

NETABSE NEWSLETTER

NORTHEAST TEXAS ALLIANCE OF BLACK SCHOOL EDUCATORS

October – December 2018

NETABSE in Action: Champion for Educational Opportunities by Dr. Sandra Austin

During the weekend of July 26-29, 2018, the Texas Alliance of Black School Educators (TABSE) held its annual conference planning meeting and retreat at the Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capitol in Austin, Texas. Mrs. Jo Ann Rice, Dr. James Morris, and Mr. James Keeton of NETABSE, the Northeast Texas affiliate, had the privilege of sharing in the event. Mrs. Rice is the current NETABSE Financial Secretary and a steady voice in motivation towards the advancement of NETABSE. Dr. Morris is the TABSE Community and Faith-based Commission Chair. Mr. Keeton is the current NETABSE president, a TABSE Board Member, and a Governance Commission Chair. Their work at the State level will continue to be instrumental in providing the Northeast Texas affiliate a strong presence as an advocate for improving educational opportunities in Texas.

During the administrative dinner held on the opening evening, TABSE President Dr. Kimberly McLeod conveyed the meeting's objective and program. After having recited the TABSE *Litany of Commitment*, attendees responded to the roll call of *Officers, Commission Chairs, and Affiliate Presidents*. Following, the group attended to matters of business which included, but were not limited to these: Correspondence Report, Historian's Report, Membership Report, Affiliates Report, Commissions Report, 2018 TABSE Strategic Planning Overview and Strategic Planning, and TABSE Board and Planning Committee Strategic Outcomes from *Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT)* sessions.

TABSE awarded the Northeast Texas affiliate NETABSE \$5,000.00 as a reward for its growth and involvement in the state organization. NETABSE has made outstanding gains in membership and in constructive plans and efforts to positively impact students' success. NETABSE is young in its existence, but has shown itself to be strong in building a team of professional leaders who are striving to make a difference in education for all students.

Plans were formed to establish the 2019 Annual TABSE Conference in as one that will surpass preceding conferences. Moody Gardens on Galveston Island will be the location for the event which will take place February 19—24, 2019. It is expected that sessions will supply even more information, strategies, and tools applicable to teachers' and students' achievement. President James Keeton expressed that NETABSE needs many more members *"to join at the state and national levels so we can have access to the latest materials and programs available for our students who need it the most. A plus is for those individuals to become cheerleaders for those teachers that are struggling."* Mr. Keeton is the TABSE Chairperson of the School Board Symposium, delegated to serve during the 2019 Annual TABSE Conference.

As follows, Dr. Morris relayed his sentiment regarding the outstanding quality of the meeting: *"It was a rewarding experience to meet so many African-American educators and supporters from across the state of Texas. The superintendents, assistant superintendents, principals, assistant principals, teachers, and retired educators and education consultants were committed to providing quality education to the students in their local communities. We were also united in urgently demanding equality and excellence in education."*



(Left to Right) Dr. James Morris, Dr. Kimberly McLeod, and Mrs. Jo Ann Rice

"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."

Malcolm X



Sheronda Peyton

TISD grows its own teachers through an innovative initiative: Pathway to Teaching.

"Be the change you want to see", is the mantra that Sheronda Peyton, an instructional aide in Texarkana Independent School's Dunbar Early Education Center, lives by. As a child, Sheronda always dreamt of working with kids and being a positive impact on the lives of others. Though Sheronda wanted to become a teacher, she had taken a break when she heard about Pathway to Teaching. Sheronda, along with fifteen other support staffers are enrolled in the district's Pathway to Teaching program.

This program is a district initiative that is in response to a growing teacher shortage, not only in the district, but state and nationwide. In partnership with Texarkana College and A&M Texarkana, aspiring teachers enroll in Texarkana College to begin the pursuit. Texarkana College and A&M Texarkana have developed a joint 2x2 degree plan designed to allow students to matriculate easily from receiving an associate's degree to transferring to A&M to complete the last two years of their bachelor's degree. At that point, they are ready to test for teacher certification and begin their teaching.

