



Spring 2015



A Note from the TACUSPA President



As it does every year, the spring semester is flying by. On my campus, we are gearing up for end-of-semester celebrations and already delving into summer and fall planning. The activities of TACUSPA have been busy as well. Many of these are highlighted in this newsletter.

Planning is underway for the 2015 conference in Corpus Christi and initial planning is taking place for the 2016 conference. There is still time to get involved if you are interested. Just contact the conference committee chairs for more information. Another great event that we have coming up is our 90th anniversary celebration. I know you will be excited to hear about the plans for this special occasion.

The elections process is also underway with a full slate of nominees. It is great to see so many individuals interested in leadership positions within the association. Take a look at the bios for each of the candidates and then make sure you take the time to cast your vote.

Other activities that have occurred over the past few months include participation in the UNT Higher Ed Law Conference, a variety of webinars, preparation for our next issue of the Student Affairs on Campus, and strategic planning. Speaking of strategic planning, the board spent two and a half days in a conference room in Corpus Christi hashing out the details of the next strategic plan. There was great conversation about the future of TACUSPA. We considered the needs assessment done earlier in the year, a SWOT analysis and other information. The draft plan is included in this newsletter for review. We'll be hosting a webinar to allow for continued discussion and questions about the strategic plan. Following the webinar, we will take your comments into consideration to produce a final plan.

As you wind down this busy time of year, I hope you will take time to stop and appreciate all that you and TACUSPA have accomplished!

Lisa McDougle
TACUSPA President

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Candidate Profiles for the 2015 TACUSPA Elections

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President



Marlon Anderson

Director of Student Development,
Leadership and Activities
Northeast Lakeview College
TACUSPA Member Since: 1989

As TACUSPA prepares to celebrate its 90th birthday as an association, I believe our biggest challenge is to remain a valued resource for our membership, and to position ourselves to be attractive to those institutions and individuals who are not members. As President, my focus will be on taking advantage of every opportunity to bring cutting edge professional development, research and networking opportunities to advance the work of Student Affairs across our state. We must constantly be conscious of the needs of our membership, and in many ways even anticipate the yet to be identified needs. I would like to explore collaborative opportunities with other associations (Financial Aid, Advising, etc.) to determine where we might pool our resources to benefit our members. Building these opportunities for collaboration will provide not only TACUSPA members, but also members of the other organizations helps us not only understand the varying challenges they are having, but also allows us to learn from each other as we work to build stronger teams, improve practices and develop communities on our campuses. Additionally, I would like to continue to expand opportunities for TACUSPA to support research in our field by engaging our graduate and doctoral program students across the state to take advantage of our research grants and scholarships. This will mean engaging our faculty partners and working with our colleagues on the foundation board to take advantage of every opportunity to increase giving to the foundation. Finally, I think it is important that we be conscious of maintaining and expanding our membership base. Specifically, engaging our community college colleagues about joining our association and making our programs and services appealing to their needs. It's a great time to be involved with TACUSPA, 90 years of history is a great foundation to stand on and if given the opportunity to be your next President I look forward to helping TACUSPA position itself for 90 more years of success.



Mayra Hernandez

Director of Student Conduct
and Community Engagement
Texas A&M International University
TACUSPA Member Since: 2013

I'm seeking candidacy on the basis of excellence in student development and leadership preparedness. My years of experience in student services and development provide the necessary skills to generate an innovative approach to TACUSPA's growth. My professional services in the area of student development, conduct, community engagement, and academic integrity has been extensive and comprehensive, uniquely positioning me for leadership opportunities at the local level. My goals are simple—recruitment, retention, and graduation.

Educating the up and coming generation is critical to our professional growth. We must invite undergraduate and graduate students to participate in the development and implementation of our future TACUSPA programs. It is imperative to teach students, faculty and administrators (not affiliated with student services) about the critical role we play in recruitment, retention and graduation, while preparing current professional in the student personnel and administration industry.



Jay Lambert

Vice President for Enrollment
Management and Student Affairs
The University of Houston - Victoria
TACUSPA Member Since: 2006

My interest in the President-elect position stems from my belief in TACUSPA and the value it brings to student affairs professionals in Texas. There is no doubt that TACUSPA is the premier professional association for student affairs professions in Texas. It would be a great opportunity to serve TACUSPA and our fellow Texas Student Affairs professionals. If elected, I would like to build on the great success TACUSPA has seen in recent years and expand our membership base so that we serve a broader range of student affairs professionals. I will work to expand our volunteer opportunities for professionals at all levels. Lastly, I would also like to see TACUSPA not only continue to keep us abreast of our ever changing legal environment within higher education, but elevate its influence on relevant policy within the state and nation. Thank you in advance for considering me for this position.

