



2022 Annual Conference

APRIL 5-6

SAN MARCOS, TEXAS



Welcome to the 2022 TEFN Annual Conference!

It's been thirteen years since a group of your peers gathered to create the vision that would become TEFN. After providing funding to numerous education foundations across the state, Texas Pioneer Foundation reached out to those grantees, and in 2009 a group of 35 representatives from Texas education foundations gathered in this hotel to share their experiences. During that first meeting, we found there was a strong desire to create networking opportunities and training for local education foundations.

As a result, we formed a conference committee from various school foundations across the state who developed the first annual conference the following year in 2010. There were 89 attendees for the first conference. Thanks to your support, the network and the conference have grown considerably. We are expecting over 250 attendees this year representing executive directors, board members and staff from over 100 school foundations in Texas.

This year's conference will feature 31 non-profit consultants, executive directors and professional speakers presenting 28 breakout and general sessions. Also this year, we are excited to add the General Session Networking Hour to give you another opportunity to connect, learn and share with your peers.

Thank you for joining us!



Fred Markham
Executive Director



Michelle Coburn
Program Director



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The Texas Education Foundation Network is a program of the Texas Pioneer Foundation.

The Texas Education Foundation Network (TEFN) was launched in 2012 as a program of the Texas Pioneer Foundation and was created to support local education foundations in Texas by providing networking opportunities, sharing of best practices and providing training and resources needed for foundations to be successful. The Texas Pioneer Foundation is a private independent foundation established to support outstanding and innovative educational programs and projects in Texas.



2022 TEFN Conference Committee



Karen Anderson
Red Oak ISD
Education Foundation



Teresa Benden
College Station ISD
Education Foundation



Lisa Cox
Garland ISD
Education Foundation



Randy Lewallyn
Mesquite ISD
Education Foundation



Ashley Sine
McKinney Education
Foundation



Conference Overview

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	
Conference Check-In.....	Veramendi E & F – Ballroom Foyer
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	
Conference Lounge Open.....	Chatauqua A & B
8:15 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	
New Member Meet & Greet – TEFN Conference Committee & Advisory Council.....	Chatauqua A & B
9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	
Welcome & Opening Remarks.....	Veramendi F
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	
Breakout Sessions.....	San Marcos A, B, Veramendi G, H, I, J
11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	
Breakout Sessions.....	San Marcos A, B, Veramendi G, H, I, J
12:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	
Luncheon General Session & Awards Recognition.....	Veramendi F
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	
Breakout Sessions.....	San Marcos A, B, Veramendi G, H, I, J
3:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.	
General Session & Networking.....	Veramendi F
5:30 p.m.	
Conference Reception & Regional Group Pictures.....	Veramendi E

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	
Conference Lounge Open.....	Chatauqua A & B
8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	
Breakout Sessions.....	San Marcos A, B, Veramendi G, H, I
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	
Breakout Sessions.....	San Marcos A, B, Veramendi G, H, I
11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	
Luncheon General Session.....	Veramendi F
12:00 p.m. – 12:15 p.m.	
Closing Remarks.....	Veramendi F



Keynote Speakers



Clint Pulver

"Mentorship VS Management"

Tuesday, April 5, 12:30 p.m.

Clint Pulver is a professional keynote speaker, author, musician, pilot, and workforce expert. Known as the leading authority on employee retention, Clint has transformed how corporations like Keller Williams, AT&T, and Hewlett Packard create lasting loyalty through his work and research as the Undercover Millennial. He has been featured by Business Q Magazine as a "Top 40 Under 40," and, as a professional drummer, he has appeared in feature films and on America's Got Talent. In 2020, Clint won an Emmy Award for his short film Be a Mr. Jensen, which tells the story of how a single moment in time—and one particular mentor— can change the course of a life.



Laurie Cromwell

"Bringing it All Together"

Wednesday, April 6, 11:15 a.m.

Laurie Cromwell, CFRE was the first woman elected to an at large position on the local school board, the first woman school board president, the first president of the local education foundation, the first woman president of the local Economic Development Commission, and a founding Board member of the local Chamber of Commerce. She was the first person to receive Chamber Citizen of the Year and the first to receive the Outstanding Service Award by the Texas Pioneer Foundation. She started her mission in the nonprofit field in 1984 and in 2003 founded Foundation Innovation, a consulting firm that has guided hundreds of education foundations and school boards to success.



