

Subject: TCWSE Newsletter September 2026
Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 8:59:34 PM Central Daylight Time
From: TCWSE
To: Amy Francisco



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.

In This Issue:

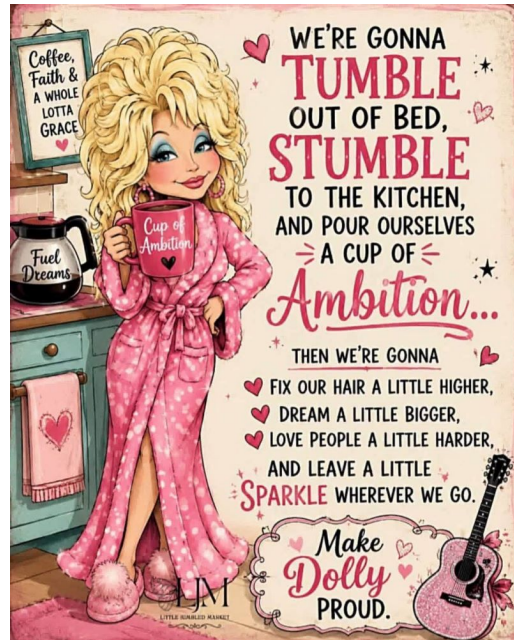
- ~Grab a cup of ambition and some sparkle from Dolly
- ~An important article on the rise of women in superintendent and top level roles
- ~Celebrations of promotions/honors across our state including two TCWSE member female superintendents now Top 5 for Texas Superintendent of the Year
- ~See book studies and upcoming conferences and meetings across the state
- ~Information to nominate yourself or a colleague for four TCWSE awards
- ~President Brown's impactful message on *Purpose Before Position* and much more!

Lifting Up... Happy September!

"If you see someone without a smile today, give them one of yours."~ Dolly Parton

We can all get some inspiration from Dolly Parton and learn lessons from her kindness, generosity, and business acumen. Here is a cup of ambition to start

your day:



How do we leave a little **sparkle** wherever we go? 1. **Start with kindness** to all those around us. It's easy when everything is going well but we are most challenged when things are not going the direction we want. When we are discouraged or frustrated, save our reactions and responses to those closest to us; those in our inner most circle that we can truly trust. 2. **Be a giver**. Dolly exemplified philanthropy and donated over 300 million books to children, in addition to everything else she did. Even in the smallest ways, we can give and it's good to be reminded that the gift of time is often more appreciated by our children and others than any other gift we have to give. 3. **Speak well of others** or say nothing. One of the attributes Dolly exemplified was staying out of negative publicity and refraining from making ugly remarks about politicians or other famous people. No one wins when hateful remarks are exchanged. None of us are perfect but when we struggle, go back to those few people in our inner most circle and vent, cry or scream to them. Keep our venting close to the vest. Be ready to reciprocate when they need it, too! 4. **Be who you are**. Stand on your values and be the person you want to be. Dolly endured a lot of jokes about her appearance, but in the end, she stayed true to what she wanted to look and be like. Dolly also often spoke of loving others for who they are and not who we may wish they were. 5. **Stay grounded in your faith**. She never wavered in her belief in God. What a testament to believing and finding joy in your faith. The spiritual side of us is such an important part of guiding our decisions and dictating the kind of leader we are. Thank you, Dolly, for these important reminders!



Wishing you much light and joy and many clear blue mornings!
Christie Whitbeck, TCWSE Executive Director

Here are some other quotes from Dolly to make you smile:

"Storms make trees take deeper roots and enduring rain is necessary for the rainbow." ~ **Dolly**

"Don't get so busy making a living that you forget to make a life." ~ **Dolly**

"You'll never do a whole lot unless you are brave enough to try." ~ **Dolly**

"You can be rich in spirit, kindness and love and all those things that you can't put a dollar amount on."
 ~ **Dolly**

"I'm comfortable in my own skin, no matter how far it stretched. Ha Ha." ~ **Dolly**

"You wouldn't believe how much it costs to look this cheap." ~ **Dolly**

*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 execdir@tcwse.org (this is new) or christiewhitbeck@yahoo.com.*

President's Message

President's Message | September 2026

Take Flight: Claim Your Power. Elevate Your Impact.

