



The Texas School Psychologist
A partner on the path to student success

Texas Association of School Psychologists

www.txasp.org

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President's Message

Dana Goins, President



Strategic planning was the focus of the TASP Board at the August meeting. TASP has made good progress on the previous goals (does that sound like an ARD?), but it's time to look toward the future. The process has begun, but will be ongoing and will likely carry over until next year.

Six core elements are essential to any successful strategic plan. The six core elements are as follows:

VISION STATEMENT

A Vision Statement:

- Defines the optimal desired future state - the mental picture - of what an organization wants to achieve over time;
 - Provides guidance and inspiration as to what an organization is focused on achieving in five, ten, or more years;
 - Functions as the "north star" - it is what all employees understand their work every day ultimately contributes towards accomplishing over the long term; and,
- Is written succinctly in an inspirational manner that makes it easy for all members to repeat it at any given time.

TASPs new vision statement is:

“A partner on the path to student success in school, at home and throughout life.”

MISSION STATEMENT

A clear Vision and Mission statement can:

- Strengthen culture through a unified sense of purpose;
- Improve decision-making with clarity about "big picture."

A Mission statement:

- Defines the present state or purpose of an organization;
- Answers three questions about why an organization exists -

Join us in San Antonio for the 2013 TASP Annual Professional Development Conference!

TASP Annual Professional Development Conference 2013. The 2013 TASP Professional Development Conference will be held October 10-12 in San Antonio at the Omni Colonnade.

I am proud to announce that we have a great lineup for you this October. For the preconference, we will have a PREPaRE session with curriculum developed by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) with a special emphasis on crisis prevention and preparedness. Another preconference session will focus on fostering self-regulation skills through Conscious Discipline [®] Author and Lawyer Jim Walsh will be our keynote speaker. For the rest of the conference, you can look forward to the following topics: English language learners and concerns with early childhood and evaluations, legislative update, cross-battery assessment, understanding and managing challenging behaviors, developing adequate counseling goals and objectives, ethics, problem solving consultation, developing NASP portfolio.

In addition, the TASP conference is a great chance for Texas school psychologists to get together to network, renew relationships and re-kindle passion for the profession. More information will be posted on our website, but here are a few names to help get you excited about the conference: Dawn Flanagan, Sam Ortiz, and Donna Black. TASP will be celebrating our 20th annual conference this year by honoring individuals who have made an impact throughout organization at the connections luncheon. I can't wait to see you all at the conference in October! Please visit our website for more conference information: www.txasp.org

Jessica Costine, Conference Chair

Thinking of changing jobs during the school year or during the summer? Read the GPR article on page for a new TSBEP rule regarding when LSSPs can resign from their position

The 1st Annual TASP Summer Institute was a SUCCESS!

In June, TASP hosted a two day event in Corpus Christi. It was an opportunity for over 100 attendees to get up to 9 hours of CEUs with great speakers and relevant topics. Many brought their families and took the opportunity to make it a beach vacation. The setting was casual and the feedback from those who attended was overwhelmingly positive.

Look for details soon about the 2014 Summer Institute. We loved Corpus Christi so much we are going back next Summer!



Workshops were interactive, making the atmosphere even more relaxed.



John Reynolds presented on Effective and Informative Functional Behavioral Assessments



**See you
next
summer!**





Treasurer's Report:
January 1 – August 7, 2013

Revenue	
Convention	31,159.31
Interest Income	71.96
Membership	7,000.00
Miscellaneous Income	37.39
Total Revenue	38,268.66
Expenses	
Professional & Service	19,505.78
Operating Expenses	14,322.77
Travel	14,273.95
Scholarship	300.00
Total Miscellaneous	1041.00
Total Expenses	49,453.50



Jennifer Langley, Treasurer

TASP SPOTLIGHT: SCHOOL DISTRICT- By Lisa Daniel, PhD, LSSP¹

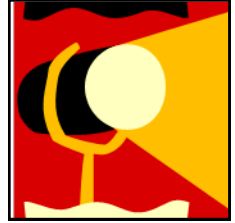
Denton Independent School District (DISD) is the district selected for the TASP spotlight on a district. DISD is a district reported to be committed to providing quality education to students and was founded in 1882. DISD is located 25 miles north of Dallas and Fort Worth, encompasses 180 square miles, contains all or parts of 16 cities, communities or major developments. Denton ISD has three high schools, seven middle schools, 21 elementary schools, two early childhood centers, an alternative high school, an advanced technology complex and other specialized schools and centers. The school serves a little less than 26,000 students. Denton ISD's mission statement is: empowering lifelong learners to be engaged citizens who positively impact their local and global community.