Tuesday, April 5 Schedule

8:00 – 5:00 CONFERENCE CHECK-IN

8:00 – 5:00 CONFERENCE LOUNGE OPEN

8:15 – 8:45 New Member Meet & Greet – TEFN Conference Committee & Advisory Council

9:00 – 9:45 WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

Veramendi F

Fred Markham, Executive Director – Texas Pioneer Foundation

Michelle Coburn, Program Director – Texas Pioneer Foundation

Laurie Cromwell, President – Foundation Innovation

10:00 – 11:00 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Fish Camp – New to School Foundations – Part I

San Marcos A

Erica Ekwurzel, Consultant – Foundation Innovation

Shawn Callaway, Consultant – Foundation Innovation

If you are a brand-new foundation, a young organization, or exploring the idea of creating a foundation, Fish Camp is for you! This session includes the fundamentals to develop and build capacity for a foundation and maximize success. We'll explore structure, policies, board member recruitment, marketing, programs and fundraising.

Recommended for: *Emerging Foundations, Foundation Staff, Foundation Board*

Executive Director Bootcamp – Part I

San Marcos B

Laurie Cromwell, President – Foundation Innovation

Suzi Pagel, Director of Corporate & Community Development – Midway ISD Education Foundation

As education foundations continue to develop and build capacity for the organization, one of the key components is staffing. This deep dive, interactive training is designed for executive directors, managers, and administrative staff of education foundations that support public school districts.

Although many education foundations are hiring individuals with nonprofit experience, they are not always familiar with education foundations and the relationship required with the school district they support. The job of an executive director is challenging, and specialized training will help their productivity, impact and effectiveness. It can be intimidating and even overwhelming for a new executive director working with a board of volunteers, employees of the school district, and philanthropic donors. This training will focus on the following areas: Governance, Board Development, Fundraising & Donor Relations, Day to Day Operations.

Recommended for: *Foundation Staff*



Tuesday, April 5 Schedule

Onboarding New Board Members is NOT Just an Orientation!

Veramendi G

Brian Brandt, President – Core Insights

Learn how to engage a new board member and get them swiftly onboarded with your education foundation. We'll look at the process of creating thriving board members, by considering:

- What do they need to know?
- What do they need to experience?
- Who do they need to connect with?

Recommended for: *Emerging Foundations, Intermediate Foundations, Advanced Foundations, Foundation Staff, Foundation Board Presidents*

Building a Culture of Philanthropy within Your Foundation

Veramendi H

Angela Seaworth, Director of Philanthropic Initiatives and Capacity Building – Texas A&M University, Bush School, Center for Nonprofits and Philanthropy

Successful fundraising often depends more on an organization's dynamics than techniques or strategies. In this session, we will learn how to engage your board in creating a culture of philanthropy in your foundation. We will cover the relationship with the board, fundraising techniques and trends, and examine a case about a good board that does not fundraise. You will leave with action items to create a dynamic board and fundraising culture for your foundation.

Recommended for: *Intermediate Foundations, Advanced Foundations, Foundation Staff, Foundation Board*

Overview of Governance Issues (New or Re-Emerging Foundations)

Veramendi I

Janet Bubert, Attorney – Underwood Law Firm

A review of best practices and compliance considerations that may arise for an education foundation related to governance and organizational structure. The discussion during this session will focus primarily on a basic overview of the issues related to governing documents and organizational operations for new or re-emerging education foundations (for more tenured organizations see 11:15 session.)

Recommended for: *Emerging Foundations, Foundation Staff, Foundation Board*

Elevating the Relationship between Education Foundations & Districts

Veramendi J

Valerie Foster, Executive Director – Sanger Education Foundation

Judy Geelhoed, Executive Director – San Antonio ISD Foundation

Allison Miller, Director – Frisco Education Foundation

Bridging Education, Industry and Philanthropy. This session will share best practices and models for elevating relationships with philanthropy and businesses through a direct partnership between the ISD and your education foundation. Thinking beyond student scholarships and instructional classroom grants, explore how to increase student learning opportunities and resources through



Tuesday, April 5 Schedule

strategic alignment with your school district to the benefit of students that otherwise might not be possible.

