

Financial Aid Advisory Committee
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

COMMITTEE CHAIR	VICE CHAIR
<p>Diane Todd Sprague Director of Financial Aid The University of Texas at Austin Email: DTSprague@austin.utexas.edu Term: 11/01/2016 – 11/30/2020 Diane has 30 years of financial aid experience at several institutions, including the state grant program for the state of Michigan. Diane understands the needs of the university as well as the legislative process. She is able to see the big picture and discuss potentially controversial topics with a balanced voice. Diane has held leadership roles in several state financial aid organizations, as well as working on various task forces and committees for NASFAA.</p>	<p>Robert Merino Dean of Financial Aid San Jacinto Community College District Email: Robert.merino@sjcd.edu Term: 11/01/2016 – 11/30/2019 Robert Merino has a comprehensive awareness of federal and state regulations. He has led projects that improved students' lives, and fully understands the barriers students face as they attempt to be the first members of their family to attend college. Robert embraces the Texas Higher Education Strategic Plan: 60x30TX.</p>

COMMITTEE MEMBERS	
<p>Zelma De Leon – Past Chair Executive Director of Financial Aid & Scholarships University of North Texas System/UNT Email: zelma.deleon@unt.edu Term: 12/01/2015 – 11/30/2019 Zelma's career spans over 30 years in student financial aid and scholarships. She has extensive knowledge and experience with helping students meet their educational needs and goals through financial assistance and scholarship programs. In 2011, Zelma became the Executive Director of Student Financial Aid Services, (SFAS) where she leads 59 staff members. Under her leadership, SFAS was named the Outstanding Department for Service in 2013-2014. Zelma has participated in professional organizations, which consist of several advisory committees: Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (TASFAA), National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA).</p>	<p>Delisa Falks Executive Director, Scholarships & Financial Aid Texas A&M University Email: delisaf@tamu.edu Term: 12/01/2014 – 11/30/2019 Delisa has served 26 years in the Scholarships & Financial Aid Office at Texas A&M University. She has been involved in the Texas Association of Financial Aid Administrators (TASFAA) as a Regional trainer, Committee Chair, Co-Chair, organizer, member of the Bylaws Committee, and currently serves as TASFAA's Secretary. As Executive Director, Scholarships & Financial Aid, Delisa leads a team of over 60 members and serves as the Terry Scholarship Program coordinator. During her tenure, Delisa received the prestigious Traditions of Excellence Award and been recognized as an outstanding employee by her staff, the faculty, and students.</p>
<p>Karla Flores Associate Director of Financial Aid The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Email: karla.flores@utrgv.edu Term: 12/1/2017 – 11/30/2020 Karla has 20 years of progressive experience with higher education institutions. She has a strong ability to understand and manage regulations gained through her 13 years in financial aid management. Karla developed and implemented a Student Loan Default Management Plan and established a Default Management Task Force, resulting in campus wide default aversion involvement and lower default rates for the institution.</p>	<p>Paul Galyean Director of Financial Aid Jacksonville College Email: pgalyean@jacksonville-college.edu Term: 12/01/2018-11/30/2021 Paul currently serves as Director of Financial Aid at Jacksonville College.</p>

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<p>Heidi Granger Assistant Vice president, Student Financial Services The University of Texas at El Paso Email: hgranger@utep.edu Term: 12/01/2018-11/30/2021 Ms. Granger has over 20 years of experience in the financial aid profession. She has a unique background as her work experiences span all of the higher education sectors; including, public and private 4-year institutions, public community colleges and proprietary schools. In addition, Heidi worked for the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, DC, as a member of the Direct Loan Task Force and as a financial aid auditor. She also served as a senior consultant specializing in financial aid for the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO).</p>	<p>Karen LaQuey Director of Financial Aid Wayland Baptist University Email: laquey@wbu.edu Term: 12/01/2018-11/30/2020 Karen has served 28 years in financial aid. She has served the last 22 years in the Office of Financial Aid at Wayland Baptist University. She was named Director of Financial Aid at Wayland Baptist University in 2005, after serving in the positions of Associate Director and Scholarship Coordinator. Prior to joining WBU, Karen served for six years in financial aid at New Mexico State University. She has served two years on the ICUT Peer Review Program and two terms as an Advisory Board member for Texas Guaranteed.</p>
<p>Bridget Jans Executive Director, Scholarships and Financial Aid University of Houston Email: Bajans@central.uh.edu Term: 12/1/2017 – 11/30/2019 Bridget has a resume of experience and education that is both diverse and distinct. She has her juris doctorate which translates into an understanding and knowledge of legal issues. During the course of her career, she has worked as a National Account Manager for Sallie Mae and as an Institutional Review Specialist for the United States Department of Education.</p>	<p>Tam Nguyen Financial Aid Counselor University of North Texas Health Science Center Email: tam.nguyen@unthsc.edu Term: 12/01/2018-11/30/2021 Tam has a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the University of Texas at Arlington. She has four years of experience working in the financial aid industry. Her current and former positions include undergraduate and graduate institutions in the state sector. For the last three years she has worked at the University of Texas at Arlington as a Financial Aid Counselor. Tam is currently UNT HSC's scholarship coordinator.</p>
<p>Ed Kerestly Director of Financial Aid Angelo State University Email: ed.kerestly@angelo.edu Term: 12/01/2018-11/30/2021 Over the past eight years, Ed has worked as Director of Financial Aid at both public and private universities in Texas.</p>	<p>Alan Pixley Director of Financial Aid and Veteran's Services Collin College Email: apixley@collin.edu Term: 11/01/2016 – 11/30/2019 Alan has 27 years of experience in higher education, including an extensive background in business office operations. For the past ten years, he served as Director of Financial Aid at the university and community college level. Alan is passionate about helping students and sees the 'big picture' of higher education. He has worked to reduce barriers for students and to improve financial aid processing for students, while maintaining a strong sense of accountability and transparency. Alan has been actively involved in the Arkansas and Texas state financial aid associations and received a leadership award from the regional financial aid association.</p>