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President



Jeff Jackson

Director of Medical School Programs
UT School of Medicine at San Antonio
TACUSPA Member Since: 2010

TACUSPA is my professional organization of choice, and I would love the opportunity to serve as the future president. I recently had the privilege of contributing to the new TACUSPA strategic plan for TACUSPA, and I would be honored to carry out the plan during my presidency. TACUSPA has continued to improve in our 90-year history, and have made major strides in membership and conferences in the past few years. My goals as president will mirror some of the major strides we are planning to taking as an organization. Since I will only be in the position a year, I want to be realistic with the number, but significant in impact.

Goals in office:

Make volunteer opportunities more accessible- establish a simple process for board members to find talented members year-round, and beyond the conference.

Increase communication and organization identity by hosting regularly scheduled podcasts- This is an easy way to connect with members, interview interesting people, and reach potential members.

Provide year-round member engagement opportunities- Using the conference as momentum, I will foster opportunities for members to meet formally or informally throughout the year.

For me, being the TACUSPA president allows me to standing on the shoulders of giants. The Texas pillars of student affairs have held the position of president in the past; as president I will strive to maintain the high level of integrity, and honor for TACUSPA, and those gone before me.



Lisa Nagy

Assistant Vice President for
Student Affairs
The University of Texas at Arlington
TACUSPA Member Since: 2004

As a member of TACUSPA for the last 11 years, I am proud and honored to have been nominated as President of an association that has been such an integral part of my professional development. TACUSPA is a great association, dedicated to its members while serving as an advocate to enhance the student affairs profession. I enjoy giving back to the association that has given me so many opportunities to develop my skills, gain new knowledge and network with the best student affairs colleagues in the state of Texas.

TACUSPA has reached an exciting point in its growth with the successful completion of the 2010-2015 strategic plan. The association has taken steps to increase and engage the membership, expand our use of technology and strengthen our position as a leading voice in the Student Affairs profession. But we are not done. The current Board has been working on the next five year strategic plan that will propel us even farther.

If elected, I will make advocating for you, the TACUSPA membership, a priority and give you the opportunity to help our association and profession. I commit to ensuring that TACUSPA will continue to provide exceptional programs and services through advancing our strategic initiatives. We will remain inclusive and educate our members on topics and issues that are relevant to our campuses. Continue to develop partnerships with other professional groups and build stronger connections across the State. Additionally, we will use technology to increase our marketing initiatives and enhance our communication with the membership.

I have accepted the nomination to serve as President because I have the experience, skills and desire to serve you and our great association. We have many complex and difficult challenges facing higher education but we also have numerous opportunities to be engaged and innovative to better serve our campus communities. Together, we can lead TACUSPA and our profession into the future.

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Vice President of Administration



Molly Albart

Director of Planning, Assessment
and Student Success
The University of Texas at Arlington
TACUSPA Member Since: 2010

I am honored to have been nominated to serve as the Vice President for Administration on the TACUSPA Board of Directors. I have enjoyed my work with TACUSPA in other capacities and look forward to the opportunity to bring my skills and experiences to the TACUSPA board. As TACUSPA prepares to launch a new strategic plan, I will work to ensure our policies and procedures are aligned with the new priorities and goals for the organization. I have many years of experience writing, reviewing and upholding policies and procedures through my work in residence life which will be useful in conducting an annual review of TACUSPA's constitution, bi-laws and operations manual. In addition, one of the roles of the VP for Administration is to oversee the Awards and Recognition process. My experience as Awards and Recognition Chair will assist with this responsibility. I look forward to the opportunity to serve TACUSPA and support the organization's efforts to provide professional development for student affairs professionals in Texas.



Paul York

Dean of Student Affairs and
Deputy Title IX Coordinator
Texas A&M University - Central Texas
TACUSPA Member Since: 2013

Over the past two years I have had the opportunity to observe, collaborate, and imagine. After my first TACUSPA conference I fell in love with imagining the ways in which I could serve an association that is vital for developing student affairs professionals in Texas. An organization only operates as effectively as it holds itself accountable, especially to its governing documents. As Vice President for Administration, I will work with the Board and membership to ensure that our governing documents are accurate, up-to-date, and reflect our growing and evolving association.