Recommended for: *Advanced Foundations, Foundation Staff, Foundation Board*

11:15 – 12:15 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Fish Camp - New to School Foundations Part II

San Marcos A

Erica Ekwurzel, Consultant – Foundation Innovation

Shawn Callaway, Consultant – Foundation Innovation

If you are a brand-new foundation, a young organization, or are exploring the idea of creating a foundation, Fish Camp is for you! This session includes the fundamentals to develop and build capacity for a foundation and maximize success. We'll explore structure, policies, board member recruitment, marketing, programs and fundraising.

Recommended for: *Emerging Foundations, Foundation Staff, Foundation Board*

Executive Director Bootcamp - Part II

San Marcos B

Laurie Cromwell, President – Foundation Innovation

Suzi Pagel, Director of Corporate & Community Development – Midway ISD Education Foundation

As education foundations continue to develop and build capacity for the organization, one of the key components is staffing. This deep dive, interactive training is designed for executive directors, managers, and administrative staff of education foundations that support public school districts. Although many education foundations are hiring individuals with nonprofit experience, they are not always familiar with education foundations and the relationship required with the school district they support. The job of an executive director is challenging, and specialized training will help their productivity, impact and effectiveness. It can be intimidating and even overwhelming for a new executive director working with a board of volunteers, employees of the school district, and philanthropic donors. This training will focus on the following areas: Governance, Board Development, Fundraising & Donor Relations, Day to Day Operations.

Recommended for: *Foundation Staff*

Creating Ambassadors - Board Members Who Thrive

Veramendi G

Brian Brandt, President – Core Insights

Imagine board members that are thrilled to serve the organization well beyond the board meeting. Are you setting the bar high, and creating a vision and structure that encourages them to thrive? Identify key elements and proven strategies for success.

Recommended for: *Emerging Foundations, Intermediate Foundations, Advanced Foundations, Foundation Staff, Foundation Board*



Tuesday, April 5 Schedule

Building a Culture of Philanthropy within Your Foundation

Veramendi H

Angela Seaworth, Director of Philanthropic Initiatives and Capacity Building – Texas A&M University, Bush School, Center for Nonprofits and Philanthropy

Successful fundraising often depends more on an organization's dynamics than techniques or strategies. In this session, we will learn how to engage your board in creating a culture of philanthropy in your foundation. We will cover the relationship with the board, fundraising techniques and trends, and examine a case about a good board that does not fundraise. You will leave with action items to create a dynamic board and fundraising culture for your foundation.

Recommended for: *Intermediate Foundations, Advanced Foundations, Foundation Staff, Foundation Board*

Overview of Governance Issues (Established Foundations)

Veramendi I

Janet Bubert, Attorney – Underwood Law Firm

A review of best practices and compliance considerations that may arise for an education foundation related to governance and organizational structure. The discussion during this session will focus primarily on issues related to governing documents and organizational operations for well-established education foundations in operation for several years or more (for new or re-emerging organizations see 10:00 session.)

Recommended for: *Intermediate Foundations, Advanced Foundations, Foundation Staff, Foundation Board*

School Mental Health Programs

Veramendi J

Jennifer Esterline, Vice President – Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

Dr. Sean Maika, Superintendent – North East ISD

This session will focus on the emerging mental health needs of both students and staff in Texas public schools and how school districts and education foundations are working collaboratively to address these urgent needs. Attendees will engage in an interactive discussion with mental health experts from the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, as well as school leaders working to ensure all students and staff across the district have access to evidence-based mental health services and supports.

Recommended for: *Emerging Foundations, Intermediate Foundations, Advanced Foundations, Foundation Staff, Foundation Board*



Tuesday, April 5 Schedule

12:30 – 2:15 LUNCHEON & AWARDS RECOGNITION

Veramendi F

Keynote Speaker: Clint Pulver – “Mentorship VS Management”

2:30 – 3:30 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Building Engaged, Involved and Active Boards & Committee Members

San Marcos A

Valerie Foster, Executive Director – Sanger Education Foundation

There is no BAD committee or board members! Maybe misinformed, misguided or simply disengaged. This session will explore empowering both new and existing committee and board members. On-boarding for a great beginning, inspiring them to be actively engaged, participating and understanding the importance of their work. Attendees will walk away with key points on creating a cohesive and perspective of the role each plays to the overall success of their foundation work.

