

NETABSE NEWSLETTER

NORTHEAST TEXAS ALLIANCE OF BLACK SCHOOL EDUCATORS

April - June 2019

Engaged and Galvanized: NETABSE Promotes Student Involvement, Leadership Growth, and Staff Development by Dr. Sandra Austin



On February 8, 2019, NETABSE hosted its Third Annual Middle School Conference. Approximately 300 Eight Grade Northeast Texas students filled the Texas A&M University-Texarkana Patterson Center to hear keynote speakers. Afterwards, they dispersed to classes that informed them about attaining educational and personal accomplishments in pursuit of a professional career. The focus was to provide students awareness of the Education field and of what is required to prepare oneself to become an educator. Keynote speakers of the morning were the Honorable Dennis Bonnen, Speaker of the Texas State House of Representatives and the Honorable Gary VanDeaver, Texas State House Representative-District 1. Both emphasized the importance of teachers and achieving excellence. After having lunch on the university's campus and attending their final class of the day, students enjoyed the message of keynote speaker Marie Ferdinand-Harris, a former WNBA team member of the Utah Stars. She shared how she overcame poverty and other obstacles on her journey to personal, academic, and professional triumph. Also, addressing the students with a superb message was TABSE President Dr. Kimberly McLeod, the Assistant Superintendent of Education and Enrichment at the Harris County Department of Education. Dr. McLeod inspired everyone to rise above the "ordinary" and to tap into becoming

like eagles, soaring high and doing the "extraordinary". With her message, the conference closed in great elevation and anticipation for the future.

As NETABSE leaders have been motivated to advance the goals and mission of the organization, affiliate members attended the Texas Alliance of Black School Educators' 34th Annual Conference. Held in Galveston, Texas on February 19-24, 2019, the conference centered thematically on the social, emotional, and cultural aspects of how African-Americans students are impacted in the school environment—how those elements influence the ability and quality of learning within the ethnic group. Attendees from NETABSE were Dr. Sandra Austin, Ms. Brittney Brookes, Mrs. Jennell Ingram, Mr. James Keeton, Mr. Jesse Keeton, Dr. James Morris, and Mrs. Jo Ann Rice. She received the Lifetime Achievement Award for service. After hearing the life's story of several speakers who conquered defeat socially and educationally to become exceptional leaders, we who attended were heartily inspired to do more to push toward creating experiences and support mechanisms that foster students' and educators' success. As a result of her TABSE conference attendance, Mrs. Ingram invited session speaker Dr. Stephanie Boyce to present staff development to local teachers. Dr. Boyce is Founder and CEO of Stephanie Boyce & Associates, LLC., which is the parent company of The FRESH Classroom. She enlightened participants on cultural patterns and behaviors that adversely affect learning in schools, particularly among African-Americans. Moreover, Dr. Boyce revealed ways in which adjustments may be constructed to alleviate the detrimental effects of such patterns.

There is more to come! NETABSE will continue to galvanize and produce for the good and growth of students and educators! We endeavor to ensure the expanse of our work toward NETABSE's goals and mission.



Chad Pirtle (center) and Family

Pleasant Grove ISD Board of Trustees Approves Chad Pirtle for Superintendent

Mr. Chad Pirtle was named the lone finalist for the position of Superintendent of Pleasant Grove Independent School District on March 3, 2019. The Pleasant Grove ISD Board of Trustees approved his employment as the superintendent at their board meeting on Monday, March 25, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. During the board meeting, Pirtle stated: "I want to thank the Pleasant Grove Board of Trustees for the opportunity to serve the Pleasant Grove Independent School District as Superintendent. I also want to thank the community for such a warm welcome to Texarkana for my family. I look forward to working with and providing support for our students, teachers, support staff, coaches, administrators, community, and those who support the Pleasant Grove Hawks to ensure Pleasant Grove remains 'bigger in Texas and better in The Grove.'"

Mr. Pirtle began his career in medical health sales. His teaching and coaching career began in 2003 at Clarksville High School. He moved to Liberty Hill ISD in 2005 where he coached and taught at Liberty Hill Junior High School. Pirtle became the intermediate school's assistant principal, and then, junior high principal in Liberty Hill ISD before becoming an assistant superintendent. Since 2015, he has served as Liberty Hill's Assistant Superintendent. Pirtle is a graduate of Paris High School and Texas A&M University-Commerce with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. His education includes a Master of Education Administration degree from Texas State University. He is currently working on his dissertation for his Doctorate in Education Administration from The University of Texas at Austin. Chad has a wife, Emily, and two sons, Jack, 7, and Ryan, 4.

