



TCWSE Mission

Our mission is to build and sustain a diverse community of women educational leaders dedicated to promoting equity and excellence through renewal, mentoring, and career advancement support.

March 2026

"Where flowers bloom, so does hope."

~Lady Bird Johnson

Lifting Up...

Happy March! This month's focus is **growth** and **renewal**. Spring is nature's way of reminding us that even the coldest seasons end, and beauty always finds its way back. It's that time to throw out the plants that didn't survive the freeze and to plant new. Audrey Hepburn's quote, **"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."** What a beautiful thought. May your spring be filled with a renewed sense of accomplishment and joy for what lies ahead. May we also all work to renew our faith in public education and the difference it makes for millions of Texas children.



Christie Whitbeck, Executive Director

Check out this issue for: **President's message, upcoming events in several regions and a Region 13 book study you are all invited to join, future event dates in our regions, information on Women in History month, a call for manuscripts for our talented writers, Texas Business Journal link with TCWSE featured, relevant information from Raise Your Hand Texas to stay informed, a congratulations to one of our newest female superintendents, a survey link for those who were able to attend our January conference a new Scriptures of the month focused on growth and renewal and more!** While we work in competitive fields, we must be women who lift each other up! Nothing can be more powerful than connecting with a colleague to help us listen, grow and be inspired! For questions about TCWSE contact Dr. Christie Whitbeck, Executive Director at christiewhitbeck@yahoo.com or TCWSEexecdir@gmail.com.

President's Message

President's Message

March: Claiming the Cockpit – Owning Your Leadership

Welcome to this month's President's Message in our *Take Flight: Claim Your Power. Elevate Your Impact* series. Each month, I share reflections and encouragement designed to strengthen you as a leader and strengthen us as an organization.

March is about ownership.

In aviation, the cockpit is where direction is determined. It is where decisions are made, instruments are monitored, and course corrections happen. Leadership is no different. If we are going to take flight, we must first be willing to claim the cockpit of our own leadership journey.

Too often, women leaders are fully qualified but hesitate to fully occupy their authority. We prepare thoroughly. We serve diligently. We lead competently. Yet we sometimes wait for affirmation before stepping boldly into influence. This year's theme challenges us to move differently.

"Claiming your power begins with trusting your preparation." - Sonja A. Brown

You are not in your role by accident. Your experiences, your credentials, your lived wisdom, and your resilience have prepared you for the altitude you now hold. Claiming your power does not mean overpowering others. It means leading with clarity, confidence, and conviction.

As an organization, TCWSE is committed to leadership development that strengthens women at every stage of their journey. That means creating spaces where emerging leaders are encouraged to speak, where seasoned executives continue to grow, and where every voice is respected. It also means challenging ourselves to step forward when opportunities arise.

This month, I encourage you to reflect on three questions:

- Where am I hesitating in my leadership?
- What room do I need to fully occupy?
- Who is watching me that needs to see confident leadership modeled?

Owning your leadership role not only strengthens you but also our collective impact. When women confidently lead, systems improve. When women confidently speak, decisions become more informed. When women confidently mentor, pipelines grow stronger.

Claiming the cockpit is not about ego. It is about responsibility. It is about recognizing that your leadership matters, your perspective is valuable, and your voice is necessary.

This month, take one bold step. Volunteer for the committee. Submit the proposal. Speak up in the meeting. Apply for the role. Mentor the emerging leader. Trust that you are prepared for the altitude ahead.

Thank you for your leadership, your service, and your continued commitment to this organization. Together, we will keep rising, supporting one another, and shaping the future of educational leadership across Texas.

With gratitude and purpose,

Sonja A. Brown

President, Texas Council of Women School Executives

"Impact grows when reflection turns into action."

Texas School Business Journal See March/April Issue TCWSE Featured on Page 23!

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Women's History Month
 Take time to read about those iconic women who paved the way for all of us!
 "51 Women in History who Have Changed the World"
 Maya Angelou, Rosa Parks, Sally Ride and more!

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Just a few as a sneak peek.....



Rosa Parks





Call for Manuscripts!
We have many talented writers among us!
Please read message from Kathryn Washington and spread the word!

Dear Colleagues,

The *Journal of Innovations in Education & Human Development: Research and Practice (JIEHD)* is now accepting manuscript submissions for an upcoming issue.