The mission statement for the Department of Special Education Services is reported to be to actively respond to the needs of students with disabilities and their families by providing supports that will encourage and foster empowerment, independence, and inclusiveness in all aspects of the educational experience in school and beyond. The Special Education Department at Denton ISD is led by Ms. Debbie G. Gonzales-Roybal, Executive Director, and the Psychological Services delivered at Denton ISD are supervised by Dr. Rebecca Julius who is a LSSP and LP. Denton ISD psychological services include family counseling and many additional supports. Denton ISD is known for providing excellent psychological services to students and families as well as providing assistance to teachers, administrators, other staff and to the campuses that comprise the district. Very noteworthy appears to be that Denton ISD meets NASP standards in regards to LSSP to student ratio. Additionally the district employs many educational diagnosticians and other support and assessment staff as well. Denton ISD strives to provide students and their families needed supports in order to ensure that students become educated and effective community members. The Denton ISD Special Education Services Department and the staff of LSSPs and other providers who assist in this process go above and beyond to support students. Therefore on behalf of LSSPs, I salute Denton ISD with a big WAY TO GO!!!

¹ Source of information from Denton ISD Website; 9-1-13: <http://www.dentonisd.org/Page/1>

Spotlight on a LSSP

TASP President-Elect, Kelly Anderson



Where did you attend college, both undergraduate and graduate school?

Received my BA from the University of Texas at Austin

Received my MA from Texas State University

Currently Attending Texas A&M University doctoral program in School Psychology

How long have you been a LSSP?

Seven Years

What district do you work for/ have you worked for?

Practicum experience: Bastrop ISD

Intern Experience: Lubbock ISD

Georgetown ISD

Killeen ISD

Belton ISD



What is your favorite part about being a LSSP?

The ability to make a difference in the educational success of students; whether that occur through evaluations, counseling, or collaboration with educators.

In what capacities have you served on the TASP Executive Board?

Graduate Student Representative

Government and Professional Relations Chairperson

President Elect

What would your magical LSSP superpower be?

Ability to stop time.....there never seems to be enough time to complete the important tasks that we LSSPs are tasked to do in our profession.

What is one thing you would change about the profession?

I don't think there is anything that I particularly want to change about our profession....I want to continue to make the profession better. I would like to have more resources available to LSSPs and I want to provide legislators, parents, and educators a clearer understanding of our profession.

Why do you enjoy being a LSSP?

I enjoy collaborating with professionals across the state and nation regarding the current issues or concerns that relate to our profession.

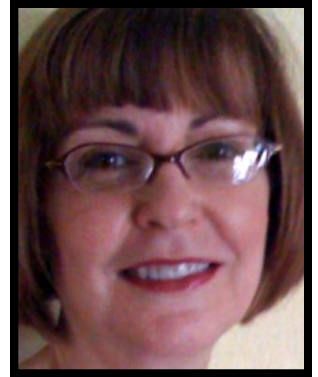
Tell us about your family, including any pets.

My husband and I have been married for seven years; however we have been together since high school. We have a dog named Cayenne who is nine years old. We are expecting our first child on September 29th.

What is your favorite food?

I don't have a favorite. I enjoy eating a variety of foods and trying new things. You could call me foodie ;)

Membership News



Well, school has started back and things are ramping up to be a pretty busy year! At the August board meeting the success of the first Summer Institute was some of the good news discussed. The new membership and conference system (Memberclicks) seems to be working well with reminders to renew going out periodically including a note indicating your renew date has passed, please take a minute to renew.

