



# NETABSE NEWSLETTER

NORTHEAST TEXAS ALLIANCE OF BLACK SCHOOL EDUCATORS

January – March 2019

## NETABSE Mixer/Officers' Induction Ceremony: Looking to the Future by Dr. Sandra Austin



On November 27, 2018, NETABSE held its first mixer/induction ceremony at Texas A&M University-Texarkana (TAMUT), reinforcing its commitment to shape the future by promoting Education as a viable career field for young people. Dr. Emily Cutrer, the University's President, hosted the grand event and welcomed the group of approximately 71 attendees. Pre-induction activities included a "meet-and greet" during the fabulous reception that was complete with a variety of culinary delights. After the meal, she addressed all the guests, sharing her enthusiasm and support for NETABSE and its work. Special guests were Mrs. Phyllis Williams, the Texas Alliance of Black School Educators (TABSE) Executive Director and Mr. John Washington, retired educator and TABSE Commission Chair. He would assume the task of inducting the sixteen officers elected to serve at the helm of the Northeast Texas affiliate.



Prior to the induction of new officers, out-going president Mr. James Keeton prepared to relinquish the role in which he had served during the past years, speaking to the gathering and establishing his hopes for the future and for those who would be taking up the reigns of duty within the affiliate. He reminded the group of its mission "to enhance and facilitate student achievement in the Northeast Texas and Southwest Arkansas regions." He further affirmed that NETABSE's vision is "to become the premier affiliate for the education of children in Texas and Arkansas." While challenging the group to remain passionate about these ideals, Keeton urged everyone to "elevate all students, with special emphasis on those students needing the most assistance." Moreover, he stated: "We are committed to professional excellence, as we value our students and our ability to respond to their needs...continuous learning and professional development are a "must." He expressed his advocacy of the use of technology to augment the organization's effectiveness and the strength of recipients of NETABSE's efforts.

As he thanked all members for their part in the accomplishments, Mr. Keeton presented a summation of NETABSE's current standing locally and in the State. He praised the success of the 2018 Middle School Conference and the recent addition of Clarksville ISD and Maud ISD as partners for the February 8, 2019 event that will be held at Texarkana A & M University-Texarkana. He shared that due to the local affiliate's participation in TABSE, it awarded NETABSE \$5,000.00 for use towards the work of the organization which has increased to 150 members. Finally, Keeton voiced his support for the incoming officers, especially for its new president Mr. Paul Norton, Superintendent of Texarkana Independent School District. He appealed to him "to stay on course, taking NETABSE to higher heights." Afterwards, Mr. John Williams conducted the Oath of Induction. The inductees accepted the charge to uphold the mission and goals "to offer educational and professional support to educators and students of all backgrounds" and to "provide avenues through which they will be able to participate in experiences relevant to the profession" (NETABSE). Each received a pin and a certificate recognizing them as officers. Mr. Keeton passed the gavel to President Norton who, in return, presented Mr. Keeton with a plaque. The organization awarded Past-President Dr. Ceretha Levingston with her own gavel, as she was the first president of NETABSE. She played a crucial role in its formation, along with Mr. James Keeton and the late Mr. Dan Haskins in whose honor the NETABSE scholarships are named.

Closing the meeting, President Norton expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve. He impressed upon all who were present to serve far beyond themselves for the good of others. Mr. Norton encouraged each member to support the work for the good of students, quoting his favorite scripture: "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:13-KJV).



(l to r) LEISD Custodial Supervisor, Chad Turner, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Ceretha Levingston, Maintenance Director, Wayne Harmon, and Parent Liaison, Patricia Barlow, have been instrumental in establishing the food and clothing pantry.

## Liberty-Eylau Food Pantry

Liberty Eylau ISD has established a food and clothing pantry to help meet the needs of the district's students and their families. The pantry is located on the C. K. Bender campus, which no longer houses students as a result of the opening of the new LEISD elementary campus. A part of the C. K. Bender campus has been leased to the Salvation Army for use as a Boys' and Girls' club, as well as use for housing the district's curriculum department. LEISD is proud to have opened the pantry at the location.

"We have a variety of student clubs and organizations that are looking for ways to assist our community. We know that we always have students with needs for both clothes and food. This made the idea of a food and clothing pantry seem like a great way to meet both of those needs," stated Assistant Superintendent Dr. Ceretha Brown-Levingston. The LEISD maintenance department used existing furniture from the C. K. Bender campus and renovated it to create shelves and clothing racks. Maintenance Director Mr. Wayne Harmon relayed, "Our guys painted and stained everything so that it matches and looks like an actual store." He added, "When people come to the pantry, we want it to be an inviting place."

LEISD campuses and clubs held contests to collect canned goods and clothes. Area churches and individuals have also donated, helping to provide services to ages birth to adult. Dr. Levingston stated, "Schools are integral points of pride for a community. We meet educational needs, but some needs are even greater. This pantry gives us a way to meet those as well." Anyone interested in donating to the pantry may contact Patricia Barlow at (903) 832-1535 or by email to [patricia.barlow@leisd.net](mailto:patricia.barlow@leisd.net).

## In Other School Districts News



### Every Minute Matters

visit link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=43&v=FY5SY2My54w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=43&v=FY5SY2My54w)  
to view video.