We invite scholars, researchers, and practitioners to submit original manuscripts that advance research, theory, and practice in education and human development. Submissions may include empirical studies, conceptual and theoretical papers, practitioner-focused articles, and innovative approaches that contribute meaningfully to the field.

Submission Deadline: August 1

All manuscripts will undergo a rigorous double-blind peer review process.

Authors may submit manuscripts directly via the journal website:

<https://jiehd.lamar.edu/index.php/jiehd/about/submissions>

Questions regarding submissions may be directed to:

dept_jiehd@lamar.edu

We look forward to receiving your submissions and to showcasing innovative scholarship that informs research and practice in education and human development.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Washington on behalf of

Editorial Team

Journal of Innovations in Education & Human Development

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Messages from our Friends at Raise Your Hand Texas

Thanks to our partners from *Raise Your Hand Texas* for providing our members with readily available resources:

Resources from *Raise Your Hand Texas*:

[2025 Legislative Session Wrap Up](#) learn what happened in the 89th legislative session.

[A Proposed New Public Education Funding Source: Legacy Education Fund](#) learn about the proposal for a new public education funding source.

[Public Education is Always on the Ballot](#) pledge to vote and support public education advocacy campaigns.

Opportunities to Get Involved with **Raise Your Hand Texas**

[Join our Across the Lawn emails and texts](#) to learn how some legislation will affect Texas families, schools, and communities.

- [Connect with your Regional Advocacy Director](#) to find out more about local opportunities and how to join advocacy efforts in your community.
- [Join an advocacy core team](#)-nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy teams that anyone can join.
- Check our [event page](#) for events in your community

For more information contact JoLisa Hoover at <https://www.raiseyourhandtexas.org/about/staff/jolisa-hoover/>

Mark Your Calendars for TCWSE Conference 2027 Friday afternoon January 22, 2027 and Saturday, January 23, 2027 Theme: Rooted and Rising





If you attended the January 2026 conference, please take a few minutes and complete the survey below:

<https://bit.ly/TCWSE2026ConferenceFeedbackSurvey>

What's Ahead?

***Check out the Exciting Regional Events Across our State!
Note: Region 13 Book Study, Women Who Lead, Open to All.....Get Involved at Your Region Level or Join With Other Women Leaders in Texas***

Region 8 Northeast TCWSE Meeting February 11, 2026





Future Events Across the State!

THE POWER OF WE!



R4TCWSE Spring Conference
March 28, 2026
8:00am-1:00pm
Null Middle School

Rising Together

TCWSE
Region 6

TCWSE REGION 6 CONFERENCE

FREE
ENTRY!

*Please Register

At the conference, we will have a day of networking, learning, and empowerment for you! Sessions include:

- AI - The Executive "Easy Button"
- Power of a Personal Brand
- The Happiness Advantage: Leading with Positivity and Purpose
- How Women Rise: Changing for the Better

*Lunch is Provided.

Monday, March 30th

9:00 am-1:00 pm

1520 Lone Star Parkway
Montgomery, TX 77316

For More Information Contact:
amy.busby@misd.org

REGISTER NOW



TCWSE
REGIONS 10 & 11

REGIONAL MEETING

Marketing Yourself & The Superintendent Search

Featuring guest speakers, retired superintendents

Kevin Worthy & Doug Williams

9:00 AM

MARCH
30

1:00 PM

*1-2pm Region 10 Women Leading Women Mentoring Program

Region 10 ESC

400 E. Spring Valley Road Richardson, 75081

Register at: esc10.link/TCWSE33026





TOWSE

Region 13 Chapter

SAVE THE DATE: SPRING MEETING & CONNECTION

Join us for lunch, connection, and an incredible guest speaker and topic:

Veronica Sopher
"Imposter Syndrome:
Erasing the Myths"

When: Tuesday, March 24th 11-2pm
Where: Region 13 Service Center



*Guest Speaker
Veronica Sopher*

REGIONAL COUNCIL

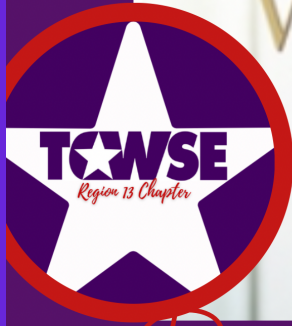


TOWSE

*Connection and
Professional Growth*



Mentorship



WOMEN

Who

LEAD

Book Study

Women Who Lead: Insights, Inspiration, and Guidance to Grow as an Educator (Your blueprint on how to promote gender equality in educational leadership and end the broken rung once and for all.)