A Leadership Journey with Sonja A. Brown

September: Purpose Before Position: Lead From Where You Are

By September, the newness of a new school year has begun to wear off.

The welcome-back celebrations have ended. The first-day pictures have been posted. Calendars are filling. Expectations are becoming realities. And across our schools and districts, the real work of another year is fully underway.

This is often the point when leadership becomes less ceremonial and much more consequential.

Decisions must be made. Difficult conversations must be had. Problems that looked simple in August reveal layers of complexity.

People need direction. Teams need encouragement. Students need advocates. Communities need confidence in the people entrusted to lead.

And in the middle of all of it, I believe September presents us with an important opportunity to remember something fundamental:

Leadership begins long before a title is given.

We live in a world that often measures professional success by position.

What's your title? What's your next promotion? When will you become a principal? A director? An assistant superintendent? A superintendent?

There is nothing wrong with aspiration. I believe women should pursue opportunities boldly, prepare themselves intentionally, and never apologize for wanting to advance.

But somewhere along the journey, we must be careful not to confuse position with purpose.

"A title may identify your position, but purpose reveals your leadership." - Sonja A. Brown

Some of the most influential leaders I have encountered did not occupy the highest seat in the room.

They were the people others trusted.

The people who stepped forward when something needed to be done.

The people who brought solutions instead of simply identifying problems.

The people who made others feel seen.

The people whose character remained consistent whether the superintendent was watching or no one was watching at all.

They understood something every emerging leader eventually has to learn:

You do not have to wait for permission to lead.

My own journey in public education did not begin with an executive title. It began as a substitute teacher.

I could not have known then where that first step would eventually lead. I did not have a carefully mapped career trajectory or a list of positions I expected to hold. What I did have was an opportunity to serve.

So, I served where I was. And with each new opportunity, I tried to do the same.

That journey has reinforced something I now believe deeply: sometimes we become so focused on the next destination that we underestimate what our current assignment is preparing us to become.

There are lessons available where you are right now. Relationships to build. Skills to sharpen. People to serve. Problems to solve. Wisdom to gain.

And perhaps someone watching how you lead, will one day open a door you cannot yet see.

That is why purpose must come before position. Purpose changes the question.

Instead of asking, **"When will someone give me an opportunity to lead?"**

Purpose asks, **"How can I lead well with the opportunity already in front of me?"**

Instead of asking, **"Who recognizes my potential?"**

Purpose asks, **"Whose potential am I helping develop?"**

Instead of asking, **"What's my next title?"**

Purpose asks, **"What's my next contribution?"**

That shift matters.

Because when our identity becomes too closely attached to a title, we can begin measuring our worth by where we sit rather than how we serve.

Positions change. Organizations change. Administrations change. Sometimes doors open. Sometimes they close. Sometimes the promotion comes. Sometimes it goes to someone else.

But purpose travels with you.

"Position can give you authority for a season. Purpose gives your leadership meaning for a lifetime." ~ Sonja A. Brown

For women leaders, I believe this distinction is especially important.

We know that talent does not always guarantee access. Preparation does not always guarantee opportunity. And excellent work does not always receive immediate recognition.

There may be seasons when you know you are ready, yet the door has not opened.

Do not mistake a delayed opportunity for diminished value.

Keep preparing. Keep learning. Keep building relationships. Keep serving. Keep producing excellent work. Keep developing the people around you. And keep leading.

Your current position does not place a ceiling on your influence.

At the same time, purpose-centered leadership requires something more than ambition. It requires us to examine *why* we want the next opportunity.

Is it simply to occupy a larger office, or to create a larger impact?

Do we want authority, or do we want responsibility?

Do we want to be recognized as leaders, or are we willing to do the often-unseen work leadership requires?

Those are not always comfortable questions.

But meaningful leadership requires us to ask them.

Last month, I challenged each of us to examine our leadership circles. We considered the mentors who guide us, the sponsors who advocate for us, the supporters who stand beside us, and our responsibility to become those things for someone else.

This month, I want to take that reflection one step further.

