



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.



May flowers always line your path and sunshine light your day. May songbirds serenade you every step along the way. ~Irish Blessing



***Lifting Up...
Happy May!***

***Welcome the month of May with a heart full of hope
and a spirit ready to bloom.***

***May flowers remind us of why the rain is necessary.
As we close out another school year it is a good time
to appreciate the fact that we overcame
many hard challenges during the year. Give others
credit for their accomplishments but take time to
reflect on what a difference YOU made. It's time to
celebrate graduations and the numerous successes in
our schools and districts. We have persevered and
now need to take time to smell the roses!***

***There will always be challenges, or weeds, among our
flowers. May all your weeds be wildflowers making
your days more beautiful.***

Hope your month is aMAYzing!

Christie Whitbeck, Executive Director

***Check out this issue for: President's message, announcements of 4 female
superintendents named lone finalist or superintendent, exciting regional
conference recaps from across our state, an applicable excerpt from Women Who
Lead, a new opportunity for reduced tuition costs at Abilene Christian
University, a call for manuscripts for our talented writers, Texas School
Business Journal link, important voting information, relevant information from
Raise Your Hand Texas to stay informed, and new Scriptures of the month focused***

for the month of May focusing on women and mothers 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

Take Flight: Claim Your Power. Elevate Your Impact.

A Leadership Journey with Sonja A. Brown

May: Sustaining the Flight – Wellness and Leadership Longevity

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.

May is about sustainability.

In aviation, even the most powerful aircraft cannot remain in the air without proper fuel, balance, and maintenance. The same is true for leadership. We cannot continue to pour into others if we are not also pouring into ourselves.

“Rest is not retreat. It is refueling.” -Sonja A. Brown

As women school executives, we often carry multiple responsibilities—leading campuses, supporting teams, serving communities, and showing up fully in every space we occupy. We do it with excellence. We do it with heart. But too often, we do it without pause.

Sustainable leadership requires intention.

It requires us to recognize that constant output without restoration leads to depletion. It requires us to set boundaries, prioritize wellness, and give ourselves permission to step back—not as a sign of weakness, but as a strategy for longevity.

At TCWSE, we are committed not only to developing strong leaders but to supporting whole leaders. Leaders who understand that wellness is not separate from leadership—it is essential to it.

When we model balance, we give others permission to do the same.

When we prioritize wellness, we strengthen our decision-making.

When we take time to refuel, we return with greater clarity, energy, and impact.

This month, I encourage you to take inventory of your own leadership sustainability:

- Where are you overextended?
- What boundaries need to be reinforced?
- What does intentional rest look like for you?

Sustainability is not about doing less. It is about doing what matters most, with clarity and consistency, over time.

We are not called to lead for a moment. We are called to lead for a lifetime.

And that requires care - not just for the work, but for ourselves.

This month, take one intentional step toward your own wellness. Protect your time. Honor your capacity. Refuel your energy.

Because when you are well, your leadership is stronger.

And when your leadership is stronger, your impact is greater.

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

Women Who Lead

Insights, Inspiration, and Guidance to Grow as an Educator

Stepping onto a brand-new path is difficult, but not more difficult than remaining in a situation, which is not nurturing to the whole woman. ~Maya Angelou

Excerpt from Page 34 by Joellen Killion:

In contrast to my early experience, successful women leaders in the 21st century cultivate a deep understanding of change and how to manage, facilitate, and implement change in their personal lives. To meet the challenges and grow as leaders, women must continually analyze their leadership beliefs and practices, and how their leadership identities influence the management, facilitation, and implementation of change.

I offer 6 fundamental lessons about facing change:

1. Change is constant and unavoidable.
2. Managing, facilitating, and implementing change are not equivalent.
3. Everyone experiences change differently.
4. Change is a journey.
5. Assumptions influence how people face change.
6. Certain skills are useful for facing change.

This 2nd chapter reviews each of the lessons with examples.