Through my work with the Association of Student Conduct Administration as part of the Leadership Development Committee, I have engaged in intensive conversations regarding that association's governing documents and will bring my passion for that work and experience to the Vice President for Administration position to benefit TACUSPA. I will engage the association in a strategic conversation about our bylaws and our operations manual. Through that conversation, we will recommend any changes to the Board that will enhance the effectiveness of our annual operations. Additionally, I will work with the Board and membership to identify how we successfully connect and retain members to ensure the future success of our association.

Lastly, in collaboration with the awards and recognitions committee, I will work to evaluate the current awards structure and ensure that it meets the needs of our association. As professionals and students, our members do invaluable work throughout the state and nation. As an association we should provide effective opportunities to recognize the great work being done by our institutions.

In closing, I bring a drive to this position for evaluating the effectiveness of an association through its governing documents and operations. It is this drive and experience that I will leverage to benefit an association that continues to provide me and others with increased opportunities to engage one another in scholarship and professional collaboration.



Charlin Jones-Chavez

Director of Special Events
The University of Texas at San Antonio
TACUSPA Member Since: 2006

I have been honored to serve TACUSPA in a variety of roles for over 9 years! I am excited to run for the Vice President of Administration for 2015-2017. I will work to continue to maintain the constitution and by-laws of TACUSPA with the support of the Board of Directors. TACUSPA has been working diligently over the past 6 years to constantly strengthen and improve the organization. As a former member and chair of the awards and recognition committee I look forward to working closely with this committee again as I feel it is important to recognize the great work of our colleagues in TACUSPA. Additionally, I am excited to work on any additional special projects that the Board pursues to help create a stronger TACUSPA for the future.

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Secretary



Gene Fitch

Associate Vice President for
Student Affairs and Dean of Students
The University of Texas - Dallas
TACUSPA Member Since: 2010

As secretary, it would be my role to ensure that the records of TACUSPA are kept accurately and disseminated to the board membership in a timely manner. By maintaining accurate records we are able to ensure that TACUSPA's history and legacy will survive the test of time. I am a contributor to the TACUSPA Foundation and place a high value on the services the Association and Foundation provide, particularly as it relates to the development of new professionals. I became a member of TACUSPA immediately upon my arrival in Texas because I recognize the value of developing and enhancing relationships with my colleagues. Seeking the role of Secretary seems to be a natural place to start my involvement. I thank you in advance for your consideration.



Paulina Mazurek

Assistant Director of University Events
and Student Programs
The University of the Incarnate World
TACUSPA Member Since: 2009

As the current TACUSPA secretary, I have kept meeting minutes and organized records for the last three years. I would be honored to continue in my role for another term as I feel that the association would benefit from continuity in this position. As secretary, I have discovered that some procedures for archiving association documents could use some improvement. I would like to develop a more efficient way to keep records without jeopardizing our resources as a volunteer organization. Meeting minutes have been made available back to the membership in a timely manner and have been written in a clear and concise manner so that the board's decisions and progress are made available to the membership.

I contributed to the creation of the 2015-2020 TACUSPA Strategic Plan where a lot of thought and discussion took place. There is value in carrying out that vision and plan with the same team that helped create it. Due to my involvement in the project, I know what background work that took place and can help achieve those goals in the next five years.

As a board member, I would continue to advocate and support for the professional development for all members at, and beyond, the annual conference. I am confident that those remaining on the board would like to see me continue as part of the team and hope you will give me the opportunity to continue to serve as your association secretary.



Kristy Vienne

Assistant Vice President,
Student Services
Sam Houston State University
TACUSPA Member Since: 2004

TACUSPA has been very instrumental in connecting me with colleagues around the state who share the same vision and goals for Student Affairs that I have. When I came to Texas over nine years ago, I was not familiar with all of the colleges and universities in the state; let alone know anyone at those institutions. TACUSPA connected me with individuals that I consider friends and even mentors today. Therefore I want to continue to be involved with TACUSPA to learn from the Student Affairs leaders in the state and those visionaries who are developing wonderful programs for the students we serve on our campuses. Additionally, I want to continue to help the association by providing top level educational and professional development opportunities for the TACUSPA membership. Furthermore, I would like to continue the work of the TACUSPA leadership by continuing to develop new, creative platforms to reach new members and provide, relevant, informative information to Student Affairs leaders throughout the state in a timely fashion.