Pleasant Grove ISD welcomes Mr. Roger Hailey as Interim Superintendent



Tim Lambert, Texas Middle School Principal, Selected as the Texas' Middle School Principal of the Year and State Rep for NASSP Secondary Principal of the Year

## In Other Higher Education News



### Black Student Association (BSA)

Received the Dr. Martin Luther King Acts of Kindness Volunteerism Award at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Gala on January 21, 2019



## NATIONAL SOCIETY OF LEADERSHIP AND SUCCESS (NSLS)

In January 2018, Mr. Philip Derouen was instrumental in bringing NSLS to A&M-Texarkana campus. A&M-Texarkana NSLS organization is the largest student run and largest organization on Campus (248 members). NSLS is designed to build leaders who make a better world.

The NSLS is the nation's largest leadership honor society. Students are selected by their college for membership based on either academic standing or leadership potential. Candidacy is a nationally recognized achievement of honorable distinction. With 662 chapters, the NSLS currently has 957,716 members nationwide.

In addition to honorable distinction, the NSLS provides a step-by-step program for members to build their leadership skills through participation at their campus or online. Upon completion of the program, members receive their leadership certificate and take their place among the top student leaders at their campus and across the country. Members are able to list their affiliation on all statements of personal accomplishment, including their resume.

Membership is for life and provides access to benefits including scholarships and awards, exclusive on campus events, employer recruitment through an online job bank, and discounts on computers, textbooks, grad school prep courses, insurance and much more. The NSLS Program Students accept their nomination to become recognized as members of the NSLS. However, to achieve induction members must attend Orientation, Leadership Training Day, three Speaker Broadcasts and three Success Networking Team meetings.





## President's Message



On December 13, 2012, a group of dedicated educators chartered the Northeast Texas Alliance of Black School Educators (NETABSE) in Texarkana, USA. This organization, an affiliate of the National (NABSE) and the Texas Alliance of Black School Educators (TABSE), was the dream of Mr. James Keeton and the late Mr. Dan Haskins, both outstanding proponents of education locally. For many years they traveled to the national and the state conferences, envisioning the same engagement for education in Bowie and Miller Counties. The Alliances share the knowledge of the importance of eradicating problems that obstruct quality education for all children. To initiate a Northeast Texas affiliate of TABSE, representatives of the four Texarkana-area school districts, along with representatives from Texarkana College and Texas A & M University-Texarkana, met in the spring of 2012. With a focus on creating more awareness of the role of teachers and the need for quality education and support systems, NETABSE has fast-forwarded to having achieved its current strengths and service to youths. The NETABSE continues to grow, advancing its goals to improve quality of education. The organization has three primary goals: 1) To promote careers in Education to underserved student populations, especially, as well as to any Texarkana student interested in an Education career ; 2) To develop and offer a scholarship in the name of Mr. Dan Haskins, as well as scholarships in honor of outstanding educators who have served in Texarkana ISD, Texarkana ASD, Liberty-Eylau ISD and Pleasant Grove ISD; 3) To increase awareness, support and membership in NETABSE from all area school districts, colleges and universities for the furtherance of service towards these goals. We at the NETABSE invite you all to partner with us to promote growth within our students and our community.

Sincerely,

Paul Norton

## NETABSE Committees

BUDGET COMMITTEE	FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE
BYLAWS COMMITTEE	HONORING COMMITTEE
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE	MEMBERSHIP AND NEWSLETTER COMMITTEES
CONFERENCE PLANNING AND PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEES	SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
FAITH COMMUNITY COMMITTEE	SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE COMMITTEES

## Contact Us

### NETABSE

P.O. Box 5653

Texarkana, Texas 75505

Visit Us on the Web at

[www.netabse.org](http://www.netabse.org)

### Membership Dues

Student—\$10
Retired—\$10
Individual—\$20
Corporate—\$200



Dr. James Morris and Dr. Brandon Thurston are slated to speak at [TABSE](#) 34th Annual State Conf, Feb 20-24, 2019, Moody Gardens in Galveston, TX.

## NOTEWORTHY DATES/EVENTS

**Liberty-Eylau ISD**  
**Parent Power Night @ Elem**  
**Black History Program**  
Tuesday, February 12, 2019  
5:30—7:00 pm

**Pleasant Grove ISD**  
Winter Break, Feb 18 - 22, 2019  
Hawk Hustle, March 15, 2019  
Code Jam, March 12, 2019

**Texarkana Arkansas School District**  
TASD Job Fair  
Arkansas High Red Wall

Saturday, March 9, 2019  
10:00 am—12:00 pm

**Texas High ISD**  
**East Texas Junior High**  
**District UIL Meet**  
Texas Middle School  
Saturday, February 2, 2019  
7:00 am—4:00 pm

**Texarkana College**  
**Black History Program**  
Truman Arnold Student Ctr  
Wednesday, Feb 27, 2019  
11:00 am

**Texas A&M Univ-Texarkana**  
**"Ourstory" A Celebration of**  
**Black History**  
Eagle Hall  
Wednesday, February 6, 2019  
11:00 am—1:00 pm

**NETABSE**  
**Middle School Conference**  
Texas A&M Univ-Texarkana  
Patterson Student Center  
Friday, February 8, 2019  
8:00 am—2:00 pm