Recommended for: *Emerging Foundations, Intermediate Foundations, Foundation Staff, Foundation Board*

The Art of Making the Ask

San Marcos B

Laurie Cromwell, President – Foundation Innovation

We all know that fundraising is key to making our mission come alive, but how do you raise the revenue? This session will focus on empowering and teaching the art of making the ask. Whether you are comfortable soliciting or if it makes you a little hesitant or anxious to ask people for money – this session is for you. We will answer objections that may be faced as well as the components needed to make the case for support by focusing on the foundation’s “why” and purpose.

Recommended for: *Emerging Foundations, Intermediate Foundations, Advanced Foundations, Foundation Board*

Transitioning from Event-Centered Fundraising to an Annual Campaign

Veramendi G

Teresa Benden, Executive Director – College Station ISD Education Foundation

Are your events driving your fundraising efforts? What if you’re unable to host an event? Learn how to develop an annual fundraising campaign that includes your events. We will talk about themes, creating a menu of sponsorships, fundraising strategies and how to recognize donors. Come learn how your foundation can increase annual donations and make them sustainable.

Recommended for: *Emerging Foundations, Intermediate Foundations, Advanced Foundations, Foundation Staff, Foundation Board*



Tuesday, April 5 Schedule

Managing What Matters Most – Time & Fundraising Strategy

Veramendi H

Matthew Busby, Director of Development – Del Mar College Foundation

This session is a case study of our ongoing journey to create a systematic, strategic and sustainable fundraising approach to help as many students through building meaningful philanthropic relationships. We transitioned away from a primarily special-events, everyone-is-the-audience approach to a more focused, intentional donor-experience approach that utilizes a donor portfolio system that is doable, measurable, and goal-focused in building relationships with the right people in the right way. Will cover multiple topics with applicable takeaways.

Recommended for: *Emerging Foundations, Intermediate Foundations, Advanced Foundations, Foundation Staff, Foundation Board*

"Hey Guys!" Effective Branding through Social Media

Veramendi I

Maya Golden Bethany, Executive Director – 1 in 3 Foundation

Social media is a way to connect with key stakeholders: Donors, Parents, ISD Staff and Community Members. Your marketing messages on social media are an extension of your education foundation's brand. What does that mean? How do you effectively tell them what you're all about? Maya gives you the tools to make sure there's meaning in your message!

Recommended for: *Emerging Foundations, Intermediate Foundations, Advanced Foundations, Foundation Staff, Foundation Board*

How to Develop a Fundraising Board

Veramendi J

Suzi Pagel, Director of Corporate & Community Development – Midway ISD Education Foundation

Is your Board of Directors strategically providing direction for fundraising strategies and actively involved in raising funds for your education foundation? If not, learn how to motivate your board members to move towards that goal.

Recommended for: *Emerging Foundations, Intermediate Foundations, Foundation Staff, Foundation Board*

3:45 - 4:45 GENERAL SESSION & NETWORKING

Veramendi F

Join us for this “networking power hour” where you can visit with experts in the areas of fundraising, board development, donor management, nonprofit administration and many more topics! Get your questions answered, visit with new members or spend time networking with your colleagues.

5:30 RECEPTION & REGIONAL GROUP PICTURES

Veramendi E

Time to relax and have some fun! Cocktails and horderves will be served while the deejay gets the party started – regional group pictures will also be taken so be sure to join us!



Wednesday, April 6 Schedule

8:00 - 12:00 **CONFERENCE LOUNGE OPEN**

8:45 - 9:45 **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

How to Align Funding Priorities of an Education Foundation with the School System

San Marcos A

Laurie Cromwell, President – Foundation Innovation

Judy Geelhoed, Executive Director – San Antonio ISD Foundation

We all know that the recent crisis caused us to stop, analyze, and many times refocus or pivot what our education foundations were funding. Learn how to effectively develop and maintain that collaborative relationship with the district as well as learn first-hand the tactical approaches taken by the San Antonio Education Foundation (SAISD Foundation) to be a resource, thought partner, and funder to San Antonio ISD.