With the fall conference on the horizon, making sure your membership is current is very important. The most economical way to attend the conference in October is to pay the member rate and pre-register. So, for your \$60.00 membership, if you register by September 23, you can save \$80 registering for the preconference; \$130 registering for both the preconference and the regular conference or \$120 registering for just the regular conference. If you "put a pencil" to those numbers (as my father used to say) you will see that you are saving money even when you add in the cost of renewal. Who doesn't like to save money? In addition, entry into conference door prize drawings may be linked to membership status – those who are current in good standing will be eligible and those who are lapsed left out. Since we really do not want to leave anyone out – go to the website and renew your membership.

In a move to remain fiscally responsible, the board has reviewed the membership fee structure and made some changes that will be taking effect as of **September 26, 2013**. A two year membership will become available on that date. In addition, the one year membership fee will increase by \$5.00 to \$65.00. Now I know that I just explained to you how to be economical, but please take note even with the \$5.00 increase (which falls after the pre-registration deadline) you will still save money registering as a member. The table below outlines the new membership fee structure.

Type of membership	One year rate	Two year rate
Professional	\$ 65.00	\$ 120.00
Trainee	\$ 35.00	\$ 60.00
Student	\$ 30.00	\$ 50.00
Retired	\$ 45.00	\$ 80.00
Affiliate	\$45.00	\$ 80.00

One final note concerning the upcoming Conference, we are continuing our 20th year birthday celebration. Charter members will be recognized during the conference, so take the opportunity to meet and thank those who are present for their work in forming this important professional organization.

Cheri Waggoner



University of Texas at San Antonio

School Psychology Program

The Department of Educational Psychology at UTSA is pleased to offer the Master of Arts program in School Psychology. The program includes coursework and field-based experiences consistent with guidelines provided by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists and the National Association of School Psychologists. Most courses are offered in the evening at the UTSA Downtown Campus, and full-time and part-time tracks are available. New admissions in the Fall 2013 semester included 21 students. Application deadlines are as follows: July 1st for the Fall, November 1st for the Spring, and April 1st for the Summer. Students are currently completing their practicum experiences with the following sites: Alamo Heights ISD, Atascosa-McMullen Cooperative, Bexar County Academy, Boerne ISD, George Gervin Academy, San Antonio ISD, San Antonio Special Programs Cooperative, Somerset ISD, and South San ISD. Students are currently completing their internship experiences with the following sites: AIM Consulting, Alamo Heights ISD, Atascosa-McMullen Cooperative, Autism Treatment Center, Belton ISD, Boerne ISD, East Central ISD, George Gervin Academy, Granbury ISD, Heartland Special Education Cooperative, Katy ISD, and San Antonio ISD.



Ph.D. in Educational Psychology Specialization in School Psychology

The Ph.D. in Educational Psychology with the School Psychology Specialization gives LSSPs the power of research. Students learn to conduct and use research to inform not only practice but to transform learning in schools. Start thinking revolution and apply for a fall or spring cohort today. For more information go to <http://www.educ.ttu.edu/>

Interested individuals should contact Dr. Tara Stevens at tara.stevens@ttu.edu.

Government and Professional Relations Update

Ashley Arnold, GPR Chair

The past 83rd legislative session is in the books. Overall, for TASP it was a success!! For the first time in TASP history, a bill sponsored by TASP became LAW. HB 646 would require that on the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, a Licensed Psychologist or Licensed Psychological Associate also possess and practice as a LSSP. This law is effective immediately. This is HUGE accomplishment for TASP. Special thanks to all the members who called their Legislator and made this possible. In particular, I would like to thank Laurie Klose, Katie McAllister, Heidi King, Michelle Taft, Jon Lasser, Maureen Hicks, Diane Friou, Catie Rodovsky, and Kelly Anderson who all took time out of their busy schedule to make a personal trip to the Capitol to testify for the bill.

In addition, there are several other bills that may be of interest to you as a LSSP. **Senate Bill 816** has changed the deadline for completing initial evaluations. Instead of 60 calendar days to complete an initial evaluation, you now have 45 school days to complete an initial evaluation. In addition, this change also applies for students under five years of age by September 1 of the school year and not enrolled in public school, as well as for students enrolled in a private or home school setting. However, if the school district receives written consent at least 35 but less than 45 school days before the last instructional day, the evaluation and written report must be completed by June 30.