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Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

<p>Dr. Terry Sheneman Coordinator of College Readiness and Success Fort Bend ISD Email: terry.sheneman@fortbendis.com Term: 12/1/2017 – 11/30/2020 Terry has been working closely with students and financial aid for the past 9 years. Since 2013, he has worked as a College and Career Counselor at Hendrickson High School, Pflugerville ISD, where he assists students and families with completing their FAFSA and scholarship applications. He also collaborated with the Austin Chamber of Commerce to hold FAFSA Saturdays for students and parents. For the past 4 years, Terry has served as the Coordinator of College and Career Readiness for Fort Bend ISD where he oversees the College and Career Readiness Advisors, Financial Aid, and Scholarships for the district.</p>	<p>Samantha Stalnaker District Director of Student Financial Aid Services Tarrant County College Email: samantha.stalnaker@tccd.edu Term: 12/1/2017 – 11/30/2020 Samantha has been in financial aid for over 22 years and has spent the last 14 years at Tarrant County College working directly with state financial aid programs. As the District Director of Student Financial Aid Services, she provides district-wide leadership for the Financial Aid Department. She is responsible for compliance with all federal and state financial aid regulations.</p>
<p>Kelly Steelman Director of Financial Aid Amarillo College Email: k0151162@actx.edu Term: 12/01/2018-11/30/2021 Kelly serves as Director of Financial Aid at Amarillo College</p>	<p>Dr. Christine Stuart-Carruthers VP for Student Development/Chief Enrollment Service Officer Texas State Technical College Email: Christine.Stuart-Carruthers@tstc.edu Term: 12/1/2017 – 11/30/2020 Christine has worked in higher education for 16 years and has spent the last five in Enrollment Services at Texas State Technical College. Currently, Christine oversees Financial Aid, Admissions & Records, Testing & Advisement, and New Student Outreach at all ten locations. She works with all areas related to enrollment and provides guidance on how policy changes will affect financial aid.</p>
<p>Kara Tappendorf Pflugerville ISD Representative Hendrickson High School Email: kara.tappendorf@pfisd.net Term: 01/26/2017 – 11/30/2019 Kara has served as a high school counselor for 10 years. In her current position as Transition Counselor, she works closely with students and families to finalize college, financial aid, and scholarship applications.</p>	<p>Denise Welch Director, Financial Aid Panola College Email: dwelch@panola.edu Term: 12/01/2018-11/30/2021 Denise has served as Director of Financial Aid at Panola College for more than ten years.</p>

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Brent Williford

Dean Financial Aid and Scholarships
Blinn College

Email: brent.williford@blinn.edu

Term end: 12/1/2017 – 11/30/2020

Mr. Williford has over 19 years in financial aid management positions, working in all aspects of financial aid at Blinn College, Lamar University, and Texas A&M. Over the last 8 years, he was a lead in implementing Banner at Lamar University, over hauling the processing at the Texas A&M Veteran Services Office in College Station, and making significant processing changes at Blinn College. Additionally, he served on the Texas Educational Opportunity Grant Program Negotiated Rule Making Committee in July 2015. Brent continues to work on behalf of his students, providing good customer service while maintaining strict compliance with state and federal laws and regulations.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Marilyn Abedrabbo

Collin County Community College District

Email: mabedrabbo1@coll

Term: Term: 06/01/2018 – 05/31/2020

Marilyn Abedrabbo plans to earn an associate degree and transfer to the University of North Texas to earn a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary education. Ultimately, she hopes to teach and work for a nonprofit organization. President of the college's Muslim Student Organization, she was named to the dean's list in 2017.

Johnathan A. Cereceres

University of Texas at El Paso

Email: jacereceres@miners.utep.edu

Term: 06/01/2018 – 05/31/2020

Jonathan attends the University of Texas at El Paso and plans to graduate in May 2019. As the Financial Aid Advisory Committee's Student Representative, he is most concerned with the retention and completion of higher education for first generation students. Johnathan feels that first generation students are less likely to attend a four-year institution and yet more likely to drop out before completing their degree program. Johnathan believes that first generation students must also adjust to breaking the "intergenerational continuity" in which the knowledge and customs passed down from previous generations must be reconfigured to encourage access to higher education, and with the proper support and resources will assist students in becoming successful members of our communities.

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THECB REPRESENTATIVE

Charles W. Puls

Deputy Assistant Commissioner

Phone: (512) 427-6365

Email: Charles.Puls@thecb.state.tx.us

Charles currently serves as the Deputy Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Student Financial Aid Programs at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The Office of Student Financial Aid Programs was formed in 2015 to bring a greater degree of coordination to the state's financial aid programs (grants, scholarships, loan repayment, work-study, loans, exemptions, waivers, etc.) and is built around the needs of its two primary customers: institutions and borrowers. Prior to arriving at the Coordinating Board, Charles spent 24 years as a financial aid administrator, working at institutions such as Boston College, University of Massachusetts Boston, Dartmouth College, and Indiana University Bloomington. Most recently he spent 10 years as the Associate Dean of College Enrollment and Director of Financial Aid at the University of Rochester.