Recommended for: *Emerging Foundations, Intermediate Foundations, Advanced Foundations, Foundation Staff, Foundation Board*

Basic Financial Literacy and Understanding the Financial Health of Your Foundation

San Marcos B

Sean Hale, Founder – Sean Hale Consulting

How to read basic financial reports so you can get a sense of the financial health of your organization (balance sheet and Profit & Loss report). We'll cover key financial concepts like separation of duties, fraud prevention, and cash reserves. This will be an interactive workshop with Q&A plus, time permitting, practice of the concepts we've covered.

Recommended for: *Emerging Foundations, Intermediate Foundations, Advanced Foundations, Foundation Staff, Foundation Board*

Please Take Our Money! Addressing the Current Trend in Funding Campus Grants

Veramendi G

Randy Lewallyn, Executive Director – Mesquite ISD Education Foundation

Karen Anderson, Executive Director – Red Oak ISD Education Foundation

Mita Havlick, Executive Director – Dallas Education Foundation

Since the onset of the pandemic school districts have faced staffing and many other challenges, and some Education Foundations have noticed a reduction in grant applications from campuses. Participate in this interactive listening and sharing session to find potential solutions to this trend.

Recommended for: *Emerging Foundations, Intermediate Foundations, Advanced Foundations, Foundation Staff, Foundation Board*



Wednesday, April 6 Schedule

Donor Development & Stewardship

Veramendi H

Lauren Holloway, Executive Director – Highland Park Education Foundation

Robin Ritchey-Roy, Executive Director – Calallen Education Foundation

Did you know there's a difference between fundraising and donor development? Join us to learn effective strategies that will transform your fundraising from a transactional donor experience to a meaningful, lifelong partnership with your donors. We will discuss donor motivation, the importance of organizational values, the life cycle of a donor, and how to provide unique experiences that keep your donors and key relationships connected, informed, and engaged.

Recommended for: *Emerging Foundations, Intermediate Foundations, Advanced Foundations, Foundation Staff, Foundation Board*

The Evolution of a Transformation

Veramendi I

Mary Sue Daniel, Board Member – Irving Schools Foundation

Sarah Thomas, Board Member – Irving Schools Foundation

How to grow your organization through strategic partnerships, innovative programs and board selection and engagement. The Irving Schools Foundation will walk you through how they transformed a 30+ year organization to fit the ever changing needs of the community it serves.

Recommended for: *Emerging Foundations, Intermediate Foundations, Advanced Foundations, Foundation Staff, Foundation Board*

10:00 - 11:00 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

What I Wish I Knew Then

San Marcos A

Cameka Crawford, Executive Director – Richardson ISD Education Foundation

Lisa Cox, President – Garland ISD Education Foundation

Donna Wald, Executive Director – Carrollton Farmers Branch Educational Foundation

Whether you're a Foundation leader ten days in or ten years in, there are things that you wish you knew when you started. Led by leaders at different stages in their Foundation careers, this workshop will provide lessons we've learned along the way. Key themes include throwing out preconceived notions, accepting that you'll face challenges, building networks with other Foundation leaders, aligning with your district and more!

Recommended for: *Emerging Foundations, Intermediate Foundations, Advanced Foundations, Foundation Staff, Foundation Board*



Wednesday, April 6 Schedule

Marketing & Communications for Your Nonprofit

San Marcos B

Natalie Kelinske, Senior Director of Communications & Donor Services – Waco Foundation

This session will take you through the planning and execution of a strategic communications campaign tailored for your Foundation. Topics will include advertising, annual reports, newsletters, websites and more!

Recommended for: *Emerging Foundations, Intermediate Foundations, Advanced Foundations, Foundation Staff*

Effective & Efficient Back Office Practices for Your Foundation

Veramendi G

Sean Hale – Sean Hale Consulting

Description: We'll cover 4-6 actionable ideas that attendees can take back to their organizations to help them run more smoothly. After participating in the workshop, participants will have fresh ideas for: Identifying savings and efficiencies in their organizations; Working smarter (not harder); Improving leadership engagement with financial data. This will be an interactive workshop with Q&A plus, time permitting, practice of the concepts we've covered.