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Director of Technology



Corey Benson

Assistant Director of Student Conduct and Coordinator for the Center for Students in Recovery
The University of Texas at Arlington
TACUSPA Member Since: 2011

My goals include creating opportunities for involvement for graduate students and new professionals to become more actively involved in TACUSPA; recruiting and retaining members from underrepresented backgrounds; fostering diversity and inclusivity throughout the composition of membership and the leadership of the organization; develop partnerships with other regional and state organizations within higher education and student affairs; increasing the organization's presence on social media including Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn; and creating opportunities for members to engage with each other throughout the year outside of the annual conference. TACUSPA provided me the opportunity to learn, grow and connect with others within in the student affairs profession, and I look forward to giving back to the organization that has served as my professional home as Director of Technology.



Christine Self

Associate Director
Texas Tech University
TACUSPA Member Since: 2010

Technology in its many forms assists organizations like TACUSPA with several tasks, including disseminating information, taking online registrations for conferences, and billing and accepting payments for memberships. My main goals for the Director of Technology office are to assist TACUSPA by 1) making sure all technological processes work smoothly and efficiently, particularly dues payments and conference registrations; 2) keeping the TACUSPA membership well-informed about organizational news, deadlines, and other pertinent information through expanded use of the TACUSPA website, social media pages, and blog; and 3) providing support for the TACUSPA webinars and journal.

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Director of Research



Dakota Doman

Director of Student Life and Services
The University of Houston - Victoria
TACUSPA Member Since: 2010

“Knowledge has no value unless you use and share it.” TACUSPA is the premiere organization for higher education professional development in the state of Texas. The membership of TACUSPA encompasses an array of individuals with an abundance of knowledge. From new professionals with prestigious graduate degrees making the transition from student to practitioner, to seasoned veterans with more than four decades of work experience at various types of institutions, TACUSPA serves as the hub of student affairs professional development in Texas. As the hub, TACUSPA has a responsibility to circulate knowledge and research between constituents, university administrators, students, laymen, and policy makers who undoubtedly make funding decisions.

The Director of Research is responsible for the development and dissemination of knowledge to the membership through the Graduate Education and Research Committee, Graduate Student Caucus, research grant program, article competition, and other initiatives.

If elected to the position of Director of Research, my goals would entail the following:

- Continue to build a strong partnership with the Graduate Education and Research Committee
- Grow the Graduate Student Caucus
- Build alliance with university Research Administrators by routinely meeting throughout the year
- Establish a relationship with the Texas Commission on the Arts with the purpose of notifying TACUSPA membership institutions of various grant opportunities
- Assist the TACUSPA Journal Editorial Board with quality research articles
- Work with other TACUSPA

Ultimately, I am interested in the position of Director of Research because it would further afford me the opportunity to engage and development “scholar-practitioners” through the works of TACUSPA.



Teresa Simpson

Director, Department of Career and Testing Services, Adjunct Professor, Center for Doctoral Studies and Department of Educational Leadership
Lamar University
TACUSPA Member Since: 2011

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I ask you to consider me for the volunteer position of Director for Research. I am sure that you agree that this position is vitally important to the mission of TACUSPA. I would appreciate your support in selecting me to serve the association through this position.

The position description in the TACUSPA operations manual outlines the primary responsibilities of this position. The Director of Research is responsible for the development and dissemination of knowledge to the membership through the Graduate Education and Research Committee, Graduate Student Caucus, research grant program, article competition, and other initiatives.

I hope that my bio demonstrates that I have a strong background in this area. I strongly believe that contributing to quality research in our field is essential to the importance of ensuring the development of our profession and ensuring we are keeping relevant topics at the forefront of the boardroom table in Higher Education to ensure that our students are developing holistically as they seek personal and professional success. If I were selected to serve as Director of Research, I would strive to uphold the quality leadership of Dr. Rishi Sriram as he has served this position well for several years. I know Rishi well as he tapped me three years ago to join the Research Committee. I supported him through the Graduate Research and Grants and through the launch of TACUSPA's first Journal, “Student Affairs on Campus”. I seek to continue his dedication toward quality development through contemporary research for our graduate students and to continue to include contemporary topics in Higher Education that collaborate Student Affairs and Academic Affairs for Student Success.

Thank you in advance for considering me for this position. I would be honored to serve in this capacity and welcome the chance to support the mission of TACUSPA.



GREETINGS TACUSPA!

The 2015 TACUSPA Fall Annual Conference will be held October 4-6, in Corpus Christi, Texas!