Let's Celebrate Each Other



Congratulations to:

Dr. Rhonda Mason named Superintendent of Alvin ISD!



Read article:

<https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=28b281d3ef76094c3aa560b9c8635a08b7de8d2313e849ead79b01804d67a55eJmItDHM9MTc3ODcxNjgwMA&ptn=3&ver=2&hsh=4&fclid=39cb256a-e08c-60b2-2c17-35c7e17d6100&psq=rhonda+mason+alvin+isd+superintendent&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly9jb21tdW5pdHlpbXBhY3QuY29tL2hvdXN0b24vcGVhcmxhbmQtZnJpZW5kc3dvb2QtbWFudmVsL2VkdWNhdGlvbi8yMDI2LzA1LzE0L3Job25kYS1tYXNvbi1uYW1lZC1hcy1hbHZpbi1pc2Qtc3VwZXJpbnRlbnRlbnQv>

Dr. Dorian Galindo named Superintendent of Irving ISD!



Read article:

<https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=11d461ee8abc007b0c684247c9bc82a00ac97295476dbc03a930cc812705a074JmItDHM9MTc3ODcxNjgwMA&ptn=3&ver=2&hsh=4&fclid=39cb256a-e08c-60b2-2c17-35c7e17d6100&psq=dr.+dorian+golindo+irving+isd&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuaXJ2aW5nd2Vla2x5LmNvbS9zLzEyNzI5L0lydmLuZy1JU0QtTmFtZXMtRHluLURvcmlhbi1HYWxpbmRvLUxvbmUtRmluYWxpc3QtZm9yLVN1cGVyaW50ZW5kZW50LnBocA>

Brooks County ISD names Venus Vela as Superintendent

Brooks County ISD Names Lone Finalist



Read more:

https://r.search.yahoo.com/_ylt=AwrNPHAiggdqLmwAD1IPxQt.;_ylu=Y29sbwNiZjEEcG9zAzEEdnRpZAMEc2VjA3Ny/RV=2/RE=1780086563/RO=10/RU=https%3a%2f%2fwww.linkedin.com%2fposts%2ftasb-ess_on-april-22-the-brooks-county-isd-board-activity-7455245565715668992-UtTd/RK=2/RS=.xegikjfpw2nju1WZUe9pm9SyPA-

Breann Cox Named Lone Finalist for Chico ISD



Read

more: <https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=0bc1b2adefa93c1d2b4581d1fcd8bae291420761933938fa374c9b2ae3286514JmltdHM9MTc3ODcxNjgwMA&pfn=3&ver=2&hsh=4&fclid=39cb256a-e08c-60b2-2c17-35c7e17d6100&psq=breann+cox+chico+isd+lone+finalist&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cud2NtZXNzZW5nZXIuY29tL2FydGljbGVzL2NveC1uYW1lZC1sb25lLWZpbmFsaXN0LWluLWNoaWNvLWlzZHMtc3VwZXJpbmRlbnRlbnQtc2VhcmNoLw>

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 christiewhitbeck@yahoo.com for possible inclusion in the next newsletter.

Regional Representative Opening

Do you live in Region Two or know someone who does? Region 2 includes ISD's from Corpus Christi,