Recommended for: *Emerging Foundations, Intermediate Foundations, Advanced Foundations, Foundation Staff, Foundation Board*

Grow Your Own: Empowering Board Leadership

Veramendi H

Suzi Pagel, Director of Corporate & Community Development – Midway ISD Education Foundation

Behind every successful nonprofit corporation is a strong Board of Directors. Come learn skills for developing strong leadership qualities in your board members and other volunteers that will set your organization up for sustained growth and success. We'll also discuss strategies for addressing challenges that can arise when working with a diverse group of personality types.

Recommended for: *Emerging Foundations, Intermediate Foundations, Advanced Foundations, Foundation Staff, Foundation Board*

LinkedIn: Why & How to Use for Your Foundation

Veramendi I

Matthew Busby, Director of Development – Del Mar College Foundation

With more than 740 million users internationally (many in your community and school), LinkedIn is the top professional networking site in the world. Learn why this free resource is important (not just for job seeking!) and how to use it as fundraising professionals, foundations and schools to find human talent, alumni, donors and volunteers/board members. Will include practical ways to create a stellar profile and methods to use that will benefit you, your foundation and school.

Recommended for: *Emerging Foundations, Intermediate Foundations, Advanced Foundations, Foundation Staff, Foundation Board*

11:15 - 12:15 LUNCHEON & CLOSING REMARKS

Veramendi F

Keynote Speaker: Laurie Cromwell "Bringing it All Together"



Speaker Directory

Speaker	Organization	Title	Email	Phone
Allison Miller	Frisco Education Foundation	Director	millera@friscoisd.org	(469) 633-6864
Angela Seaworth	Texas A&M, Bush School, Center for Nonprofits & Philanthropy	Director of Philanthropic Initiatives & Capacity Building	aseaworth@tamu.edu	(979) 862-3170
Brian Brandt	Core Insights	President	brian@coreinsightsleadership.com	(903) 534-1525
Cameka Crawford	The Richardson ISD Foundation	Executive Director	cameka.crawford@isd.org	(469) 593-0241
Clint Pulver	CRP Enterprises	Keynote Speaker	clintea@cmispeakers.com	(403) 398-8488
Donna Wald	CFBISD Educational Foundation	Executive Director	waldd@cfbisd.edu	(972) 968-4362
Erica Ekwurzel	Foundation Innovation	Consultant	erica@foundationinnovation.com	(512) 535-2046
Janet Bubert	Underwood Law Firm	Attorney	janet.bubert@uwlaw.com	(817) 885-7529
Jennifer Esterline	Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute	Vice President of Education Policy	jesterline@mmhpi.org	(512) 796-4530
Judy Geelhoed	San Antonio ISD Foundation	Executive Director	jgeelhoed@saisd.net	(210) 554-2235
Karen Anderson	Red Oak ISD Education Foundation	Executive Director	karen.anderson@redoakisd.org	(972) 345-4021
Lauren Holloway	Highland Park Education Foundation	Executive Director	lauren.holloway@hpef.org	(214) 780-4062
Laurie Cromwell	Foundation Innovation	President	laurie@foundationinnovation.com	(512) 535-2046
Lisa Cox	Garland ISD Education Foundation	President	ljcox@garlandisd.net	(972) 487-3253
Mary Sue Daniel	Irving Schools Foundation	Board Member	MarySue.Danielel@igs.com	(469) 221-5005
Matthew Busby	Del Mar College Foundation	Director of Development	mbusby3@delmar.edu	(361) 698-1322
Maya Golden Bethany	1 in 3 Foundation	Founder	info@1in3foundation.org	(903) 881-3091
Mita Havlick	Dallas Education Foundation	Executive Director	mhavlick@dallasisd.org	(972) 925-3053
Natalie Kelinske	Waco Foundation	Senior Director of Communications & Donor Services	nkelniske@wacofoundation.org	(254) 754-3404
Randy Lewallyn	Mesquite ISD Education Foundation	Executive Director	hlewallyn@mesquiteisd.org	(972) 882-7513
Robin Ritchey-Roy	Calallen Education Foundation	Executive Director	rritchey_roy@calallen.org	(361) 242-5987
Sarah Thomas	Irving Schools Foundation	Board Member	sthomase@americanbus.com	(215) 688-2334
Sean Hale	Sean Hale Consulting	Founder	sean@seanhale.org	(512) 300-4857
Sean Maika	North East ISD	Superintendent	smaika@neisd.net	(410) 407-0540
Shawn Callaway	Foundation Innovation	Consultant	ShawneFoundationinnovation.com	(817) 441-8327
Suzi Pagel	Midway ISD Education Foundation	Director of Corporate & Community Development	Suzi.Pagel@midwayisd.org	(254) 761-5614
Teresa Bendan	College Station ISD Education Foundation	Executive Director	tbenden@csisd.org	(979) 764-5586
Valerie Foster	Sanger Education Foundation	Executive Director	vfoster@sangereducationfoundation.org	(940) 600-8890