The people in your circle can help open doors. They can speak your name. They can offer wisdom. They can create access.

But when the door finally opens, purpose must tell you what to do once you walk through it.

That is where leadership becomes impact.

As members of the Texas Council of Women School Executives, we have women among us at every stage of the leadership journey. Some are preparing for their first formal leadership role. Others are leading campuses, departments, divisions, and districts. Some are considering what comes next. Others may be wondering whether their current work is making the difference they once hoped it would.

Wherever you are, your leadership matters now.

There is someone who needs your wisdom now. There is a student who needs your advocacy now. There is an emerging leader who needs your encouragement now. There is a problem that needs your perspective now. There is an opportunity to make something better now.

Do not become so consumed with preparing for your next assignment that you miss the purpose embedded in your present one.

Our theme this year calls us to ***Take Flight: Claim Your Power. Elevate Your Impact.***

Claiming your power does not begin when someone gives you a new title. It begins when you recognize that your voice, preparation, experience, character, and ability to serve already have value.

And elevating your impact is not simply about how high you rise. It is about what becomes better because you were there.

Who became stronger? Who found her voice? Who received an opportunity? What changed? What improved? What possibility exists now that did not exist before your leadership touched it?

That is impact. That is purpose. And that is leadership.

Leadership Reflection

As you move through this school year, I invite you to ask yourself:

Am I waiting for my next position to lead at my next level?

What purpose exists in the position I hold today?

If my title disappeared tomorrow, what about my leadership would remain?

And finally:

What will be different because I chose to lead from where I am?

Titles may introduce us. Positions may provide platforms. But neither defines the leader.

Lead where you are. Serve with purpose. Prepare for what's next. And when your opportunity comes, be ready to rise.

Purposefully in flight,

Sonja A. Brown

President

Texas Council of Women School Executives →

Take Flight: Claim Your Power. Elevate Your Impact.

Let's Celebrate Each Other





NEW! Five TASA Members Named Finalists for TASB's 2026 Texas Superintendent of the Year Award

The Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) has announced that five public school superintendents have been selected as state finalists for the prestigious Superintendent of the Year award. The finalists are: Roland Hernandez, Corpus Christi ISD; Tory Hill, Channelview ISD; **Ginger Carrabine, Bryan ISD**; Casey Adams, Woodson ISD; and **Michelle Rinehart, Alpine ISD**. They will advance to the next stage of the award process at txEDCON October 8-11 in Houston. The winner will be announced Saturday, October 10. [Read the full announcement.](#) Congratulations to all the finalists and especially **Ginger** and **Michelle**, both long-time members of TCWSE!

Rhonda Mason, Superintendent Alvin ISD, Named Top 30 Influential Women of Texas!



Perla J. Lane, Executive Director of Facilities, Planning and Construction named Top 30 Influential Women of Texas!



Dr. Elna Davis named Interim Superintendent in DeSoto ISD!



Lisa Berckenhoff named Lone Finalist for Superintendent of Vysehrad ISD!



Julie Gauthier, Deputy Superintendent now Lone Finalist for Port Neches Groves ISD!



Janice Taylor, Assistant Professor at Lamar University, named 2026 Junior Faculty of the Year Award in the College of Education and Human Development at Lamar University!



Gabriella Sierra named Aldine ISD Interim Chief Transformation Officer!



Kasey Williams from Director of Elementary Education to Executive Director of Elementary Support in Northwest ISD!



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 execdir@tcwse.org or christiewhitbeck@yahoo.com for possible inclusion in the next newsletter.

Raise Your Hand Texas Continues as a Vital Partner in Legislative Awareness and Action!



In the 90th Session, lawmakers have the opportunity to create Texas' first new public education funding stream in 20 years. Learn more about how a new, proposed public education and workforce endowment could benefit our public schools: raiseyourhandtexas.org/policy/school-funding/endowment.

A Powerful Article on Changing Role of Superintendents and Women!

Superintendent turnover just hit a post-pandemic low

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This morning, we released the 2026 update of the Superintendent Research Project, the seventh release of our ongoing look at who leads the nation's 500 largest school districts and all 51 state education agencies. It remains the only publicly available database and analysis of its kind.