Aspiring teachers in the Pathway program benefit in many ways. The district pays the "gap" amount that the Pell grant does not cover and in some instances, pays the entire tuition. Students move through classes in a loose cohort manner. Monthly meetings of Pathway students allow the students the opportunity to talk about classes, assignments and mentor each other. Additionally, they receive accelerated, in district registration for classes, individualized assistance with financial aid and one on one academic counseling in a convenient location within the district. The students are also provided with tutors if needed. The intent and aim of the program is to help these students navigate college life and to help remove any barriers that might impede their progress towards receiving their teaching certificate.

The program is in its fourth year and boast of having 4 students who have completed an associate's degree and are currently enrolled at A&M Texarkana. Since all Pathway students also work fulltime and have families, their progress through school is somewhat slower. The determination of these students to persevere and become teachers is amazing. Most, if not all of the students maintain above average grade point averages and are very competitive within the cohort at keeping these.

Jennell Ingram leads the program and states that she has never seen a group of more determined and dedicated individuals. The Pathway to Teaching program at TISD is proving to be a great way to "grow our own!" We are proud of these ladies and their progress in meeting their goals!

In Other School Districts News



Bands of LEISD Annual Christmas Concert

Tuesday, Dec 11, 2018
6:30 – 7:30pm
Rader Dome



Every Minute Matters!

visit link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=14&v=FY5SY2My54w to view video.



PGHS JOURNALISM DOES IT AGAIN!

Congratulations to adviser Charla Harris and The Edge staff for being named a 2018 National Scholastic Press Association Pacemaker Finalist. Editors: Madeline Haak, Yates Floyd, Samantha Knowles and Abby Sanderson.

In Other Higher Education News



We're Really Poppin' Counselor Luncheons

Friday October 26, 2018
11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Texas A&M University -
Texarkana
7101 University Ave
Eagle Hall
Texarkana, TX 75503

\$8000 Scholarship Vouchers



Thursday, November 1, 2018
11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Grotto Ristorante
4715 Westheimer
Houston, TX 77027

Friday, November 2, 2018
11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Grotto Ristorante
9595 Six Pines, Ste 100
The Woodlands, TX 77380

\$8000 Scholarship Vouchers



For more information visit:
www.tamut.edu
or

Contact Toney Favors @
tfavors@tamut.edu



(Left to Right) Bishnu Subedi, Jamarus Johnson, Billy Brown (Secretary), Brittney Dirck, Juvard Anthony (President), Lina Jadoon (Vice President), Wajeelha Aslam, Dani Bean, Kimberly Bradbury, Dr. Theresa McDonald (Sponsor)

STUDENT ORGANIZATION PROMOTES CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE, APPRECIATION

Texarkana College is a great place for high school students and adults who are looking to begin a new career path. It's also an affordable opportunity for students around the world who are trying to get an education in the United States. According to data from the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), more than 1.18 million international students choose to study in America, and one of the top destinations is Texas.

Dr. Theresa McDonald teaches Computer Technology at Texarkana College and she said in the 32 years working on campus, she has seen an increase in students from other countries. That's why she chose to sponsor the Cultural Awareness Student Association (CASA). "It's really enlightening to hear students talk about what it was like growing up as a teenager in their country," McDonald said. "I think it's important to have that one-on-one with people who are different from you." McDonald's mother is from West Texas and is Mexican-American. For her, learning the beliefs and traditions of other cultures is invaluable. "We want to help students develop an understanding and acceptance of their own culture and the cultures of those around them," she said.

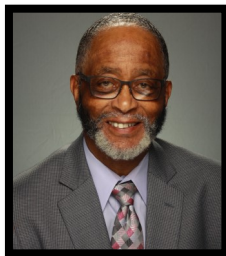
CASA's mission is to create opportunities for students and the Northeast Texas community as a whole to expand their cultural knowledge and appreciation through educational and social activities. The organization plans different events to celebrate cultural heritage months. September 15 through October 15 is Hispanic Heritage Month. "This year's Hispanic Heritage Month event is on October 3 at noon in the Truman Arnold Student Center," McDonald said. "We have a piñata, music and members of my church Primera Iglesia Bautista (Hispanic Baptist Church) bring food and serve it. Sometimes we have a grito contest, which is an expression of excitement, joy and pride for the Mexican culture. Students compete to see who can do it best."