For Complete Speaker Bio's Visit



2022 Distinguished Achievement Award Winner



"Students Helping Veterans: Big Heroes, Tiny Homes" project started as a dream in 2017. A group of high school students asked to meet with district leadership and shared their

vision of combating the issue of homelessness for veterans by building them tiny homes. The students met with city leaders, politicians, nonprofits that work with veterans, local and national media and many more groups to gain a better understanding of how to bring their dream to life and to build support around this great cause. Fast forward to 2022, six veterans are now homeowners thanks to the dreams and hard work of teenagers. This program has grown from two high schools in Humble ISD to four high schools. Next stop on the students' dream list? High schools around the country join forces in this project to show the world teenagers can truly be the driving force in making our world a better place.

Big Heroes, Tiny Homes has given students a hands-on project-based learning opportunity on a grand scale. Students from construction and engineering classes work together to design and build a tiny home to be given to a homeless veteran. Students meet with local architects and builders to ensure their design and material usage is structurally sound. Additionally, construction companies in the Humble ISD community provide in-kind donations to help make the project's fundraising dollars go further.

The Humble ISD Education Foundation was an integral partner by awarding multiple Innovative Education Grants to these schools for tools and supplies, connecting these students with local business partners to receive donated supplies and mentoring from construction and architectural professionals, and securing additional funding on behalf of this project from corporate and private foundation supporters.

This project is unique in that gifting a home is not just an act of kindness, but also a life-changing teaching tool for students. Several of the students involved in this project have gone on to pursue architecture or engineering as a profession.

One partnership created is with Langetree Retreat and Eco Center in Liberty, Texas. At this retreat, Barbara Lange has created a community for veterans to access resources and support. The tiny homes that are built by the Humble ISD program are moved to this "veteran village."

Therefore, these veterans are not just given a home, but given a home in a safe place filled with neighbors to support them on their journey to well-being.



2022 Outstanding Achievement Award Winners



The Dallas Education Foundation's "Heart of Teaching" campaign was a tribute to more than 10,000 Dallas ISD teachers and a celebration of visual art educators. The campaign accomplished: An exclusive and curated Dallas ISD Art Teacher Gallery Exhibition at the Music Hall at Fair Park during the State Fair of Texas; Teacher artists showcased on local television news, print media, and via a robust social media campaign; Teacher artists celebrated at an evening gala; The in-kind donation of the use of the Music Hall at Fair Park for both the art exhibition and evening gala; All costs being underwritten by donor partners.



The Falls City Education Foundation awarded over \$80K in innovative teaching grants and program initiatives in 2021. These funds have enabled new innovative programs including a Family and Consumer Science program, technological advancements in robotics, floral design certification, UAS Drone Pilot Certification program and welding certification programs. They also provided 70 chrome books, 50 WiFi hotspots, 30 microphones, 2 computer carts, a 3-D Printer and 10 iPads. This proved essential and a much needed relief during Covid as every student had the resources to log on from home and learn remotely.