SPRING 2026

FEB-JUNE

[SIGN UP HERE](#)



JOIN US!



TCWSE Region 13

REGION 17 REGIONAL MEETING *RSVP*



Empowerment Luncheon

Texas Council of Women School Executives

Noon-1:30 pm

May 8, 2026

Texas Tech Credit Union
6319 79th, Lhk, Tx 79424

RSVP at the link below:

<https://forms.gle/3LEFCutVYMNDfLqe9>

Let's Celebrate Each Other

Congratulations to

Dr. Tiffanie Spencer named Superintendent of Mansfield ISD!

Read article below:

<https://www.mansfieldisd.org/news-events/newsroom/news-content/~board/district-news/post/board-approves-dr-tiffanie-spencer-new-superintendent>



Do you know of a female colleague who has been recognized or recently promoted? Send their name and recognition or new position information to Dr. Christie Whitbeck at TCWSEexecdir@gmail.com for possible inclusion in the next newsletter.

Scriptures of the Month

*The scriptures below reflect thoughts of **growth and renewal** during this month of March*

- **Psalm 85:11**- "Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven."
- **Romans 12:2**- "Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will."
- **Matthew 5:16**- "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."
- **Isaiah 40:31**- "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint."

2025-26 TCWSE Regional Representative List!

***Reach out to your TCWSE Regional Representative to get involved
in your regional TCWSE Chapter***

To find a list of TCWSE Regional Reps <https://tcwse.org/> or see below:

***Reach out to your TCWSE Regional Representative to get involved
in your regional TCWSE Chapter***

- Region 1 [Michelle DeWitt](#) - Superintendent - Lyford CISD
Region 2 [Dela Castillo](#) - Chief Financial Officer- Beeville ISD
Region 3 [Melissa Gonzales](#) - Superintendent Refugio ISD
Region 4 [Paula Patterson](#) - Superintendent - Crosby ISD
Region 5 [Bridget Kirby](#) - Assistant Superintendent- Silsbee ISD
Region 6 [Amy Busby](#) - Asst. Superintendent of Student Serv.- Montgomery ISD
Region 7 [Misti Smith](#) -Director of Federal and State Programs - West Sabine ISD
Region 8 [Melissa Reid](#) - TSL Coach - Region 8 ESC
Region 9 [Carla Hennessey](#) - Superintendent- Montague ISD
Region 10 [April Estrada](#) - Deputy Executive Director- ECS Region 10
Region 11 [Cathy Sewell](#) - Deputy Executive Director- ESC Region 11
Region 12 [Tiffany Spicer](#) - Superintendent - Waco ISD
Region 13 [Alicia Maphies](#) - Director of Curriculum and Instr. - Dripping Springs ISD
Region 14 [Chanda Bloch](#) - Superintendent- Hamlin Collegiate ISD
Region 15 [Mandy Traylor](#) - Superintendent- Veribest ISD
Region 16 [Kelly Legg](#) - Assistant Superintendent- Dumas ISD
Region 17 [Cicely Alexander](#) - Director of Counseling- Lubbock ISD
Region 18 [Michelle Rinehart](#) - Superintendent- Alpine ISD
Region 19 [Blanca Cruz](#) - Human Resources Director- San Elizario ISD
Region 20 [Stacia Snyder](#) - Principal- Smithson Valley High School- Comal ISD

TCWSE Membership is open! Go through the TASA portal and be sure your TCWSE membership is current! Remember to keep your contact information current so we can stay in touch! Questions about joining or renewing? Please contact Debbie Craig, TASA Coordinator, Membership & Registration Services 512.477.6361 or 800.725.8272.

[Click here](#) to submit your Regional News and Photos.

2026 TCWSE Corporate Sponsors

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Platinum Sponsor

Manta AI

If you know of an interested sponsor, please direct them to our website or have them contact Jennifer Garrido at jgarrido@tasanet.org.

"Spring will come and sow happiness. Hold on. Life will get warmer."

~Anita Krizzan



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Our mailing address is: TCWSEexecdir@gmail.com

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