We are excited to share that Dr. Marc Lamont Hill, one of the leading intellectual voices in the country, will serve as a keynote speaker and will lead the pre-conference workshop. He is the host of HuffPost Live and BET News, as well as a political contributor for CNN. He is the former host of the nationally syndicated television show Our World With Black Enterprise and political contributor to Fox News Channel. An award-winning journalist, Dr. Hill has received numerous prestigious awards from the National Association of Black Journalists, GLAAD, and the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences. Dr. Hill is Distinguished Professor of African American Studies at Morehouse College. Prior to that, he held positions at Columbia University and Temple University.

The theme for the 2015 Fall Annual Conference is Making Waves for 90 Years, as we will celebrate the 90th Annual Conference in Corpus Christi. We will begin accepting educational program sessions beginning April 15, 2015 and registration for the conference will begin May 1, 2015. For more information, please visit www.tacuspa.net.

See you in Corpus Christi!

Corey James Benson and Lisa O. Perez

2015 TACUSPA Fall Annual Conference Co-Chairs

UPCOMING WEBINARS:

VISIT TACUSPA.NET/WEBINARS FOR MORE INFORMATION

SHARING ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Darby M. Roberts, Ph.D
Director of Student Life Studies
Texas A&M University
April 22, Noon

Staff who engage in assessment sometimes struggle with communicating the results in a meaningful way to multiple audiences. Considerations include who, what, when, where, how, and why. Not sharing information inhibits the use of the results to make positive change. This webinar will describe methods to share information based on the audience, the purpose of the assessment, and the resources available.

DEVELOPING, USING, AND ANALYZING SURVEYS

Rishi Sriram, Ph.D
Assistant Professor, Graduate Program Director, Faculty Master
Baylor University
May 6, 12 pm CST

Many of us use surveys in our work. The problem is that most of us have not been taught how to develop them or use them properly. When we try to learn, we feel in over our heads with terms like validity and reliability – concepts that we know are important but are not explained very well. This webinar is meant to teach professionals about surveys in a way that will boost competence, confidence, and the impact we can have on college students.

Budget Update

TACUSPA Budget 2014-15

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Reconciled as of February 28, 2015

OPERATIONS

Expenses

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	
President	\$8,000.00	\$841.61	
President-Elect	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Past President	\$500.00	\$0.00	
Vice President-Admin	\$775.00	\$383.57	
Vice President-Mktg&Mbrshp	\$225.00	\$42.84	
VP Education	\$2,740.00	\$1,500.00	
Director of Research	\$4,350.00	\$3,310.00	
Secretary	\$100.00	\$0.00	
Treasurer	\$5,000.00	\$2,513.92	
Director Technology	\$1,939.00	\$498.40	
Reserve	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	
			\$9,090.34

Income

Balance as of 8/31/14		\$38,664.69	
2014 Membership Dues		\$3,610.00	
2015 Membership Dues		\$11,230.00	
Job Postings		\$125.00	
Miscellaneous Income		\$0.00	
Interest Inc.		\$0.00	
			\$53,629.69

\$44,539.35

CONFERENCE

Expenses

Fall 2014- Arlington		\$78,767.37	
Fall 2015- Corpus Christi		\$702.75	
			\$79,470.12

Income

Balance as of 8/31/13		\$86,950.35	
Fall 2014- Arlington		\$47,635.00	\$47,635.00
Fall 2015- Corpus Christi		\$0.00	
			\$134,585.35

\$55,115.23

FOUNDATION

Expenses

2014-15		\$1,084.00	
			\$1,084.00

Income

Balance as of 8/31/14		\$11,735.68	\$11,735.68
2014-15		\$4,340.00	
			\$16,075.68

\$14,991.68

Checking Balance

\$114,646.26

BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

Income

Balance as of 8/31/14		\$62,675.40	
Interest		\$7.90	
			\$62,683.30

BIA Balance

\$62,683.30

CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

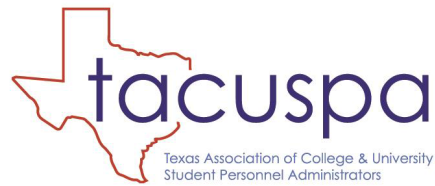
Three Year CD to Mature 8/2015- 6945		\$22,913.95	
Three Year CD to Mature 8/2017- 9865		\$24,073.13	
			\$46,987.08

CD Balance

\$46,987.08

BALANCE

\$224,316.64



Strategic Five-Year Plan: 2015-2020

TACUSPA members interested in learning more or providing feedback regarding the proposed strategic plan are invited to attend an upcoming webinar hosted by President Lisa McDougale and President-Elect Adam Peck on Thursday, April 30, 2015 at noon. More information will be forthcoming. Members are also encouraged to e-mail either Lisa or Adam with any questions or feedback as well.

