnerships.org](http://www.edpartnerships.org)



## **2017 NCCEP/GEAR UP CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP:**

**Hilton New York • New York, NY  
February 5–8, 2017**

Join us for three days of learning and renewal! The CBW features in-depth, hands-on workshops focused on foundational skills and technical areas of college and career readiness, three plenary sessions, and other knowledge-sharing opportunities around the theme Excel, Prove, Mobilize.



## **2017 NCCEP/GEAR UP ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**Hilton San Francisco • San Francisco, CA  
July 16–19, 2017**

The Annual Conference celebrates the achievements of GEAR UP while addressing challenges impacting practitioners, partners, parents, and students. Structured around five plenary sessions and over 140 concurrent sessions, the conference provides a vibrant setting for professional development, personal renewal, networking, and celebration!



# 2016 TEXAS GEAR UP ED ACADEMY (DAY ONE ONLY)

All Ed Academy presentations (including Plenary Sessions) will take place in El Rincon De Maria.

## **Monday November 14, 2016**

**7:00 AM – 5:00 PM**  
**Registration and Information Open**

**7:30 AM – 8:30 AM**  
**Networking Breakfast**

**8:30 AM – 9:30 AM**  
**Morning Plenary** – Keynote Presentation by Dr. Guy Bailey, Founding President of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

**9:30 AM – 9:45 AM**  
**Networking Break** – First raffle drawing in the Exhibitor Area

**10:00 AM – 10:45 AM**  
**Whole Group Accountability Strategies** – Increase motivation in your classroom through whole group accountability. Participants will take away several strategies for increased engagement, collaboration and accountability in the classroom.

**10:45 AM – 11:30 AM**  
**Networking Break** – Second raffle drawing in the Exhibitor Area

**11:30 AM – 1:00 PM**  
**Networking Luncheon and Plenary** – Keynote Presentation by Dr. Juliet García, Senior Advisor to the Chancellor for Community, National and Global Engagement, UT System

**1:15 PM – 2:00 PM**  
**The Ten Commandments of Behavior Management** – Participants will explore the ten commandments of behavior management to increase motivation, engagement and rigor in classroom. Strategies include behavior management techniques to establish a culture for differentiation and cooperative grouping.

**2:00 PM – 2:30 PM**  
**Networking Break** – Third raffle drawing in the Exhibitor Area

**2:45 PM – 3:30 PM**  
**Technology Strategies for Engagement** – Come join this fast-paced journey through today's most engaging technology tools. Tools will focus on project management, research, presentation, creation, classroom management and resources. No technology is needed to attend.

**3:45 PM – 4:30 PM**  
**Differentiation Strategies for Every Classroom** – Meeting the diverse needs of students is an ongoing challenge for teachers and district staff. Just as our classrooms have changed over the past few years, our instruction must also change. This training will support your efforts in looking at ways to teach and reach all students in your classroom by using a small group differentiated instruction model.

**5:00 PM – 6:30 PM**  
**Networking Exhibitor Reception**

# 2016 TEXAS GEAR UP ED ACADEMY PRESENTERS

---

## **Cathy Moak, Ph.D.**

### **Educator Outreach Coach, Institute for Public School Initiatives, UT Austin**

Dr. Cathy Moak is a Senior Field Trainer/Analyst and Educator Outreach Coach for the Texas GEAR UP State Grant. Dr. Moak served as the component director for School Transformation and Digital Learning at Education Service Center Region 6, where she founded the EduHero Project, an online training site for educators. Dr. Moak taught at both Texas A&M University and Sam Houston State University. She later went on to become a curriculum writer for the Texas Education Service Curriculum Collaborative and a professional training developer focused on project-based learning. Dr. Moak grew up in both McGregor and Groesbeck and now lives on a ranch outside Huntsville with her husband Sam and their two sons, Jake and Billy. They enjoy hunting, fishing, and all things technology.

## **Joanna Oliver**

### **Senior Field Trainer Analyst, Texas Literacy Initiative**

Joanna Oliver is a Senior Field Trainer/Analyst for the Texas Literacy Initiative. She provides support and professional development to public school districts across the state and their associated early childhood education providers. Joanna has a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary education with an emphasis in reading, a Master of Education degree with an emphasis in digital learning, and principal certification from Abilene Christian University. She began her career as an elementary public school teacher, transitioning into a literacy coach and then a reading technical assistant for the Texas Reading First Initiative. Joanna also brings experience from Region 6 Education Service Center as a literacy specialist and a technology integration specialist, as well as her time as a learning assistant at Texas A&M University.

---

# 2016 TEXAS GEAR UP COUNSELOR INSTITUTE

---

The Texas GEAR UP Counselor Institute is a professional development opportunity for school counselors wanting to expand their knowledge around the college advising process. The Institute is designed and led by members of the Texas Association for College Admission Counseling (TACAC) and focuses on admissions and financial aid, with the goal of equipping counselors with tools and up-to-date information to effectively advise students on the college application process and prepare them for postsecondary options.

All Counselor Institute sessions (other than Plenary Sessions) will take place in Olivares.

SAT SWAMP

FAFSA FOREST

THE HUB

LAKE SCANTRON

**X** MARKS THE PARENT SPOT

EDUCATORS' LOUNGE

ESSAY HILL

DEADLINE DESERT

TASFA TAR PIT

**COLLEGE-PREP TREASURE ALERT!**

The new Parent Spot on [texasgearup.com](http://texasgearup.com) offers up bilingual tools to help you educate GEAR UP family members on all things college.

Because aren't empowered TXGU parents worth more than gold?



[TEXASGEARUP.COM/PARENT-SPOT](http://TEXASGEARUP.COM/PARENT-SPOT)

# SINCERE THANKS TO OUR ADVERTISERS, EXHIBITORS, AND SPONSORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THIS CONFERENCE:

## RECEPTION SPONSOR



## EXHIBITORS



## IN-KIND SPONSOR



NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR  
Community and Education Partnerships

Proceeds may be used in general support of the College of Education.

The opinions expressed in these materials do not necessarily reflect the positions or policies of the U.S. Department of Education. The inclusion of resources should not be construed or interpreted as an endorsement by the U.S. Department of Education of any private organization or business listed herein.



## Texas Association for College Admission Counseling

# TACAC is proud to support the Texas GEAR UP State Conference

TACAC develops professionals committed to providing the highest quality counseling to ensure students' access to and persistence through post-secondary education.

Learn more about the benefits of membership and our upcoming professional development events at:

[www.tacac.org](http://www.tacac.org)





# TG AND GEAR UP

Increasing college enrollment and closing  
the higher education attainment gap

TG provides resources to help facilitate students' postsecondary education success. Learn more about our research, financial literacy offerings, college completion curriculum, policy resources, and college access information for first generation students and their families at [www.TG.org](http://www.TG.org).

**TG can help.**

[www.TG.org/GearUp](http://www.TG.org/GearUp)