There are currently nine members in the organization, but McDonald and CASA President Juvard Anthony would like to see it grow. Currently, the organization has six members from America, two from Pakistan and one from Nepal. Anthony said the best part about getting involved is being able to meet people from other parts of the world and learning what's important to them.

After Hispanic Heritage Month, they will begin planning a celebration for Native American Heritage Month, which is coming up in November. McDonald said in years past, the Choctaw Nation has been involved in the celebration on campus. After that, they will begin planning for Black History Month in February. McDonald said they would like to continue to add different cultures to their list to create more opportunities for Texarkana College students to understand the world around them.

CASA meets every Thursday at 1 p.m. in the Business & Computer Technology building, Room 3.

President Message



Greetings to All! The Northeast Texas Alliance of Black School Educators (NETABSE) is a vibrant organization that works to bring about positive growth for all students of Northeast Texas, with a focus on helping those that are educationally underserved. To a great extent, African-American students nation-wide categorically experience unnecessary and frequently unavoidable challenges to learning. Thus, the NETABSE's emphasis is on narrowing educational gaps and continuously raising the bar towards excellence for all learners. When students, impacted by the NETABSE, become academically and socially successful, we are truly able to claim

our success as educational leaders, having provided them some of the very tools they need in order to attain the highest levels of accomplishment. Moreover, quality educators with a passion for teaching, the best available curricula, accessible and modern equipment, mentors, as well as an environment conducive to learning are some of the tools that provide students a clear pathway to school success and a promising future. The NETABSE is comprised of members of the following four Northeast Texas Independent School Districts: Liberty-Eylau ISD, Texarkana Arkansas School District, Texarkana ISD, and Pleasant Grove ISD. Texarkana College and Texas A&M University-Texarkana are also members as well as sponsors. If you would like to become engaged in advancing scholarship among all students, please join our team! Particularly, needing a boost of encouragement are those students that are most academically vulnerable. As an organization devoted to overall student development, the NETABSE believes there is a role for every dedicated participant. The NETABSE welcomes mentors and supporters from various groups such as fraternities, sororities, religious entities, and other organizations. Your contribution to service will help to build a stronger community and cultivate connectivity between the NETABSE and other affiliates. To help foster educational goals and growth of the NETABSE, as with any organization, financial support is crucial. In the process of making a difference in the lives of others, our affiliate is grateful for partners who are willing to provide support towards aiding college-bound students that are in need of financial assistance. For further information on how you may help or become a member, please feel free to visit our website from where you may also contact any NETABSE officer or associate.

Best regards,

James G. Kerton

NETABSE Membership Promotion Winners



Texarkana College



Texarkana ISD

Contact Us

Contact us if you require additional information about NETABSE or if you are interested in joining.

NETABSE

P.O. Box 5653
Texarkana, Texas 75505

Visit Us on the Web at
www.netabse.org

Membership Dues

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

Membership/Newsletter Committee

- Barbara Adkins-Sears
- Brad Bailey
- Matt Fry
- Toney Favors
- Cynthia Henderson
- Ceretha Levingston
- Novella Medlock
- Chad Moore
- Pamela Thompson
- Lee Williams

NOTEWORTHY DATES/EVENTS

Liberty-Eylau Elementary

Halloween Carnival
Monday, Oct 29, 2018
5:30 – 7:30 pm

Pleasant Grove Curtain Call Productions: Seussical the Musical!

Nov 9 & 10, 2018 @ 7:00 p.m. Nov
11, 2018 @ 3:00 p.m.
Character Meet and Greet
Nov 10, 2018 @ 10:00 a.m.
This is a kid-friendly, free event.

Texarkana Arkansas

Washington Academy Charter
School (WASC) Graduation
Thursday, Dec 13, 2018
6:00 – 7:30 pm
Mount Grove Baptist Church

Texas High

Read With A Leader
Spring Lake Park Elementary
Wednesday, Oct 31, 2018
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Texarkana College

Commencement
Thursday, Dec 13, 2018
First Baptist Church
Moores Lane

Texas A&M University-Texarkana **Commencement**

Friday, Dec 14, 2018
Patterson's Student Center