



**Proud!**  
PROFESSION + VOICE + UNION

# Texas AFT Convention

EL PASO, TX - JUNE 16-18, 2017



## PRIDE OF THE PROFESSION

### PROFESSIONAL ISSUES DAY @ TEXAS AFT CONVENTION

**SATURDAY, JUNE 17 // 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

#### **EL PASO CONVENTION CENTER**

1 Civic Center Plaza  
El Paso, TX 79901

#### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CREDIT!**

Access high quality research-based programs and earn professional development credit. Workshops provided for PreK-12 educators, classroom and professional support professionals, and higher education faculty.

**REGISTER TODAY!** Attend our incredible day of professional learning.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** Randi Weingarten, national president of the 1.6 million-member American Federation of Teachers (AFT).

#### **DETAILS FOR JUNE 17**

7:00 a.m.	Registration Opens
8:30 a.m.	General Session
10:30 a.m.	Workshop Session I
12:00 p.m.	Luncheon & Keynote
1:45 p.m.	Workshop Session II
3:30 p.m.	Workshop Session III
5:00 p.m.	Day Concludes

#### **PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE**

- 2 General Sessions & Keynote
- Choice of 3 Workshops
- Ticket to "Pride of the Union" Awards Luncheon
- Professional Development Credit

#### **COST TO ATTEND**

\$40 payment is required to attend our Professional Issues Day. Payment instructions are found online.

REGISTER TODAY ONLINE TO ATTEND // DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS JUNE 2 // CLASSES WILL FILL QUICKLY

**[www.TexasAFT.org/convention](http://www.TexasAFT.org/convention)**



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TEXAS AFT CONVENTION - JUNE 17, 2017 - EL PASO CONVENTION CENTER

**7:00 a.m.** - Registration Opens & Vendor Fair

**8:30 a.m.** - General Session: Community Schools

**12:00 p.m.** - Pride of the Union Luncheon / Randi Weingarten, AFT National President Keynote Speaker

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	1:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.
<p><b>Creating a Cultural Consciousness</b> Kimberly McLeod, Harris County Department of Education</p>	<p><b>Communicating the Union Message</b> Julie Washington, AFT</p>	<p><b>Parent and Teacher Collaboration: Key to ELL Student Success</b> Glenda Macal, FBAFT</p>
<p><b>First Book Campaign - How to Bring Together the Union, Community and School District</b> Zoltan Csaplár, AFT and Umesh Pakalapati, Texas AFT-AMP</p>	<p><b>Transgender Kids: What Educators Need to Know</b> Aurolyn Luykx, Associate Professor of Anthropology (UTEP)</p>	<p><b>PFLAG Safe Schools on Bullying</b> Grace Perez, PFLAG El Paso</p>
<p><b>Protecting Our Students and their Families from the Threat of Deportation</b> Cesar Moreno Perez, AFT Linda Rivas, Executive Director and Managing Attorney, Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center</p>	<p><b>Is Your Classroom L.I.T? (Leadership/Innovation/Transitions) Strategies for Impeccable Classroom Management</b> Shareefa Mason, Dallas Alliance</p>	<p><b>Bridging the Divide: How Core Subjects Can All Benefit From Cross-Curricular Planning</b> Monique Boone, Northeast Houston AFT</p>
<p><b>All Hands on DECK (Data, Engagement, Culture, Kinship)</b> Shareefah Mason, Dallas Alliance</p>	<p><b>It's Our Craft! Collecting Evidence for Evaluations</b> Xavier Lewis, Northeast Houston AFT</p>	<p><b>Supporting Grieving Students</b> Chelsea Prax, AFT</p>
<p><b>Member Benefits</b> Amanda Hart, Texas AFT Mary Pascale, AFT</p>	<p><b>Managing Student Behaviors for Support Personnel</b> Leonard Evans, AFT PSRP</p>	<p><b>Workplace Bullying and Stress</b> Leonard Evans, AFT PSRP</p>
<p><b>Language Variation among Native English Speakers: Pedagogical Issues</b> Aurolyn Luykx, Associate Professor of Anthropology (UTEP)</p>	<p><b>Media, Unions and Education</b> Robert Moore, El Paso Times</p>	<p><b>Special Education: Laws, Rules and Educator Responsibilities</b> Tiji Smith, El Paso Federation of Teachers</p>



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### **All Hands on DECK (Data, Engagement, Culture, Kinship)**

**Shareefah Mason, Dallas Alliance**

All Hands on D.E.C.K. (Data, Engagement, Culture, Kinship) is a dynamic, interactive workshop that delves into 4 essential components that create success for teachers in ALL classrooms. Participants will engage in collaborative discussions and activities that will enhance their educational toolkits by providing innovative strategies and techniques that can be immediately implemented in their classrooms to foster success and create a diverse educational milieu that perpetuates student academic achievement and teacher efficacy. Mindsets will be revitalized by the applicable concepts used to enhance participants' abilities to inspire growth in students and teachers on their campuses. Takeaways and templates will be available! **(CPE Credit)**

