



2012-2013 CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Justin Doty, Trinity University



What experiences have you had in TACAC?

Throughout the last twelve years, I have been able to serve on the TACAC Executive Committee for half of this time. I have served on various committees the most rewarding experiences was serving as Co-Chair for the Local Arrangements Committee during the 2007 Austin NACAC Conference. I also had the privilege of representing TACAC as a delegate to the national assembly for a three-year term. A final highlight was serving as Co-Chair for the NACAC Austin College Fair for two years.

What are your goals for this position?

I have a number of goals for our organization and feel we can work towards achieving them over the next few years. I would like to see further engagement of new and experienced colleagues in our profession. I feel it is the responsibility of TACAC leaders to discover untapped talent at both secondary and post-secondary institutions in our state. It would be my goal to begin engaging these individuals in hopes that they can make a deeper impact on our association. In this climate of economic uncertainty and budget constraints, another goal would be to think creatively about how we can continue to grow our membership among counselors at public secondary schools. Finally, with our membership and resources, I feel TACAC is poised to emerge as a true leader among other state and regional associations. Thus, a final goal is, as a collective entity, to think boldly and creatively about being a 21st century educational organization. I would encourage our executive team and general membership to be innovative, thinking beyond our traditional boundaries about our programming, services offered and conferences.

What does TACAC mean to you?

TACAC has proven to be my most meaningful and fulfilling professional development outlet for me. This organization is filled with talented people who are passionate about the work we do and the students we serve. I have been extremely fortunate to constantly be surrounded by professionals who serve as my mentors, teammates and friends. Since I entered the world of college admissions, there have been numerous TACAC members who encouraged me to get more involved in the organization instead of being a spectator. Once I began serving on various committees, collaborating with other members and feeling satisfaction of moving our organization forward, I knew this was something special. Throughout my experiences, I have met so many incredible people which have opened very rewarding personal and professional doors. I am truly proud to be part of such a strong and vibrant state organization.

TREASURER

Jana Hancock, Plano East High School

What experiences have you had in TACAC?

- Conference Attendee 2003, 2009, 2010, 2011
- Conference Presenter 2010
- Leadership Development Institute 2008, 2010
- NACAC Attendee 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011
- 2011 Conference Planning Committee, Service Committee Co-Chair
- 2011 NACAC D/FW College Fair Volunteer

What does TACAC mean to you?

At first glance, TACAC is an organization that provides outstanding professional development and networking opportunities. I have found that our organization is so much more. We are made of many very talented, capable people who are so enthusiastic about our profession. It has truly been a joy to interact with others that are so passionate about inspiring our students to continue their education beyond high school and breaking down any barriers that might stand in their way. The collaboration between secondary and post-secondary professionals is crucial to facilitating this process and Texas ACAC is the perfect vehicle to facilitate those very important conversations. The members and leadership of our organization are so welcoming and have contributed so much to my own professional development. I am always energized and inspired after a conference or workshop. I would be so honored to represent my secondary education colleagues as we work together to serve our students.



What are your goals for this position?

My goal as Treasurer of TACAC would be to continue the excellent work that has been done with managing our official financial records and to provide the membership with clear and accurate reports regarding our financial condition. I would like to be fully involved at the state level and welcome the opportunity to learn more about this wonderful organization at both the state and national levels in order to support professionals in our field for the benefit of all Texas students.



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE ADMISSIONS COUNSELING



Winter 2011-2012

2012-2013 CANDIDATE STATEMENTS (*cont'd*)

NACAC DELEGATES

NACAC Assembly Delegate Candidates



Christian Backstrom

University of Houston
Houston, TX

How have you been involved in Texas ACAC?

I have been a member of TACAC for four wonderful years. In those years I have attended the annual TACAC conferences, LDJ, and the NACAC annual conference. These last two years, I have been co-chair of the Houston NACAC fair and have been on the TACAC Executive Board. This appointment has given me an unparalleled opportunity to work with amazing admissions professionals in planning, marketing, organizing, and executing a top-notch national college fair in Houston.

What are your goals for this position?