Mission

The Texas Association of College and University Student Personnel Administrators (TACUSPA) is a premier state association dedicated to the development, support and promotion of student affairs professionals in the State of Texas.

Vision

TACUSPA will be the preferred student affairs association for higher education institutions in the state of Texas.

Purpose

- To promote discussion and research regarding the most effective methods of aiding students in their intellectual, social, moral and personal development;
- To provide leadership and support for all student affairs professionals;
- To serve as the main resource for information pertinent to student affairs in Texas;
- To encourage and support best practices and original research in student affairs;
- To promote and enhance the role of student affairs in higher education.

Core Values

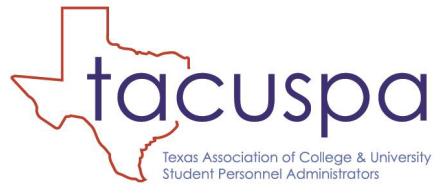
The Texas Association of College and University Student Personnel Administrators is an association of administrators, staff, faculty, students, and others interested dedicated to the advancement of student affairs in the State of Texas. The organization's core values include:

- **Professional Networking:** Providing opportunities for interaction among student affairs professionals, faculty and students representing a variety of functional areas at all levels.
- **Professional Development:** Providing opportunities for professional development through conferences, webinars, and scholarly publications.
- **Professional Advocacy:** seeking to enhance the profession of student affairs by supporting research, articulating contemporary issues, supporting graduate programs, and introducing students to the profession.

Diversity Statement

TACUSPA is dedicated to fostering an environment that supports and encourages diversity in our organization and in the student affairs profession throughout the State of Texas. TACUSPA is committed to advocating for diversity and inclusion in the field of student affairs.

The premier student affairs professional association in Texas since 1925!
www.tacuspa.net



Goal 1: Support the development of all members

Provide career development resources and identify a volunteer to coordinate these initiatives.
Develop an annual calendar of programs and activities ensuring year-round engagement.
Develop strategies to promote a culture of mentoring at the conference and beyond.
Provide professional development appropriate for each constituent group (entry, mid, senior, faculty & student, 2 year, 4 year private, 4 year public, professional schools).

Goal 2: Grow and diversify membership

Identify regional volunteers to coordinate recruitment and engagement within their region (North, South, East, West, Central, Panhandle). Identify a volunteer to recruit and engage faculty from higher education programs.
Create and promote initiatives that meet the needs of historically under-represented groups in higher education. In concert with regional reps develop strategies for attracting new members.

Goal 3: Develop and enhance strategic partnerships with other professional organizations.

Develop agreements with other student affairs organizations to enhance the benefit to our members.
Strategically identify and support student affairs-orientated conferences and programs, such as UNT Higher Education Law Conference.

Goal 4: Promote research and scholarship on articulating the essential value of student affairs and develop talking points for use by members

Capture stories about the impact of student affairs and share via multiple means.
Develop a community of practice focused on demonstrating and communicating the impact of student affairs on student learning.

Goal 5: Develop professional operation and reputations

Align fiscal resources and goals by connecting budget requests to mission, vision and strategic plan.
Evaluate current volunteer structure, increase opportunities and make it easy for anyone to volunteer.
Develop orientation for new members, volunteers, and board members.
Align the elected and appointed leadership positions to better meet the needs of the association.

- o Propose a board-level assessment position to guide the associations' decision-making process.
- o Propose to split the VP of Membership and Marketing into two separate positions.

The premier student affairs professional association in Texas since 1925!

www.tacuspa.net

FOUNDATION UPDATES

The TACUSPA Foundation is seeking items for our annual silent auction that will be held in October at our annual conference. We already have one item donated - a baby gift package including a hand painted decorative box filled with handmade baby blankets, baby books, and other baby items. Four people are contributing to this auction donation. So, please look to your friends in TACUSPA to put together your silent auction donations. Another great idea is gift cards for movies and restaurants. These can be combined by the Silent Auction team for various gift baskets. For those of you on Pinterest, you can search "Silent Auction Ideas" to get some wonderful ideas for your contribution. We would also like to encourage more non-college/university specific donations than we've ever had before.