### **Bridging the Divide: How Core Subjects Can All Benefit From Cross-Curricular Planning**

**Monique Boone, NE Houston AFT**

Through cross-curricular planning and teaching, balanced literacy, and connecting Social Studies and History, students will develop a stronger understanding of STEM components. Connecting these dots, we will explore hands-on strategies and practices to increase comprehension, research, vocabulary, and writing in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. **(CPE Credit)**

### **Workplace Bullying and Stress**

**Leonard Evans, AFT PSRP**

School support and college support staff are "survivors" of downsizing, reorganizing and restructuring; they have seen their job responsibilities grow while their control has been diminished. The health impact of this kind of work environment is beginning to show that work-related stress cannot be managed by the individual; it takes real changes in the workplace to reduce that stress. Workplace bullying is quite simply an abuse of power that intimidates, degrades and offends a person, often in front of others. This session will discuss a union approach to reducing stress and look at bullying of staff in schools and colleges. It will provide strategies for protecting the bullied while ending their culture of bullying. **(CPE Credit)**

### **Communicating the Union Message**

**Julie Washington, AFT**

Speaking to school boards, politicians and district administration is not a job for elected leaders only. This session will focus on helping every member be prepared to speak. We will use videos, group activities as well as practicing presentations and conversations.



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### **Creating a Cultural Consciousness**

**Kimberly McLeod, Harris County Department of Education**

When school districts, principals and teachers are empowered with the tools they need to create culturally responsive classrooms, an awakening occurs. They are able to support in creating healthy humans who happen to teach, learn and engage with each other. Creating culturally responsive learning environments is about achieving true academic potential for both the teacher and the student through the teaching and learning process. Achieving academic excellence is not purely an intellectual process, it is a process that examines values, beliefs, behaviors and how they interact to influence the culture of learning and achievement. Schools that are culturally unconscious and unresponsive will be plagued with academic teaching and learning gaps. Explore powerful strategies and changing perspectives for faculties preparing to instructionally align the campus learning environment with a culture of practices and beliefs that enhance and accelerate positive academic outcomes serving to empower the shared teaching and learning space. **(CPE Credit)**

### **First Book Campaign - How to Bring Together the Union, Community and District**

**Zoltan Csapler, AFT and Umesh Pakalapati, Texas AFT**

There are key steps to having a successful first book campaign. Come learn the steps to having a successful First Book campaign to get free books into the hands of students in your area.

### **Is Your Classroom L.I.T? (Leadership/Innovation/Transitions) Strategies for Impeccable Classroom Management**

**Shareefa Mason, Dallas Alliance**

Participants will be engaged in an interactive workshop that delves into the creation of systems that promote healthy classroom management in schools wherein behavior disruptions threaten student achievement and teacher efficacy. This presentation strategically explores historical challenges and viable solutions that will enhance the educational toolkit of ALL teachers from novice to veteran. **(CPE Credit)**

### **Language Variation among Native English Speakers: Pedagogical Issues**

**Aurolyn Luykx, Associate Professor of Anthropology (UTEP)**

Although issues around ELLs and bilingualism have received much-needed attention in Texas education circles, language variation among monolingual English-speaking populations can also have a significant impact on children's school experience and the effectiveness of classroom instruction. This presentation will provide essential background on the nature of linguistic variation in English, pedagogical and curricular issues arising from such variation, and how teachers' responses to students' non-standard English can either deepen or impede their engagement with curricular content. **(CPE Credit)**



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### **Managing Student Behaviors for Support Personnel**

**Leonard Evans, AFT PSRP**

Disruptive or negative behavior can occur in many school settings including the playground, cafeteria, hallways, bus stops and front office. If you are responsible for students in any of these areas, join this session to learn about student misbehavior and the importance of prevention and early intervention strategies. **(CPE Credit)**

### **Media, Unions and Education**

**Robert Moore, El Paso Times**

Education unions play a key role in developing and implementing education policy, particularly at the local level. Union leaders often feel their work goes unrecognized by the media. El Paso Times editor Robert Moore, a 33-year veteran of community journalism, will lead a conversation on how the media can work better to explain the role of education unions.

### **Member Benefits**

**Amanda Hart, Texas AFT and Mary Pascale, AFT**

AFT + Member Benefit programs open the door to services, advice and discounts that add value to Texas AFT membership. We offer reputable financial advice, insurance to protect your family, loans to consolidate debt, mortgages with special features for members and their families, even a grocery shopping app that helps you eat better and save money. In crazy times, the AFT + programs give you an opportunity to share good news with members! Mary Pascale from AFT + Member Benefits and Amanda Hart from Texas AFT will lead this lively, interactive workshop.