Six candidates had been interviewed before Pirtle was selected to become the lone finalist and PGISD Superintendent. Roger Hailey served as Interim Superintendent after former Superintendent Dr. Jason Smith accepted the Texarkana College President's position in January. Mr. Pirtle began his new role on Tuesday, March 26, 2019.

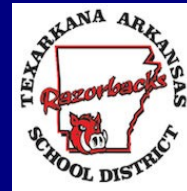
Code Jam Photos



Hawk Hustle Photos



In Other School Districts News



Two Texarkana Arkansas School District elementary schools were highlighted at the Second Arkansas Student Focused Study Tour, featuring Southwest Arkansas.

- College Hill Elementary featured social and emotional learning connected to the Arts, Leader In Me, & effective PLCs.
- Trice Elementary featured total infusion and application of the Arts throughout the core curriculum, Project-based learning & effective PLC.



LEISD Senior Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, May 7, 2019
6:30 - 8:30 pm



TISD Distinguished Alumni Luncheon

Monday April 22, 2019

TISD Employee Celebration

Friday, May 24, 2019

In Other Higher Education News



Faith in Transition PLACE Event

Monday, April 22, 2019
Kimberly Shappley,
Keynote Speaker
A&M-Texarkana, UC217
7:00 – 8:30 pm

Chill & Grill
Thursday, April 18, 2019
Patterson Student Center
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



Mr. Juan Riley and Chef Sheila Lynn

TEXAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (TCCTA) \$1000 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Juan Riley, a student enrolled in the Culinary Arts program at Texarkana College, attended the Texas Community College Teachers Association (TCCTA) General Session as a finalist and winner of the \$1000 scholarship. The scholarship made him a Burnside Scholar, named after the first Chief Executive Officer of the TCCTA. While this is a great honor, and no doubt a shining moment in his life, Mr. Riley's story up to this point is the true victory. His resilience, perseverance, and his will to make a way out of no way by turning "a negative into a positive" are what is really keeping him on the pathway to continued success.

Born in Nashville, TN, but raised in the city of LaGrange, GA, Mr. Riley has been homeless most of his life, and still is. As sort of a nomad, he has moved from place to place, most notably to Cincinnati, OH where he met his wife. They were married for 18 years until three years ago when she passed away in her sleep. Devastated, Mr. Riley turned to drugs and alcohol to cope with the loss as well as the bleakness of his life. After ending up in Broken Bow, OK by way of Georgia, he Googled the nearest homeless shelter and Texarkana, TX popped up on the map.

After making his way to Texarkana, he shortly enrolled in Texarkana College's Culinary Arts program with the help of the institution's Educational Opportunity Center. Mr. Riley, who was always interested in cooking since a youth, has since dedicated all of his time and energy into being a star student in the program. He hopes to own either a restaurant or food truck while employing those who are disadvantaged. This would enable him to allow them to have jobs to pursue a better life, obtain shelter, and provide for their families. He also wants to devote some of his time back to the homeless shelter by cooking for the residents there, "gourmet style" as he puts it.

The scholarship came as a complete shock to him, as he did not believe he had a chance of receiving it. He was told he was merely a finalist for the award. Since winning the scholarship, Mr. Riley plans to continue working on graduating with his certificate and finding a steady job in hopes of eventually making a better life for himself. Mr. Riley knows his professor Chef Sheila Lynn, as well as the rest of his peers, will continue to support his efforts. His friendly demeanor and smiling face are a common sight on campus, as he enthusiastically takes on whatever task he has for the day until it is completed.

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

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| BUDGET & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE | MEMBERSHIP & NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION COMMITTEE |
| CONFERENCE PLANNING & PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE | SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE |
| FUNDRAISING /COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ HONORS & AWARDS COMMITTEE | SCHOLARSHIPS COMMITTEE |

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
- Lee Williams

NOTEWORTHY DATES/EVENTS

Liberty-Eylau ISD Graduation
Thursday, May 23, 2019
First Baptist Moores Lane
7:00 pm

Texarkana Arkansas Graduation
Tuesday, May 28, 2019
Razorback Stadium
7:00 - 9:00 pm

Texarkana College Graduation
Thursday, May 16, 2019
First Baptist Moores Lane
7:00 pm

Pleasant Grove ISD Graduation
Friday, May 24, 2019
First Baptist Moores Lane
7:00 - 9:00 pm

Texas High ISD Graduation
Saturday, May 25, 2019
First Baptist Moores Lane
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Texas A&M Univ-Texarkana Graduation
Friday, May 17, 2019
Patterson Student Center
6:30 pm