[Read the Full 2026 Release](#)

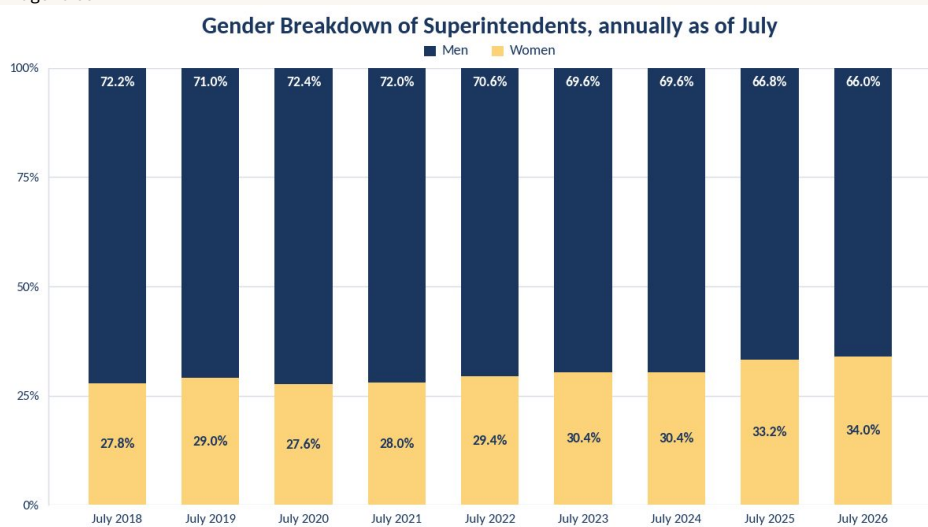
Toplines

Turnover fell to 17.4%, the lowest since before the pandemic, after five straight years at 20% or above.

Only 78 of the 500 leaders in place in March 2020 still lead the same district. Those districts enroll 2.5 million students, about one in eight students in the Top 500.

Stable districts saw stronger student outcomes. Districts that kept one leader held onto more learning and posted stronger graduation gains. Among stable districts, those led by women posted the strongest results of any group.

Women now hold 34% of Top 500 superintendencies, up from 33.2% last year and 27.8% in 2018. Women also lead 53% of state education agencies.



Share of Top 500 superintendencies held by women, July 2018 to July 2026

Sixty-seven of the 500 leaders are the first woman or first leader of color ever to lead their district. Those districts enroll 2.8 million students, about one in seven students in the Top 500. Fifty-one are women, and 42 of those 51 took office after March 2020.

The Turnover Story

87 districts changed superintendents in 2025-26. At the pandemic-era turnover rate, we would have expected roughly 106 districts to change leaders. Pre-pandemic estimates ran about 14 to 16%, so this year marks a genuine return toward normal. The toll remains visible: 745 leadership changes since March 13, 2020, with 202 districts (40.4%) changing leaders two or more times.

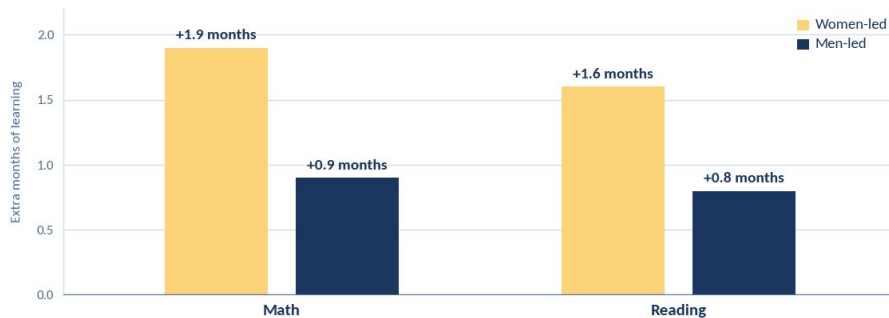
The Women's Story

It is a performance story. When we paired our data with the Stanford Education Data Archive, districts that kept the same leader since March 2020 held onto 1.2 more months of math and 1.0 more months of reading than districts that changed, while serving students with greater economic need.