### **Parent and Teacher Collaboration: Key to ELL Student Success**

**Glenda Macal, Fort Bend AFT**

The rapidly changing tapestry of our classroom adds new urgency to the longstanding question of how to enhance parental engagement. Tackling this issue requires both expanded understandings of what engagement entails and the incorporation into our schools of systematic, research-based strategies for supporting parental involvement. Several types of levels of parental involvement can vary among families of different backgrounds. Incorporating parental involvement at any level of education fosters support of the relationships between home and school especially for ELLs and refugee/unaccompanied children—many of whom experience a “disconnect” with this process. Parent involvement is particularly beneficial in the educational success of ELLs and refugee/unaccompanied children. The presenter will share tools to create/sustain partnerships that enhance Parental/Family Involvement at schools. Stakeholders work together to ensure quality, oversight, and impact from their family engagement efforts for ELLs and refugee/Unaccompanied children. **(CPE Credit)**



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### **PFLAG Safe Schools on Bullying**

**Grace Perez, PFLAG El Paso**

PFLAG Safe Schools works directly with schools to provide support, resources, training and creative programs to create an environment of respect and support learning environments that help all students find educational success. PFLAG Safe Schools exists to protect all students, especially in the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender and Queer) community. Studies show that the top reasons for harassment and bullying in schools revolve around perceived sexual orientation, appearance and gender expression. By offering training to school faculty and staff on LGBTQ issues that includes understanding relevant terminology, participants engage in activities that allow them to explore their own privilege and knowledge of LGBTQ issues, and how they can provide support and understanding to their LGBTQ peers. **(CPE Credit)**

### **Protecting Our Students and their Families from the Threat of Deportation**

**Cesar Moreno Perez, AFT**

**Linda Rivas, Executive Director and Managing Attorney, Las Americas  
Immigrant Advocacy Center**

Educators and institutions play a critical role in helping to create learning environments free from the threat of deportation, racism, bullying and hate. As immigration raids across the country terrorize communities, we need to be ready to defend the rights of our students and their families, and to protect those with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status and others on our campuses and in our communities from the threat of deportation. The AFT and its partners across the country are on the front-lines fighting to keep families and communities together. Join us for a candid conversation about immigration, ICE raids and the changing Texas landscape. Learn about the tools and resources available to educators, school support staff and community partners to help undocumented students fight back against the attacks, defend DACA, help communities prepare for an immigration customs and enforcement (ICE) raid and advocate for policies that put the safety and wellbeing of all Texas children first.

### **Special Education: Laws, Rules and Educator Responsibilities**

**Tiyi Smith, El Paso Federation of Teachers**

Special Education is a major component in the public education system. As educators it is important that we are aware of the laws and policies that govern special education and how those laws are interpreted by the Texas Education Agency and how they are implemented by the local education agency. Ignorance of law or failure to provide services can ultimately lead to due process and possibly lawsuits for which educators can be held personally responsible. The most effective way to prevent due process and litigation is to be informed. The purpose of this presentation is to inform and to provide useful resources that can assist educator awareness in the area of special education. **(CPE Credit)**



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### **Supporting Grieving Students**

**Chelsea Prax, AFT**

Loss has a profound impact on a child's social, emotional and academic life. Childhood grief is extremely common; 9 in 10 children lose someone close to them by the end of high school. Adults' skillful and informed response can serve as a vital source of support and stability. With training, all school personnel can model and share critical messages about healthy grieving. With activities, lecture and discussion, this workshop walks school personnel through key things to say and not say to both students and colleagues to provide support in difficult moments and over time. **(CPE Credit)**

### **Transgender Kids: What Educators Need to Know**

**Aurolyn Luykx, Associate Professor of Anthropology (UTEP)**

Participants will learn about the phenomenon of transgenderism -- what it is, how much is known about its causes, and how it relates to other related but distinct phenomena such as (biological) intersexuality and sexual orientation. Participants will have the opportunity to share questions and experiences about transgenderism and Gender Identity Disorder, which is increasingly being diagnosed among children as young as 5 years old. They will also learn how some EPISD schools have addressed issues around safety and privacy of students, as well as legislation (such as so-called "bathroom bills") that may affect school operations. **(CPE Credit)**

### **T-TESS Evidence**

**Xavier Lewis, NE Houston AFT**

Join the Chunky Professor in this engaging workshop as we collaborate on collecting evidence for our evaluations. Appraisers do not always see the wonderful things educators do during the school year, so we will look at ways of collecting artifacts as evidence and how to use it to our advantage. In this training, we will discuss finding evidence for planning, instruction, the learning environment, and professional practices and responsibilities. **(CPE Credit)**

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