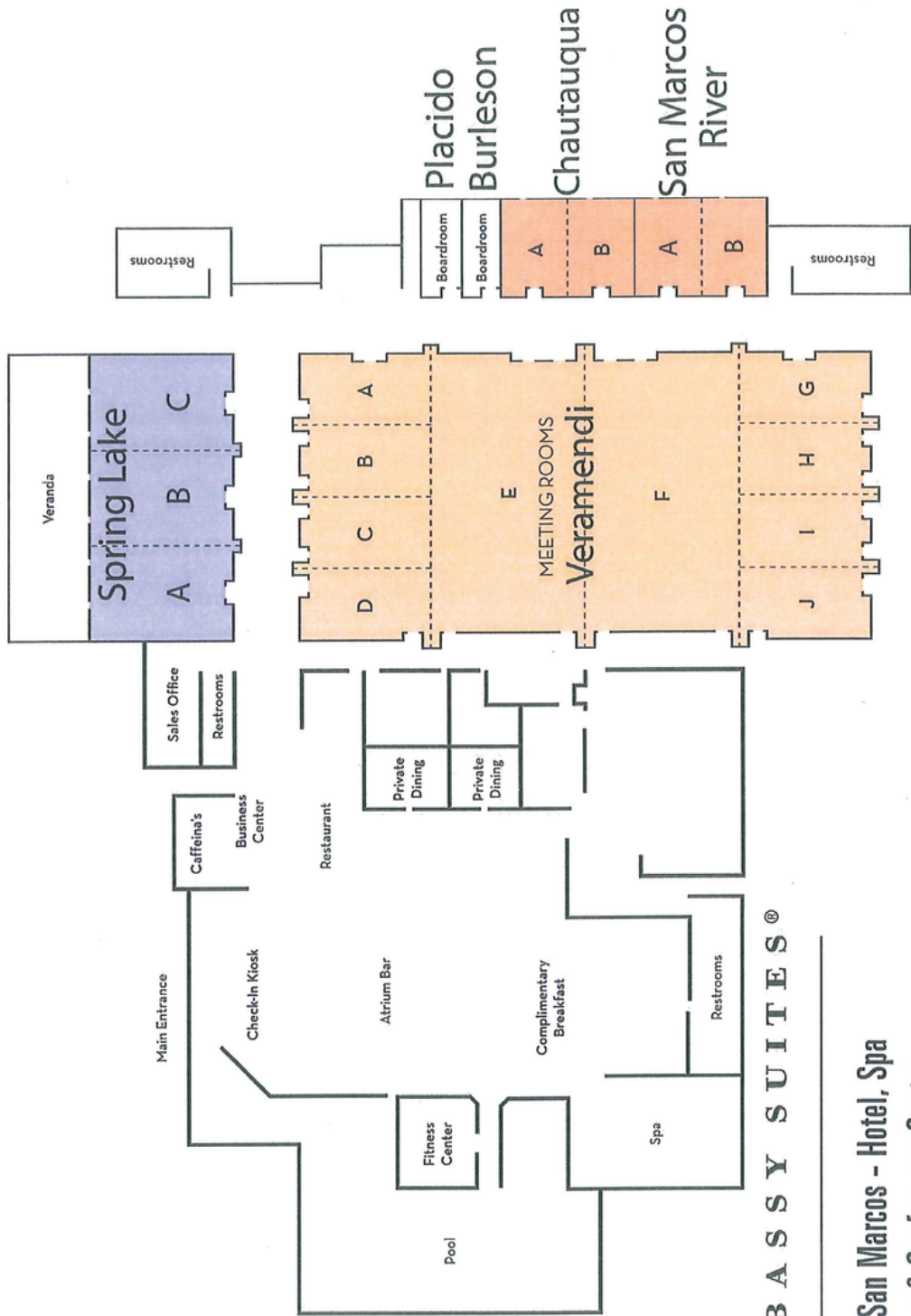


The La Porte Education Foundation awarded a special grant to La Porte High School's Career and Technical Education Program for the DHC2 4x4 Plasma Cam Project. The DHC2 4x4 Plasma Cam curriculum is the first of its kind in the industry. It allows teachers to teach CNC technology and expand hands-on learning. It is an involved course study with plenty of homework assignments, end-of-chapter quizzes, and suggested lesson plans. This curriculum takes out the guesswork that has previously been associated with teaching CNC technology in the classroom.



With teacher appreciation week in May, the Royse City ISD Education Foundation chose that time to recognize classroom teachers through an extensive social media campaign. Through a contest held on Facebook, community members, parents, students and staff were asked to nominate their favorite teacher to win a \$500 grant for their classroom. At the end of of two weeks and the conclusion of the contest, a program would randomly select one teacher as the winner. The RCISD EF had faced a large hurdle for the organization in the area of awareness. The efforts of this campaign increased their social media presence while also giving \$5,000 back to teachers.





EMBASSY SUITES®

**San Marcos - Hotel, Spa
& Conference Center**

Session Evaluations

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Notes



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