Women-led stable districts held on to the most of any group, 1.9 months of math and 1.6 months of reading, against 0.9 and 0.8 in men-led stable districts, and gained the most on graduation, 1.41 points against 1.06, in equally high-need systems. The analysis does not establish that the superintendent alone caused those results, but the relationship is striking.

Keeping the same superintendent protected student learning, most of all in women-led districts

Extra months of learning held onto by districts that kept the same superintendent, compared with districts that changed leaders. Math and reading, 2019 to 2025.



Source: Stanford Education Data Archive (2025.1) and ILO Group Top 500 leadership data (2026)

Additional months of learning retained in stable districts versus districts that changed leaders, by superintendent gender

Source: Stanford Education Data Archive and ILO Group 2026 Superintendent Research Project

The Pathway Story

Pathways tell the rest. We call it the audition tax: women are more likely to rise from inside the system (56% versus 50% of men), more likely to serve as interim first (35% versus 25%), and more likely to keep auditioning even then.

Since July 2018, 349 people have run one of the 500 districts as interim; about half, 169, were hired permanently, and even then 62% of the women went through a formal search for the seat they already held, versus 55% of the men. Boards ask women to prove it three times. And as the numbers above show, the strongest performers in the analysis are the women-led districts that kept their leader.

The State Story

44 of the 51 state agencies have changed chiefs since March 2020; only seven states kept the same leader. Women lead 27 of 51 agencies, 53%. With 36 governors' races in November, half of them for open seats, another wave of state leadership changes may be coming.

Every education policy conversation eventually collides with the same question: does anyone stay in the seat long enough to execute? This year the answer improved: turnover fell to its lowest point since before the pandemic, and the districts where leadership held show what is different when it does. The goal is not stability at any cost; sometimes a change is necessary.

The work is building the conditions that let effective leaders stay long enough to deliver, and making sure transitions preserve the work rather than restart it. The talent to do it is already inside these systems: 59% of this year's successors came from within, so the job for boards and governors' offices is to define what they want before a

search opens, give real weight to the leaders already carrying the work, and set the person they choose up to stay and succeed.

"The talent to do the work is already inside these systems."

[Read the Full 2026 Release](#)

Why Join TCWSE?

As we prepare to begin another school year, I want to personally invite you to become part of something truly special by joining or renewing your membership with the [Texas Council of Women School Executives](#) (TCWSE).

For more than 41 years, [TCWSE](#) has been a place where women leaders connect, grow, encourage one another, and prepare for what's next. Whether you are an aspiring administrator, a seasoned executive, or somewhere in between, there is [a place for you here](#).

This year, our presidential theme is Take Flight: Claim Your Power. Elevate Your Impact.

Those words are more than a theme. They are an invitation.

An invitation to invest in your leadership.

An invitation to expand your network.

An invitation to learn, mentor, and be mentored.

An invitation to join a community of extraordinary women who believe that when one of us rises, we all rise.

As educational leaders, we navigate change every day. We celebrate victories, solve complex challenges, support our teams, and shape the future of public education. None of us should have to do that work alone. TCWSE provides the relationships, resources, and professional development that remind us we have an entire flight crew beside us.

As President, my vision for TCWSE is rooted in three guiding principles: honoring our past, navigating the realities of today, and preparing leaders for tomorrow. Together, we will continue building an organization that equips women to lead with confidence, courage, and purpose.

Why Join TCWSE?

Annual Conference

Our Annual Conference is one of the premier gatherings of women educational leaders in Texas. It is where inspiration meets practical leadership, meaningful connections are formed, and lifelong friendships begin. We are already preparing for our [2027 Annual Conference](#), Rooted & Rising, on January 22-23, 2027, in San Antonio, immediately preceding the [TASA Midwinter Conference](#).

Beginning with a Friday evening general session and reception and continuing through a full day of learning and networking on Saturday, the conference offers exceptional professional development while celebrating the remarkable women who lead Texas schools. [See photos from past conferences!](#)

Female Superintendents' Summit

Women serving in the superintendent role face unique opportunities and challenges. Our annual Female Superintendents' Summit provides a dedicated space for collaboration, candid conversation, and mutual support among those serving in the state's highest district leadership positions.