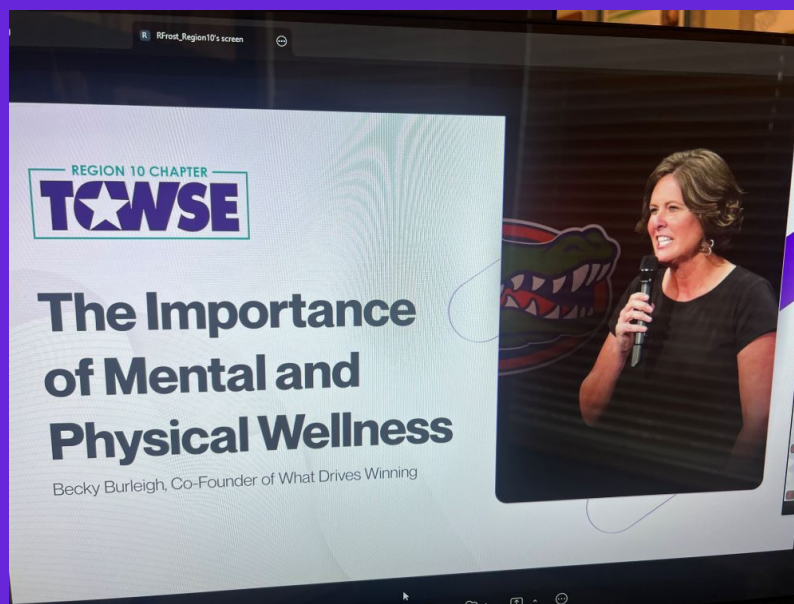
Alice, Port Aransas, Beeville, Flour Bluff, Gregory Portland, Kingsville, Orange Grove, Rockport-Fulton, Tuloso-Midway and many more. We need a Regional Representative from this area to represent TCWSE. If interested, please contact Dr. Whitbeck at christiewhitbeck@yahoo.com and get involved in this amazing organization.



TCWSE Regional Events Across the State



Region 10 Held Their End-of-Year Celebration (Virtual) on May 8, 2026 from 12:00-1:00
"The Importance of Mental and Physical Wellness"
Featured guest speaker **Becky Burliegh**
Focus on the 4 Dimensions of Health: Physical, Mental, Emotional, and Spiritual





Great way to have lunch and learn!

Book Study Continues Led by Region 13's Dr. Lindsie Almquist
You can still join in for great conversation
Sunday, May 17 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. via zoom

Quick Link: Join the meeting now

Actual Link: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZDUzMjhiODYtMzhkMy00MzE1LWFiMjUtYmJlOWQ1MmRkZjdl%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%229625a507-b447-4eaa-8ea1-b8ef05a9da11%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229bb30a58-c0c6-48b0-a602-

670487eceb6e%22%7d

Meeting ID: 232 096 503 138 83

Passcode: GV39BN7g

Dial in by phone

+1 929-352-1717,,345617793#

Phone conference ID: 345 617 793#

Region 13 Book Study Continues



The graphic features a purple background with a white star containing the TOWSE logo and 'Region 13 Chapter' text. To the right, the book cover for 'WOMEN Who LEAD' is visible. The title 'Book Study' is written in a large, red, cursive font across the middle. Below the title, the book's subtitle is provided: '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.)'. At the bottom, the text 'SPRING 2026 FEB-JUNE' is followed by a vertical line and the text 'SIGN UP HERE'. A yellow button with 'JOIN US!' is centered, flanked by two sets of three white dots. The TOWSE Region 13 logo is at the very bottom.

Region 17 Regional Meeting Held May 8, 2026

REGION 17 REGIONAL MEETING *RSVP*



TOWSE

Empowerment Luncheon
Texas Council of Women School Executives

Noon-1:30 pm

May 8, 2025

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

RSVP at the link below:


<https://forms.gle/3LEECutVYMNDtL0e2>

Highlights of the Meeting!





Empowered to Take Care of Your Health:



Terri Morris, BSN, RN
 Covenant Health
 Talent Pipeline Senior Program Manager

Texas Council of Women School Educators

Empowered to Take Care of Your Mental Health:



Qualimetra Chapman
 School Counselor Frenship ISD
 /Tik Tok Influencer

<https://canva.link/vfhd2npcrrhwdy2>

Texas Council of Women School Educators







TCWSE Partnership with Abilene Christian University

TCWSE Officers have engaged in an MOU with Abilene Christian University. This allows our members to waive application fees and to receive 10% off tuition. If you are considering a higher education degree and you might want to take advantage of this opportunity, contact Sheree Bogny at:

Sheree Bogany, M.S.

