

TFA matters

SPRING 2023



**Texas Faculty Association:
The challenges we share.**

Meet your TFA State Board Members

Pat Heintzelman, President

VACANCY, Vice President

Suzanne Jones, Secretary/Treasurer

Cary Wintz, Member-At-Large

Israel Aguilar, Member-At-Large

Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Member-At-Large

Elizabeth Skerpan-Wheeler, Member-At-Large

Don Collins, Member-At-Large

VACANCY, Member-At-Large

VACANCY, Member-At-Large

VACANCY, Member-At-Large

Contact TFA

Call: (409) 454-3701

Email: TFA.President@texasfacultyassociation.org

Facebook: [@TexasFacultyAssoc](https://www.facebook.com/TexasFacultyAssoc)

Twitter: [@TXFacultyAssoc](https://twitter.com/TXFacultyAssoc)

Blog: <https://texasfacultyassociation.blogspot.com/>

President's Message

For the president's message in this newsletter, we have included a link to one of the many articles she has been quoted in while speaking up in opposition of the anti-DEI, anti-CRT, and anti-tenure bills in the state legislature. Please read the weekly TFA Legislative Reports and take the actions suggested in each one. We need our members to use their collective voice.

<https://www.insightintodiversity.com/the-war-on-dei/>

ACTIONS OF THE STATE BOARD SINCE SPRING 2022

TFA has been quoted in numerous articles around the state and country while fighting this attack on higher education. Our board has been busy giving interviews, visiting Austin, and talking to staffers at the legislature.

The approved budget for 2022-2023 still includes line items for: freelance writers (contact us if you want to write about a higher ed topic of interest), more travel to institutions for recruitment, and a solidarity fund. We have also officially joined Higher Ed Labor United (HELU). Several state board members have joined NCHE. We encourage all of our members to join Texas AAUP/Texas AFT, TACT, TSEU, and NCHE. Contact us if you want information on any of our peer organizations.

We have continued the Fellowship and Recruitment Fund award for members. There are still funds left. [Please apply HERE.](#)

Follow our [TFA State Twitter Account](#): The more engagement you can give us, the bigger our reach and collective voice can be!

If you would like to join a TFA Caucus, let us know: Contingent Faculty Caucus, Solidarity Caucus, and Social Justice Caucus.

If you would like our NEA Member Organizers to come to your campus for a Recruitment Blitz, let us know.

We joined a statewide coalition with Texas AAUP, Texas AFT, and TACT to fight back against Dan Patrick's attack on higher education.

TFA has been speaking to legislative staffers on tenure and workplace safety.

Next Member Meet-up — April 29, 1:00-3:30 pm Central Time

There will be training on filing grievances, public information requests, and shared governance. Our TFA lobbyist will also give us an update on the legislative session.



Members of the TFA Board met staffers at the Capitol to share why tenure is crucial for Higher Education and for the Texas economy.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We are still looking for a few people who would like to serve on our state board. Please reach out to tfa@tsta.org if you are interested.

CHAPTER NEWS

- MO update — Our Member Organizers have been calling all members across the state to check-in with them on issues at their campus, questions they have, and remind them about services we offer / meetings / etc. They have visited UTRGV, South Texas Community College, and Texas State University. All three institutions have a large number of members and LOTS of money to start a local chapter. We will help you if someone will take the lead. Our state chapter addresses state issues, but a local chapter

can address issues related to your institution. This is where our collective voices are most powerful. The Member Organizers will be visiting other institutions in 2023-2024. If you would like to start a local chapter and want them to come to your campus, please reach out to us tfa@tsta.org.

- We are excited to announce that in December 2022, UTRGV officially became our most recent local chapter.
- Collin College has reinstated professor Dr. Suzanne Jones through a settlement.

CURRENTLY WORKING ON:

- Recording videos for grievance training and effective organizing techniques.
- Hosting virtual workshops to discuss pressing issues in higher education. These

are announced via email, Twitter, and on our website.

- TFA will be looking for conferences to sponsor and recruit members. Our first sponsorship was with CSOTTE (Consortium of State Organizations for Texas Teacher Education). One of our state board members, Dr. Suzanne Jones, presented on Teachers' Rights and specifically the right to join a union. If you know of a conference that we should sponsor, please let us know tfa@tsta.org.

FELLOWSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

TFA will be continuing the member Fellowship Awards and the Local Chapter Recruitment Funds Award for the 2022-2023 school year. The board set aside \$5,000 that can be used towards individual educational purposes or by members/chapters who need funds for membership recruit-

ment. The following members have already been approved.

PROJECT highlights - For the 2022-2023 school year, we have received three applications. That means we have 7 left to help our members fund creative projects, research, etc. We were able to help purchase a laptop for a faculty member doing extensive research at home as her university was unable to help purchase one for her. We approved a fellowship for a local chapter to offer a student scholarship in their name. We also approved a fellowship to help reimburse time for a member helping other faculty with grievances.

To apply for one this year, [Please apply here.](#)

TEXAS LEGISLATURE — UPDATE

[Tenure: A Brief History](#)

[Tenure: Killing tenure would ruin the state's research universities](#)

TFA hired a lobbyist, Beaman Floyd. Look for weekly legislative updates and please participate in suggested action items. If you are not getting these updates, it is because we likely do not have a personal email on file for you. We will not send these to your work email. Please contact tfa@tsta.org to provide a personal email.

[Texas Bill Tracker](#)

REMINDERS

Our major challenge is connecting with our members who span the entire state. Please submit a personal email to tfa@tsta.org as



TFA Member Organizers at campus visits.

soon as possible so you don't miss out on any information.

These are the [NEA strategic objectives](#) from which our national union budget is established.

TFA CANDIDATES

Collin College endorsements — The Collin TFA Chapter has been hard at work taking applications for endorsements, reviewing candidates, and supporting their campaigns through member volunteer work. If your

local chapter would like to be a major player in local politics, reach out to us. There are guidelines you must follow due to TSTA PAC rules. (Images included on the following page.)

LEGAL HELP LINE

The TSTA / TFA legal help line has been busy as several colleges and universities are coming after faculty and staff. Please explain to your colleagues that they must join before something happens to them.

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The Collin Chapter of the
Texas Faculty Association
Endorses



Dr. Stacey Donald

for Collin College Board of Trustees



facebook.com/staceydonaldforcollincollege



The Collin Chapter of the
Texas Faculty Association
Endorses



Scott Coleman

for Collin College Board of Trustees



facebook.com/ColemanforCollinCollegeBoard



The Collin Chapter of the
Texas Faculty Association
Endorses



Megan Wallace

for Collin College Board of Trustees



SCAN ME