Meaningful Connections & Mentorship

Leadership is not a solo journey. Through TCWSE, you'll build relationships with mentors who guide you, sponsors who advocate for you, and colleagues who encourage you every step of the way. These connections often become some of the most valuable resources throughout your career.

Regional Engagement

Our regional councils provide opportunities to connect with women leaders close to home through networking events, professional learning, and conversations focused on the issues most relevant to your region.

Leadership Resources

Members receive a [monthly newsletter](#) featuring leadership insights, organizational updates, celebrations of our members' accomplishments, upcoming events, and practical resources designed to support your continued professional growth.

Awards & Scholarships

TCWSE proudly recognizes outstanding women leaders and advocates for education through a variety of [awards and scholarship opportunities](#) that celebrate excellence and encourage continued leadership development.

Discounted Tuition

Members pursuing advanced degrees may also benefit from reduced tuition through our partnership with Abilene Christian University, creating additional opportunities for continued learning and professional advancement.

Joining or renewing is simple. When completing your TASA membership through the [TASA Member Services Center](#), simply select TCWSE as an add-on membership before checkout. [Step-by-step renewal instructions](#) are also available through TASA.

If you'd like to learn more about TCWSE, I encourage you to [visit our website](#) or contact our Executive Director, Dr. Christie Whitbeck, at execdir@tcwse.org.

As we begin this new year together, I hope you'll accept this invitation to invest in yourself, strengthen your leadership, and become part of a community committed to lifting one another higher.

Together, let's continue to honor our past, navigate today's realities, prepare leaders for tomorrow, and take flight.

I look forward to soaring alongside you.

Soaring together,

Sonja A. Brown

Talent Operations Coordinator

Lancaster Independent School District

President - Texas Council of Women School Executives ✈️

Take Flight: Claim Your Power. Elevate Your Impact.

(972) 218-1400

NOMINATIONS OPEN!

Awards & Scholarship Application/Nomination Deadline Dec. 7, 2026

The following awards and scholarships will be presented during the 2027 Annual Conference in Austin. Nominations are open through December 7, 2026. Please look over these awards and scholarships and nominate yourself or others who would be great candidate(s) for one or more of these awards or scholarships.

[Margret Montgomery Leadership Award](#) - This is TCWSE's highest award created to honor the legacy of our founder, Margaret Montgomery, who initiated the council over 40 years ago. This award is to recognize and honor an outstanding Texas educator who has demonstrated exemplary leadership and supported professionalism for women in education. The recipient should represent strong leadership skills having made a significant impact in her district or state organization. She should be a member who exemplifies the mission of the Texas Council of Women School Executives by empowering women to ascend in leadership positions and who leads with high character and integrity.

[Bravo Awards](#) - The Bravo Awards honor those who make a difference to the profession and those who are in the profession. This award is designed to highlight innovative programs and services that contribute to improving student academic performance; and/or to promote exemplary practitioners, innovative programs, and initiatives that promote community and parental involvement.

[Pat Shell Scholarship](#) - This scholarship is named in honor of Patricia M. Shell, who passed away in 2012 after a long and illustrious career in public education. Pat was an outstanding Texas education leader and mentor to both men and women

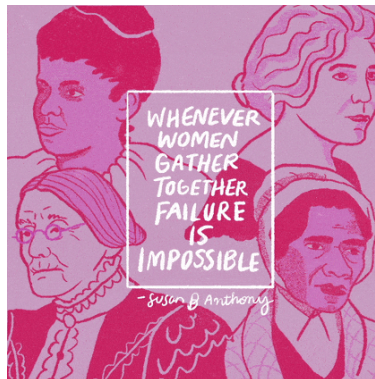
educators. The TCWSE Scholarship Committee encourages all individuals who meet the eligibility criteria to apply. If you are not eligible but know someone who is, please encourage her to apply.

[Ann Halstead Scholarship](#) - This scholarship is named in honor of Ann Halstead, a remarkable woman who, as executive secretary/treasurer of TCWSE, dedicated 30-plus years of her career to empowering and supporting women in public education. The TCWSE Scholarship Committee encourages all individuals who meet the eligibility criteria to apply. If you are not eligible but know someone who is, please encourage her to apply.