Through my involvement in the Houston NACAC fair, I have had the privilege to work with the NACAC staff in Arlington, VA. As a NACAC delegate, I hope to continue this relationship for the betterment of the Texas ACAC.

What does Texas ACAC mean to you?

During my first few years as an Admissions Counselor, the professional development that the TACAC annual conferences gave me was invaluable. The networking experiences that were facilitated through TACAC also allowed me to hone my craft by giving me a solid core of seasoned professionals that could help me out with my questions regarding my new career. Now as an Assistant Director, I am able to be that seasoned professional for my fellow TACAC members. I am also able to share best practices with my colleagues to improve admissions processes on our campuses. TACAC has been a wonderful association to be a part of, and I look forward to continue serving it and its members in the future.



NaTaria Muse

Texas A&M University -
Houston Prospective Student
Center
Houston, TX

How have you been involved in Texas ACAC?

I have been a part of the TACAC family since attending my first Leadership and Development Institute at the beginning of my career in 2006. After attending the two day institute I was hooked and wanted to become involved in this great organization. Over the last six years I have held the following positions: Human Relations Committee Member (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011), Fellows Program Coordinator (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011), Summer Institute Participant (2006), Conference Planning Committee Member (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011), Leadership Development Institute Participant (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011) Community Service Project Co- Chair (2010), and conference presenter (2009, 2010). Through TACAC I had the opportunity to volunteer with the National ACAC during the 2007 annual conference where I assisted with planning the "Alamo City" bus tour for high school counselors.

What are your goals for this position?

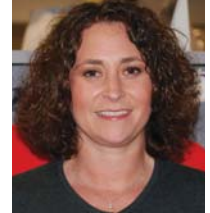
I will strive to maintain a clear and concise line of communication that will keep the membership abreast of all issues and proposals within the National ACAC which will assist in better serving the students of Texas. As your delegate I feel it is important to be a strong representative for TACAC to the National ACAC ensuring that the concerns of the membership is heard and taken into consideration. My goals for this position will benefit Texas ACAC and the National ACAC at the same time.

What does Texas ACAC mean to you?

Texas ACAC has given me the chance to be a part of something that is greater than me. This is an entire organization of amazing professionals that share the same passion as I do which is helping students obtain a higher education that will enhance their way of life. The Texas ACAC has played a tremendous role in developing me into the professional that I am today. Texas ACAC is much more than a professional organization to me, it is a family. I am honored to have the opportunity to represent the greatest ACAC as your NACAC delegate.

Dara Newton

University of Texas at Arlington
Arlington, TX



How have you been involved in Texas ACAC?

I have been a member of TACAC since 1995, attended numerous conferences, and served on several committees throughout my time with TACAC. My most recent involvement is serving as one of the Co-Chairs for the Dallas/Fort Worth NACAC College Fair, new to the NACAC Fairs in Spring 2011. It has been a wonderful experience to work with such a committed group both from TACAC and NACAC to accomplish adding this fair to the schedule.

What are your goals for this position?

Representing TACAC as an Assembly Delegate for NACAC would allow me to ensure that Texas ACAC is represented at the national conference and ensure that members of TACAC are up-to-date on concerns, issues and accomplishments that NACAC brings to the fore-front. This would not only allow me to grow professionally, but truly allow me to give back to the organization. It is extremely important as professionals in education that we remain knowledgeable of trends, challenges and changes that will ultimately affect the students we all seek to encourage to pursue a degree in higher education.

What does Texas ACAC mean to you?

TACAC was my first professional conference in 1995 and has been a part of my professional life ever since. TACAC has given me the opportunity to grow professionally by providing a venue in which I could and still can learn from college counseling professionals both at the secondary and post-secondary level. It allowed me to meet individuals that I respect and consider mentors and has provided me the ability to mentor others as I have grown in the profession. TACAC can be a conference that you attended or it can be a conference that allows you and the institution you represent to grow and flourish. I am proud to be a member of an organization that encourages all members to get involved early in one's career and allows individuals, no matter what stage in their career to give back.