Senate Bill 542 requires TEA to provide information to parents regarding individualized education program facilitation as a means of avoiding a potential dispute with the district. Facilitation is provided at no cost. The bill requires TEA to develop criteria and procedures for independent individualized education program facilitation, including definitions, forms, and training requirements, as well as conditions required to be met in order for TEA to provide IEP facilitation at no cost to the parties involved. This bill is effective immediately.

Senate Bill 906 prohibits TEA from adopting a performance standard that indicates that a student's performance on the alternate assessment does not meet the standards if the lowest level of the assessment accurately represents the student's developmental level as determined by the student's ARD committee. Basically, this means no longer will those students who take a STAAR Alternate Level 1 assessment be counted as automatic failures. This bill is effective immediately.

TSBEP had a recent meeting and changes to two rules were adopted. First, an amendment to Rule 465.21 regarding termination of services was approved. The amendment would **require LSSPs to provide notice of resignation no later than the 45th day before the first day of instruction of the following school year**. TASP had opposed this amendment and is saddened that we lost this fight. This amendment passed by only vote. However, we can always bring a rule change back up for consideration, so if you feel strongly about this rule, please contact me. I believe our lackluster efforts were hampered by the fact that the public comment period occurred during the summer. This rule is effective immediately.

The other amendment was to rule 461.11 Professional Development (Continuing Education), which **increases the minimum required number of continuing education hours to 20 per year AND 10 of those hours MUST come from an approved provider (NASP/TASP/**

WHAT it does;
WHO it does it for; and
HOW it does what it does.

TASPs new mission statement is:

“The Texas Association of School Psychologists contributes to the development of effective educational systems by leading, representing, and empowering school psychologists as they enhance students’ mental health, social development, and academic success.”

3. CORE VALUES

- i. **Advocacy:** TASP engages in actions and activities that seek to positively influence outcomes directly affecting the lives of the students, families, and schools we serve.
- ii. **Collaborative Relationships:** TASP partners with allied organizations, agencies, and others to develop and achieve shared goals.
- iii. **Continuous Improvement:** TASP sets challenging objectives and measures the effectiveness of organizational processes.
- iv. **Diversity:** TASP embraces individual, cultural, and other contextual differences in our own interactions and as they shape students’ development.
- v. **Excellence:** TASP promotes the highest standards for service delivery and resource deployment.
- vi. **Integrity:** TASP is committed to honesty and to treating others with dignity and respect.
- vii. **Student-Centered:** TASP supports goals and activities focused on the needs of students and their families.
- viii. **Visionary Leadership:** TASP leads with enthusiasm and confidence, while working pragmatically in the present and striving toward an optimistic future.

TASPs core values are similar to NASPs, however, there are some differences specific to serving Texas. TASP has adopted the core values listed above.

4. STRATEGIC AREAS OF FOCUS

- To advance school psychology as both a science and a profession with the ultimate goal of providing and promoting learning, emotional and/or social development, and mental health through the integration of theory into practice for all children in Texas.
- To encourage and provide opportunities for the professional growth of school psychologists and related professions.
- To inform the public and professional organizations about the services and practice of psychology in the schools.
- To promote and advance interests and concerns of the membership through a statewide organization.
- To advance the standards of the profession of school psychology.

5. STRATEGIC GOALS

TASP has created an Organizational Excellence Committee to develop recommendations for strategic goals which will be presented at next Board meeting October 9th. We will formulate action plans based on these goals.

6. ACTION PLANS

The Action plans will be the driving force in future decision-making. In this way, we will be able to target our needs for budgeting purposes. Equally important, we can *monitor the progress* of those specific activities (also sound familiar?).

Your TASP board takes all of these responsibility very seriously and carefully considers the most prudent and cost-efficient means to serve our members.

We have a diverse group of professionals on the TASP board who all bring their own area of expertise. If you feel like you can contribute or if you have suggestions relevant to our strategic plan, we want to hear from you. I can be reached at president@txasp.org.

Dana Goins, TASP President

GRADUATE STUDENT CORNER

Greetings TASP members! I hope this newsletter finds you rested and eager to begin the new school year! If you were fortunate enough to attend TASP's Summer Institute, I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. The speakers, attendees, and location made for an incredible experience. Stay tuned for news regarding next years Summer Institute...