Registration Opens September 29, 2026 for our TCWSE 2027 Conference *Rooted and Rising*.

TCWSE asks that the recipients of these awards be present at the TCWSE conference in January to receive their award, and that they be TCWSE members.

Go to www.tcwse.org under awards to complete an application.



Upcoming Events Across the Regions

Region 4

Region 4 Chapter

Sisters in Pink:
Wellness, Wisdom & Wholeness

Health & Wellness Sister Circle

Save THE Date

Saturday, October 24, 2026
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Tomball West High School
17803 Cypress Heights Dr.
Cypress, TX 77433

Registration will open soon

WEAR PINK IN HONOR OF BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

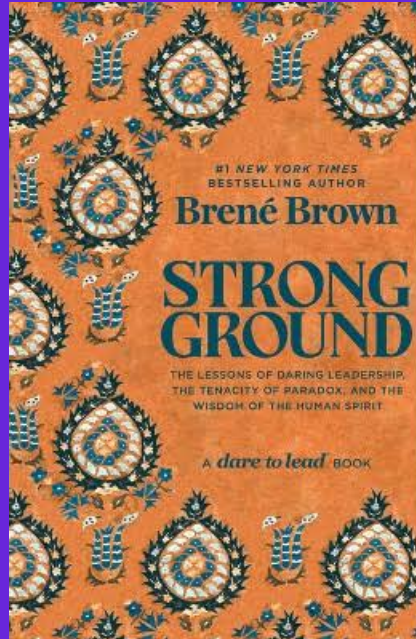
Join us for an intimate gathering of
sisterhood, health, encouragement, and wellness.

Regions 5 and 6

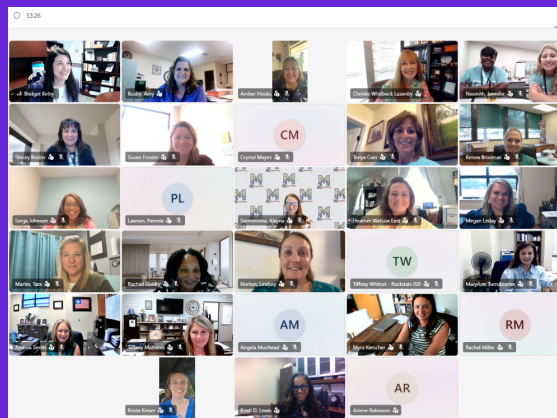
Region 5 and 6 are continuing their book study. You are welcome to join. They will meet monthly to discuss the book, share leadership lessons, and stay up to date on TCWSE.

To join the book study and monthly TCWSE meetings, sign up here: [TCWSE Region 5 and 6 Book Study – Fill out form](#). Please feel free to share with other women leaders who may be interested in joining! All meetings will be held virtually at 4:00 pm.

For the book study, we will be reading: Strong Ground, by Brené Brown



Meeting One was a huge success with 33 participants!



Thanks to Bridget Kirby, Region 5, and Amy Busby, Region 6, for leading this effort!

Region 7



Registration is now open! Please register early to help us prepare for breakfast, lunch, and conference materials.

[FALL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION LINK](#)

Region 10 Conference and Book Study



FALL 2026

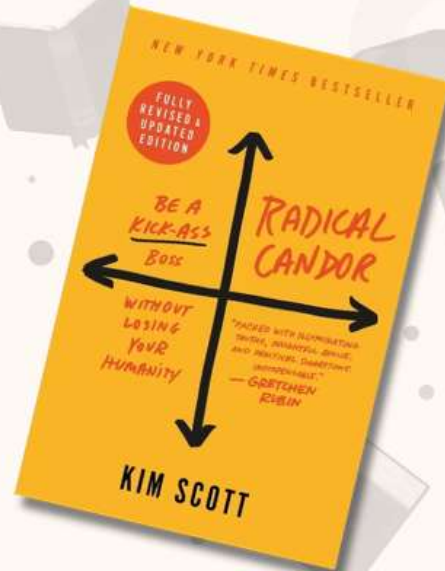
BOOK STUDY

Join your fellow Region 10 TCWSE colleagues for a virtual book study of *Radical Candor*. Connect, share ideas, and discuss practical takeaways from noon–1 p.m. on the following dates:

- September 22
- November 17
- October 20
- December 14



REGISTER TODAY



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2026

Fall Kickoff - virtual

Welcome, Orientation
& Defining Your Leadership Legacy

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2027

Winter Session - virtual

Navigating Politics & Public
Scrutiny as a Woman Leader

MONDAY, MARCH 29, 2027

Spring Session - in person

Financial & Budget Leadership
+ Superintendency Panel

FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2027

End-of-Year Celebration - virtual

Resilience & Burnout Prevention



REGISTER TODAY

Region 11 Fall Brunch

**YOU'RE
INVITED**

OCT. 1 09:00 AM
TO
11:00 AM

**TCWSE REGION 11
KICKOFF MEETING**

TOPICS

- CAREER PROGRESSION
- TEACHER INCENTIVE ALLOTMENT
- SB 569, HYBRID & VIRTUAL LEARNING

 **REGISTER
HERE**

Location
ESC Region 11
1451 S. Cherry Ln.
White Settlement, TX 76108

**TCWSE
REGION 11**

BRUNCH SPONSOR

 **imagine
learning**



Register here: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSezxVPglmdEcN-XNeXgdh-WSwPI8fWNiFpbVa0CD5PQ04BKIQ/viewform?usp=sharing&oid=111224716875958473818:](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSezxVPglmdEcN-XNeXgdh-WSwPI8fWNiFpbVa0CD5PQ04BKIQ/viewform?usp=sharing&oid=111224716875958473818)

Region 13 Fall Meeting

Save the Date:

Region 13 will host their fall meeting on October 14, 2026 from 11:00-1:00.

**14
OCT
2026**

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**Region 13
Education
Service Center**

5701 Springdale Road
Austin, TX 78723

Register Here:

bit.ly/4bT7xeY



**TEXAS COUNCIL OF
WOMEN SCHOOL
EXECUTIVES**

REGION 13

FALL MEET UP

Join us to connect, collaborate, and
grow as educational leaders.

Lunch provided.



Geneva Jones

Lawyer.
Champion of Public Education.

Region 17

Save the Date:

Region 17 will host their fall meeting on October 29, 2026 from 11:30-1:00.

The meeting will be held at Texas Tech Credit Union located at
6319 79th Street Lubbock, Texas

More details to follow.

See Region 17 Rep for information at cicely.alexander@lubbockisd.org

Regional Representative Opening

Region 14, currently occupied by Chanda Bloch in Hamlin ISD, leaves a vacancy in this region. The area encompasses, but is not limited to, districts of Abilene, Hamlin Collegiate, Gorman, Colorado, Trent, Roscoe, Sweetwater, Wylie, Westbrook and Rule.

If interested in representing region 14, please contact Dr. Whitbeck, TCWSE Executive Director, at execdir@tcwse.org or christiewhitbeck@yahoo.com and get involved in this amazing organization. Interested candidates are presented to the Board for final selection.

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



Registration Opens September 29, 2026

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](#)

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

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



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

Questions regarding submissions may be directed to:

dept_jiejhd@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

Scriptures of the Month

*The scriptures below reflect thoughts of **September Blessings and New School Beginnings***

1. **Psalm 86:11** — "Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name."
2. **Proverbs 21:3** — "To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice."
3. **Jeremiah 29:11** — "For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
4. **Timothy 1:7** — "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."
5. **Isaiah 40:31** — "Those who wait on 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."

2026-27 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
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- Region 1 [Michelle DeWitt](#) - Superintendent - Lyford CISD
Region 2 [Gina Garza](#) - Superintendent - Ricardo ISD
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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 [Keri Hampton](#) - Superintendent - Brownsboro ISD
Region 8 [Melissa Reid](#) - TSL Coach - Region 8 ESC
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Region 10 [April Estrada](#) - Deputy Executive Director - ECS Region 10
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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 Dr. Christie Whitbeck at execdir@tcwse.org or christiewhitbeck@yahoo.com.

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