Executive, Corporate & Community Partnerships

sheree.bogany@acu.edu | 281-685-0982

[Visit me on LinkedIn](#)

onlineadmissions@acu.edu | 855-219-7300

[Refer-A-Wildcat: Invite a friend, earn \\$500](#)

Abilene Christian University
16633 Dallas Parkway, Suite 800
Addison, TX 75001



Time to Vote!



NEW! Early Voting for Texas Primary Runoff Elections is Next Week

The runoff elections for the Texas primaries run May 18-22. Primary Election Runoff Day is May 26. Don't miss this opportunity to cast your votes to decide important local and statewide races; the winners will advance to the November general election. Find your sample ballot and polling locations on your county's local elections website. You can also find more information by visiting the Texas Tribune's ballot page. Important: If you did not vote in either March primary, you can choose to vote in either the Democratic or Republican runoff election. If you did vote in the March primary, you are locked into that specific party and can vote only in that same party's runoff.

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://jiedh.lamar.edu/index.php/jiedh/about/submissions>

Questions regarding submissions may be directed to:

dept_jiedh@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

https://hihello.me/p/0eb982c2-72ab-4744-8e4d-69b53359ba45?referer=email_signature

Texas School Business Journal May/June Issue

<https://o44lkttab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?>

https://o44lkttab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001JdGz3ShV11Dl9tond6AoyhDBthHuIYUAQXSmBLkV7ioOoVDG|hXhdq65LGj7d9g_4091qhetJtoWqZlnKQuCo7m234NbWDY8nC2BWwYh1IY7L98RUUE14W9cvosVOh9QQTF_07kaIKcoImHaBrWqoxz1-UzQV1IylftuJzmnknfyQunJIjK8JPS-Bi4YjdvOMDLeqho1J66OmLrQPof2TEoTYNsv5XSM8AOeWE5XJvsN-b6Hf276eBPOVLN73QU&c=DFzewwIEvFeBfR3uMT6mL8XoV9i_9-dSHGrKbQCE5uNHzi9-FCurJQ==&ch=Rco-h97pas6gZ6hEaavzVqcwnM6KiMuGyFW99xZXgbXHjb2jZbt_8Q==



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



Scriptures of the Month

The scriptures below reflect thoughts of May blessings with a focus on Women and Mothers



- **Proverbs 31:26-** "When she speaks her words are wise and she gives instructions with kindness."
- **Psalm 46:5-** "God is within her, she will not fail."
- **Proverbs 31:31-** "Honor her for all that her hands have done and let her works bring praise at the city gates."

- [Proverbs 31:25](#)- “She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future.”
- [Proverbs 31:28](#) "Her children arise and call her blessed."
- [Proverbs 31:29](#) "There are many virtuous and capable women in the world, but you surpass them all."

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 OPEN
- 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](#) - Adjunct Professor-Texas Christian University
- 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

President's Sponsors

Carnegie Learning

ClassLink

Coryell Roofing

CW Creating & Managing Wealth

**edVANTAGE
Huckabee
PBK
WRA**

Platinum Sponsors

**Curriculum Associates i-Ready
DLR GROUP
FBMC
The Impact Institute
Just Right Reader
VLK
Vestige International**

Gold Sponsors

**BWA Architects
CADCO Architects-Engineers
Capturing Kids' Hearts
CENTEGIX®
Demco
Discovery Education
Ellevation Education
Harrison, Walker & Harper
Johnson Controls
K12 Designs, LLC
KickUp
Kiddom
Lightspeed Technologies, Inc.
Lowman Education, LLC
LPA, Inc.
Pearson Legal
Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, LLP
Population and Survey Analysts
Quill.org
Raise Your Hand Texas
Responsive Learning
Scholastic
Sirius Education Solutions
Weathershield Roofing & Sheetmetal**

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.

**"May is the month of expectation, the month of wishes, the month of hope."
~Emily Bronte**



*Copyright © *2025* *TCWSE and TASA*, All rights reserved.*

Our mailing address is: TCWSEexecdir@gmail.com

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).