Are you ready for the TASP 2013 Conference??? This year's conference will be held October 10 - 12 in San Antonio at the Omni Colonnade Hotel. Information regarding the speakers and topics can be found at txasp.org.

For those of you who are graduate students, TASP is offering 4 scholarships in the amount of **\$500** to qualified candidates! Applications must be submitted by September 15, 2013, and winners will receive their monies at the TASP 2013 Conference. Please contact me if you are interested in submitting an application graduatestudentrep@txasp.org.

I look forward to seeing you at the conference!

Sincerely,
Catherine Rodovsky



Texas A&M University Commerce

Students are admitted to the School Psychology program in both the Spring and Fall semesters. Deadlines for applications are 4/15 and 11/15, respectively.

NASP News

Laurie Klose, Ph.D., NASP Delegate from Texas



NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL
PSYCHOLOGISTS

With the school year underway, NASP leaders and staff are busy making sure that practicing school psychologists have the resources and support they need to do their jobs effectively. Back to school resources for common problems faced by families during this transition time can be found at <http://www.nasponline.org/families/index.aspx>.

Advocacy efforts continue as NASP monitors all federal legislation that impacts psychological services in the schools. NASP leaders and staff have been working with congressional committees and staff on the re-authorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act. Watch your email inbox for updates on these important laws. Consider responding when asked to contact elected officials to advocate for children and schools. Resources are available at <http://www.nasponline.org/advocacy/advocacynews.aspx>.

It's not too early to start planning now for School Psychology Awareness Week, which will be November 11–15, 2013. For ideas and resources, visit <http://www.nasponline.org/communications/spaw/2013/index.aspx>.

We all know that time flies and NASP Convention will be here before you know it! Make plans to join school psychologists across the nation in **Washington DC, February 18-21, 2014** for informative and inspirational sessions and activities.