As you plan what you'll be donating to the silent auction, please remember that most people will be flying to Corpus Christi. Don't forget to watch our Facebook page as some great Silent Auction Ideas will be posted! Thanks in advance for your contributions to our Silent Auction!

MEMBERSHIP REMINDERS & UPDATES

All membership renewals are due by April 1. After this date, non-renewed members will have their membership status changed to 'lapsed' and will be removed from the TACUSPA email list and lose all member benefits. If you are unsure of the status of your membership, login to your account at www.tacuspa.net with your email address and password. If you do not know your password, you can reset it from the website. Once you login, you will automatically be notified if your membership is past due. If you do not see this notification, your membership is current.

Remember that only current members may vote during the Board of Directors election later this month!

For membership questions, please contact the Vice President of Membership & Marketing, Stephanie Box, at stephanie.box@tamucc.edu or 361-825-6290.

Did you know?

You can update your TACUSPA member profile online. If you have switched jobs, job responsibilities, added more years of experience, and more, you can let us know by updating your profile. Simply login to the website and click on Edit Profile.

CALLING ALL TACUSPA HISTORY BUFFS!

Help is needed to better record the association's history. We have boxes of documents stored in archives on the University of Texas campus in Austin. A special project is underway to identify and scan documents of significance to our history. If you are interested in assisting with this project, please contact Amanda Drum at 361-825-2612 or Amanda.drum@tamucc.edu.

90th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

TACUSPA: It's time to Celebrate!



In 1925, three visionaries, V. I. Moore, H.E. Speck and Oscar Ulrich organized the Texas Association of Deans and Advisors of Men (TADAM). This association grew and developed over time into what we know today as TACUSPA. Yes, TACUSPA is 90 years old! We have planned many activities to commemorate our 90th year. You can join the party right away by connecting with us via social media. Throughout the year, we will share information from our rich history via Facebook and Twitter. Stay connected to increase your chance of winning great prizes at our trivia contests at the annual conference in October!

The TACUSPA Foundation is also joining the party with two special campaigns:

- \$90 for 90 Campaign - We encourage each member of the association to contribute at least \$90 to commemorate our 90th year. Donors contributing \$90 or more will be recognized on a wall of honor at the conference. If a \$90 donation seems a little steep right now, make several smaller donations between now and conference to achieve this goal.
- 1925 Emerald Necklace Drawing - For every \$25 you donate, you will be entered into a drawing to win an emerald necklace at the conference. Your contributions toward the \$90 for 90 will automatically apply toward this special prize drawing.

For more information on the TACUSPA Foundation, go to <http://www.tacuspa.net/Foundation>. The celebration will culminate at our annual conference this October 4-6 in Corpus Christi.

There are a host of other things planned in celebration. Stayed tuned for more information, but also expect some fabulous surprises! So, make plans now to join the fun.

LATINA COLLEGE STUDENT BARRIERS AND SUCCESS

BY STEPHANY C. LÓPEZ, TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Literature Review

Because of varying educational requirements from state-to-state, it is near impossible for migrant students to complete and advance from one grade level to the next (Hatt-Echeverria & Urrieta, 2003; Martinez & Cranston-Gingras, 1996). Adolescent migrants are the most vulnerable and profoundly

Latinas have historically been seen as daughters, mothers, and wives (Gonzalez, Jovel, & Stoner, 2004). Straying away from these gendered roles and expectations is difficult to navigate for Latinas especially in the context of achieving a higher education. Those who do stray away from those expectations are considered “bad wom[e]n” that are “dangerous, contagious, and viral” (Gaspar de Alba, 2014, p.8). These expectations create barriers for Latinas seeking to achieve a higher education.

Statement of the Problem

In 2012, Latinas held 7.4% of all degrees even though they made up 16% of the population that year (Jackson, 2013). There is a clear discrepancy in the numbers of Latinas who are completing a higher education and the Latina population. We, as educators, need to understand the ways we can help close that gap.

Barriers and Challenges

Latinas face many cultural barriers and challenges before they even step on a college campus. The parental expectations to live at home and the expectation to return home after college are both issues Latinas confront as they pursue a higher education (Gonzalez et al., 2004).

Expectation to Live at Home

There is an expectation from Latino parents that their daughters will live at home while attending college (Gonzalez et al., 2004). Many parents of Latinas do not support their daughter’s decision to leave the home because of their concern for their well being and safety (Gonzalez, et al., 2004; Wycoff & E., 1996). For many Latinas, leaving home is viewed as a way to become independent and attained by living on your own (Gonzalez et al., 2004).