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE ADMISSIONS COUNSELING



2012-2013 CANDIDATE STATEMENTS (cont'd)

NACAC DELEGATES

NACAC Assembly Delegate Candidates



Sarah Mabry

**Del Valle High School
Del Valle, TX**

How have you been involved in Texas ACAC?

My experiences in TACAC have prepared me to serve as a delegate who can not only "talk the talk" but also "walk the walk." My tour of duty in TACAC includes a Former Fellow, a delegate to the 2008 NACAC Legislative Conference in D.C., former Co-Chair of the TACAC Government Relations Committee, TACAC Executive Committee Member, TACAC Delegate to NACAC Conference 2011, Austin NACAC College Fair Committee and Volunteer, IMAGINE FUND personal contributor, IMAGINE FUND recipient for Del Valle High School's G-Force Retreat and Training, TACAC Raffle contributor, and recipient of KPrep award winner at the 2011 TACAC conference. I have attended LDI Trainings. I am a CONNECTOR. TACAC's investment in my experience, skills, and commitment is an investment in the advancement of American children's opportunities for higher educational opportunities. As a former TCA Senator for Bluebonnet Counseling Association, Government Relations Chair for TSCA, Advisor to Del Valle High School's G-Force whose membership in NCAN (National College Access Network) has supported Del Valle High School's catapult to success and creation of a college-going culture.

What are your goals for this position?

Representing TACAC as a delegate to NACAC would not only be an honor but also serve as a platform to advocate for TACAC's national leadership role on the NACAC Board. Texas is the fourth largest economy in the world and houses opportunities for higher education that attract students throughout the planet. Having a strong Texas leadership team at NACAC will bring the voice of common sense and "can do" to our national leadership. The importance of sound policies and activism for promoting the advancement of higher education through NACAC leadership is foremost.

What does Texas ACAC mean to you?

Empowerment! My greatest challenge as a high school college and career counselor has been to empower my students to succeed. TACAC has been my support and inspiration to create an environment that promotes student empowerment. A disconnect between students considered to be college bound and those who are not groomed for higher education and training existed at Del Valle High School. My work has been to close that gap and dispel the notion of "college is not an option for me." Peer support from fellow TACAC members, professional and personal resources from TACAC and opportunities for professional growth have supported my mission at Del Valle High School.

Angelica Melendez

**Lytle High School
Lytle, TX**



How have you been involved in Texas ACAC?

I began with TACAC in 2001 while at Texas A&M University as an admissions counselor. In the years that have followed, I remained involved as professional development co-chair, reviving the counselor drive-ins, served as Secretary for the organization. Currently, I am serving as conference coordinator.

What are your goals for this position?

I would like to represent the mission of Texas ACAC on the national level while participating on local committees. I would like to see my participation grow within the organization in other committees. Finally, I would look for new programming for our professionals year-round.

What does Texas ACAC mean to you?

Texas ACAC has been an integral part in my professional development. I have found my mentors and have been able to build new professional and personal relationships.

Greg Rico

**Highland Park School
Dallas, TX**



How have you been involved in Texas ACAC?

I have had many enjoyable experiences and chances to serve TACAC. I have served on several committee such as: Conference Planning Committee (twice on this committee), First Timers Committee, Social Committee (5 different times and was chair twice), High School Plus Committee (Co-Chair), and Secretary to the Executive Board.

What are your goals for this position?

My goals for the delegate position are to bring forth concerns enumerated by TACAC to the National Association for College Admissions while representing our association in a professional manner. In addition, I am looking forward to ensuring that past concerns delivered to the National organization remain highlighted until the concern has been addressed as well as being an effective communicator airing concerns that effect Texas High School Texas student in regards to equal access to Higher Education.

What does Texas ACAC mean to you?

I would say that TACAC means everything to me, which is why I drop everything when I am asked to step in to help! It holds a special place in my heart both the organization and its people. From the very beginning, TACAC has place where I can learn from my peers, share with my peers information about college admissions. It has provided me a place to use my knowledge as well as network with others who face the same trial and tribulations as I do. It has afforded me an environment to grow professionally and personally. I know I owe a great deal of my success as a counselor from being part of this organization, for which I will always be thankful.