More info at <http://www.nasponline.org/conventions/2014/index.aspx>

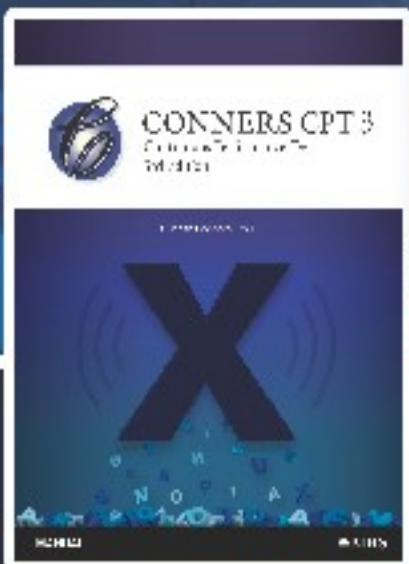


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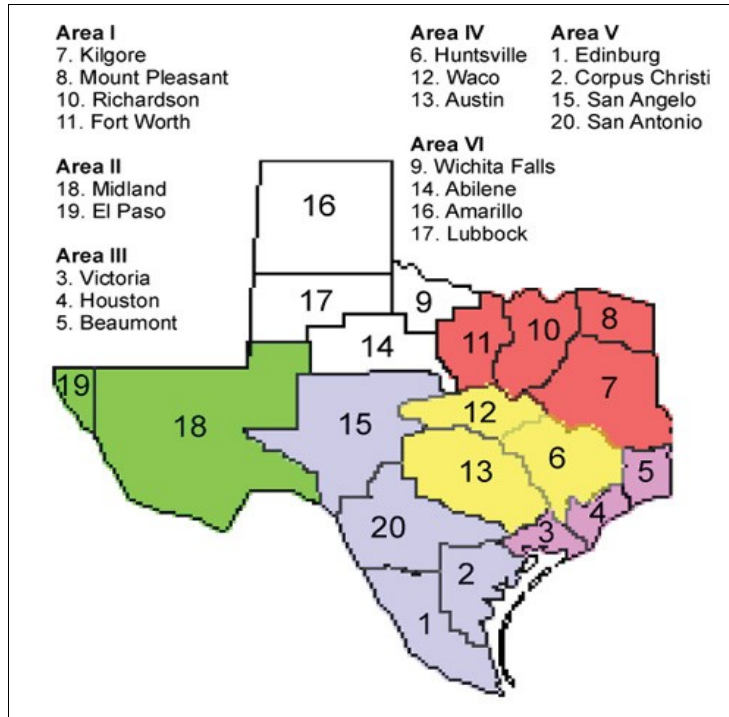
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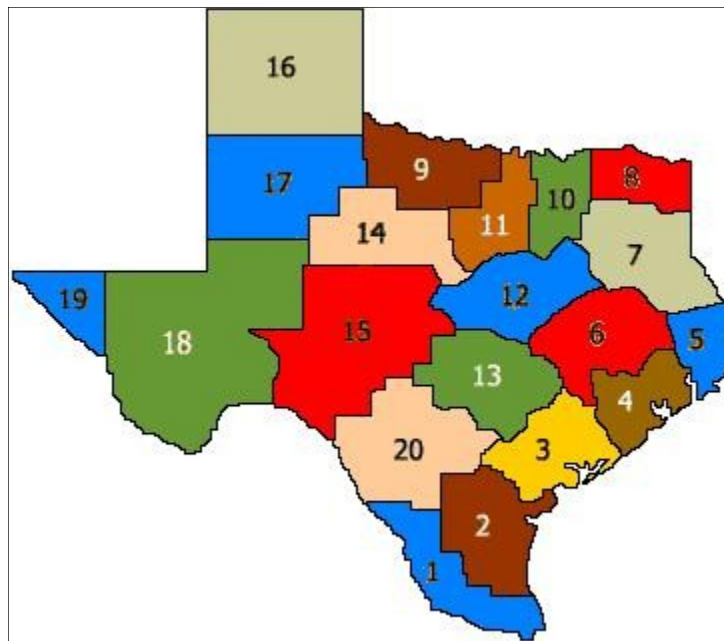
Information from the Area Representatives!

AREA REPRESENTS

Area Representative Map



Regional ESC Coverage Map



Hello TASP Area 1 (Region 7, 8, 10, 11) LSSPs. I hope you have experienced a great start to the 2013-2014 school year. Your TASP board recently met and discussed many things to help support LSSPs be able to effectively support students. Since the writing of my last newsletter article I met with a small group of LSSPs about what TASP could do for them, their concerns etc and also provided a training over observation and the importance of this in all evaluations that are conducted in the school setting. Needs discussed by LSSPs at the meeting included training over Emotional Disturbance disability, diagnostic and differential diagnoses and the DSM-V. LSSPs shared many concerns including the pressures of administrators on novice and other LSSPs as well as LSSPs who require supervision finding the right fit for them. Other discussions with LSSPs in Area 1 included request and relaying of the importance for training on the DSM-V also. Discussion of a TASP survey again was brought up several times.

On a different note I have taken a position of employment outside of Area 1 and therefore must resign from my appointment as the TASP Area 1 Representative. I am saddened that I will not be able to continue with my plans to help assist Area 1 in the official Area 1 Representative role however please know that I will continue to advocate and can be available to you to assist in any way that I might be able to help. Do not hesitate to contact me if you feel I can help you in any way. I am working with several other board members to locate a replacement to take over this position until the end of my term. I will be sharing goals and things Area 1 find important with the replacement to ensure a smooth transition. I will continue to serve the board in other capacities and will remain working with the board to continue to assist LSSPs in the state to effectively support students.

I wish you the best of luck this school year. I hope to see you all at the TASP Conference in October.

Sincerely,

Lisa Daniel, PhD, LSSP
Former TASP Area 1 Representative
lisa_m_daniel@hotmail.com



October is fast approaching and with it the Annual TASP Conference. The October board meeting will mark the end of my term as your Area 2 representative. It is your turn to take advantage of an amazing opportunity and become the new representative. You will get to attend quarterly board meetings and collaborate with a variety of professionals in the field. Elections for the position will be held in October. Send all inquiries to gmnitzburg@gmail.com

Geri Nitzburg



Hello fellow AREA IV members,

I hope your 2013-14 school year has started off smoothly and that you will have a fantastic year. I have served as your representative for three years, and while I have thoroughly enjoyed my position on the board and representing you, I have decided to let someone else take the reins for a while. If you are interested in serving on the TASP Executive Board as the AREA IV representative, please let me know and I will see that your name gets on the ballot. TASP is a great organization and always has its members' interests and benefits as top priorities. I urge you to consider this worthwhile and rewarding position; in addition to working with a dedicated group, you will have the opportunity to participate in some fun times.