Staying Away from Home

For many Latinas leaving home is not the only challenge. The struggle lies in staying away from the home (Gonzalez et al., 2004). In Gonzalez, Jovel, and Stoner’s (2004) study, over half of the women involved in the study mentioned that not being there for their niece or nephew as they were growing up was extremely difficult. Which really show the effect of how missing important family functions back home is creates a struggle to continuously stay away. Additionally, Latino parents expect their daughters to return home after they have completed college (Gonzalez et al., 2004). This makes the decision to attend graduate school and stay away from home for a longer period of time a very complex decision. Understanding these barriers, institutions of higher education can provide support to Latinas to be successful and ultimately graduate.

Variables for Success

Much of the research that has been completed about Latinas in higher education has focused on the barriers and challenges they must overcome. However, not much research focuses on the positive variables that encourage Latina success in college. The research that does have that focus highlights the importance of support systems, mentoring, and role modeling.

Support Systems

Having a strong support system to encourage you in college is important. When looking at Latinas, a support system can come from many different avenues such as family, campus resources, and individuals on campus. Family can serve as a way to alleviate stress for Latinas (Castillo & Hill, 2004). Latinas from traditional families feel that the support of their mother makes them feel at ease with the decisions that they make (Wycoff, & E., 1996). Latinas also rely on professors and advisors/counselors to receive the information they need to continue in college (Graff, McCain, Gomez-Vilchis, 2013). Understanding and emphasizing the importance that support systems have on Latinas is vital for our field.

Mentoring

Effective mentoring can serve as an important tool to increase Latina retention (Villasenor, Reyes, & Munoz, 2013). Mentoring can be used to foster academic and personal connections that allow Latinas to understand how they can help close the gap in the barriers that they face (Villasenor et al., 2013). Villasenor, Reyes, and Munoz (2013) suggest implementing *mujerista* mentoring. *Mujerista* mentorship is a model that rejects the idea of assimilating into academic dominant culture. *Mujerista* mentoring focuses on the ideas of having mentees understand barriers that face Latina and

mentors can be from any ethnicity or gender. The focus of this model is not for a Latina to mentor another Latina. Instead the focus is on having mentors help their mentees understand how to navigate in an academic world.

Role Modeling

One of the reasons Latinas persist in college is because of their perceived self responsibility to serve as role models to younger siblings and younger cousins (Wycoff, & E., 1996). While this can produce great stress for the student this also serves as a way to encourage the student to complete their studies. Failure is not an option because everyone is watching them. Some Latinas also see themselves as a role model for their future children as well (Graff, McCain, Gomez-Vilchis, 2013). Serving as a role model for younger cousins, siblings, and future children serves as a motivating factor for Latinas to graduate with a college degree. Failure to complete a college degree means it will become more difficult for those after them to complete a degree as well.

Implications for Student Affairs

It is important that higher education institutions understand the challenges Latinas face. Practitioners need to understand how difficult and complex the decisions that Latinas have to make are when choosing to attend college. Further, creating a safe a welcoming environment for Latinas is important. The programming must be culturally relevant for both students and their family. There also needs to a focus on *mujerista* mentoring for Latinas (Villasenor et al., 2013). Finally, further research needs to be conducted to ensure that the focus of research on Latina's is on the variables that are contributing success rather than on the barriers they face.

Within higher education here needs to be a focus on getting more Latinas to graduate. There is a growing number Latinas enrolling in higher education. As a profession, we need to prepare to create action plans on how to serve that population of students.

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



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Ah Ra is a third year Ph.D. student studying Higher Education Administration at the University of North Texas and currently the President of the Association for Graduate Students in Higher Education (AGSHE). She received her Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Texas A&M University and a Masters in Science in Higher Education and Student Affairs from Baylor University. Ah Ra is currently the graduate assistant for the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness at UNT. She hopes to do her dissertation work on medical schools and how various external factors have affected the organizational behavior of these types of institutions. Ms. Cho will be formally recognized by the University at the University Honor's Day ceremony on Friday, April 10, 2015.

"I thank TACUSPA for providing me opportunities to present and network with student affairs professionals from all around Texas. As a graduate student and a former TACUSPA fellow, I find so much value in being part of an organization as close-knit and friendly as TACUSPA. I have gained and learned so much from individuals within this organization, from senior student affairs officers to graduate students, in the years I have been a member of TACUSPA."