Diane Friou

dfriou@austin.rr.com

Area V

Jeremy Sullivan

Howdy, Area V. I hope everyone had a great summer. I enjoyed seeing many of you at the TASP Summer Institute in Corpus Christi. The Institute was such a success that at our most recent executive board meeting we voted to make this a regular event. We also are busily planning for the 2013 TASP professional development conference, which is coming up in San Antonio. You can expect an outstanding group of workshops and presenters that will appeal to graduate students, early-career professionals, and seasoned school psychologists alike (I'm particularly excited about the pre-conference PREPaRE training). I look forward to seeing everyone there. Also, please stay tuned for announcements about professional development opportunities that we will be offering through the University of Texas at San Antonio. As always, if you have ideas about how I can best represent your needs on the TASP Board, or if I can provide further information, please feel free to email me at jeremy.sullivan@utsa.edu.



Dear Ethical Eddie,

I provide counseling as a related service for several high school students as part of their IEPs. One student in particular had a very difficult ending to her school year. I provided referral information to this student and her mother for private counseling services outside of the school during the summer. Her mom has said she would have to walk to get the counseling because mom is working during the day and would not be able to provide transportation.



I am very concerned about this student and her emotional well-being right now. I am encouraging her and her mother to contact the counselor I referred them to before school lets out, but I am not sure that will happen. Would it be unethical for me to see this student at some point this summer? I don't plan to provide counseling on a regular basis. I am thinking more along the lines of taking her out to a park to chat. I feel like not being there for her can give her the impression I only care about her when I am paid. And aside from that, I really worry about her.

I am open to suggestions, so thank you. But mainly, I want to know if it would be unethical to have this contact for support outside of school and her IEP.

Thank you!
Critically Concerned

Dear Critically Concerned,

I'm not sure that it would be unethical but it may be unwise to blur your role/relationship with this student. I think it might be better to consider any meeting with the student to be a continuation of her counseling service. One possibility is to amend the IEP to include some hours of consultation/counseling during Extended Service Year. That would allow you to meet with her in a more formal situation that continues with the same relationship boundaries as exist during the school year. Meeting the student in a park changes the boundaries of the relationship and could lead to dual relationships with unclear boundaries for responsibilities and confidentiality.

One question I would have is there an issue of safety for this student? If safety is in place, unfortunately, it's up to her and her parents when and if they seek help. It does not feel good, but it is really not our call if safety is not an issue. Also, ask yourself if this service is within the scope of your duties as a School Psychologist employed by this district. You referred this student for outside counseling for a reason. Would the service you may provide in the summer be within the scope of your training and competence? If not, then there would be an ethical problem.

School psychologists are often worried about the students we serve when they are not under our care. It is important to remember the boundaries of our relationships and do whatever we can to avoid dual relationships. This is very difficult at times as highlighted by your situation. These anxieties we experience remind school psychologists how important it is to engage in self-care.

Wishing you the best,
Ethical Eddie

The Texas School Psychologist is published four times a year. Articles, announcements, advertising, employment notices, and letters should be submitted to:

The Editor:

Amanda Real

7173 FM 1628

San Antonio, TX 78263

amanda.drzymalla@gmail.com

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The TASP newsletter is published to enhance communication among school psychologists in a manner that advances the general purpose of the Texas Association of School Psychologists. The acceptability of an ad for publication is based upon legal, social, professional, and ethical considerations. All advertising must be in keeping with the generally scholarly, and/or professional nature of the publication. Thus, TASP reserves the right to unilaterally reject, omit, or cancel advertising which it deems not to be in the best interest of the scholarly and professional objectives of the Association, and/or not in keeping with appropriate professional tone, content, or appearance. In addition, the Association reserves the right to refuse advertising submitted for the purpose of airing either side of controversial social or professional issues.

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of Educational

Psychology

Ph.D. in School Psychology



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txasp.org

School Psychology Program

Texas State University offers a Specialist in School Psychology (SSP) degree in school psychology, approved by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). The program endorses the scientist-practitioner training model. Texas State also offers a program for individuals who already hold a master's level psychology degree in a related field and would like to re-specialize in school psychology.

For more information, please contact:

Jon Lasser, Ph.D.

Coordinator, School Psychology Program

www.txstate.edu/clas

Good day TASP Members!

As the TASP Awards and Honors Committee Chair, I want to take this opportunity to encourage the membership to nominate your fellow members in recognizing of their contribution to the field of school psychology. While I know this is a hectic time of year, the application process is easier than ever. As each of you know, the call for nominations paper format was sent out earlier this spring. You have the option of mailing in the necessary information or using an email link provided on the TASP website (<http://txasp.org/conference/awards>).

In an effort to encourage more nominations, and to ease time constraints with the beginning of the school year, the dead line for nominating your peers will be extended! Please submit your nominations as soon as possible, preferably by the **15th of September**. Submitting by this time will allow for the blind peer review process and the printing of plaques by conference. If you choose to email me via the TASP website (awardshonors@txasp.org), attach the required information for the specific award (e.g., resumes, vitas, letters or recommendation). Having the additional information assists during the blind peer review process to select recipients. This process can take several days to recruit and hear back from reviewers. Unfortunately, nominations without complete information will not be considered given the close proximity to the conference.

I hope this stimulates nominations and look forward to reviewing the submissions recognizing more outstanding and passionate practitioners here in the state of Texas!

Evelyn Perez



Research and Practice in the Schools: The Official Journal of the Texas Association of School Psychologists

Research and Practice in the Schools is a publication of the Texas Association of School Psychologists (TASP). It is an online, peer-reviewed journal that provides TASP members with access to current research that impacts the practice of school psychology. The primary purpose of *Research and Practice in the Schools* is to meet the needs of TASP members for information on research-based practices in the field of school psychology. To meet this need, the journal welcomes timely and original empirical research, theoretical or conceptual articles, test reviews, book reviews, and software reviews. Qualitative and case-study research designs will be considered as appropriate, in addition to more traditional quantitative designs. All submissions should clearly articulate implications for the practice of psychology in the schools.

Journal Update

Three manuscripts have successfully gone through the peer-review and revision process and have been accepted for publication in the journal. We expect the first issue to be available online by the October conference. If you (or your students, interns, or colleagues) are interested in submitting a paper, please see the Instructions for Authors below. We welcome submissions from school psychologists working in a variety of settings.

Editorial Board Members Needed

We invite practitioners and educators to volunteer to serve on the journal's Editorial Board. Editorial Board members are responsible for reviewing submitted papers, providing feedback to the authors, and making recommendations regarding publication. Reviewers are provided with a rubric to help structure their feedback to authors, and final publication decisions are made by the co-editors. If you are interested in serving on the Editorial Board, please email jeremy.sullivan@utsa.edu and include (1) a copy of your resume or curriculum vita, and (2) a list of your professional/research interests. We will make every effort to send you manuscripts that are related to your areas of interest. Thanks for considering this request.

Instructions for Authors

General Submission Guidelines

All manuscripts should be submitted in electronic form to either of the co-editors (jeremy.sullivan@utsa.edu or art.hernandez@tamucc.edu) as an email attachment. Manuscripts should be submitted in MS Word format and labeled with the manuscript's title.

It is assumed that any manuscript submitted for review is not being considered concurrently by another journal. Each submission must be accompanied by a statement that it has not been simultaneously submitted for publication elsewhere, and has not been previously published.

Authors are responsible for obtaining permission to reproduce copyrighted material from other sources. IRB approval should have been obtained and should be noted in all studies involving human subjects. Manuscripts and accompanying materials become the property of the publisher. Upon acceptance for publication, authors will be asked to sign a publication agreement granting TASP permission to publish the manuscript. The editors reserve the right to edit the manuscript as necessary for publication if accepted.

Submissions should be typed, double-spaced with margins of one inch. All articles should meet the requirements of the *APA Publication Manual, 6th ed.*, in terms of style, references, and citations. Pages should be numbered consecutively throughout the document. Illustrations should be provided as clean digital files in

.pdf format with a resolution of 300 dpi or higher. All illustrations should be submitted as separate files, not embedded in the text of the document. Tables and figures may be embedded in the text. A short descriptive title should appear above each table with a clear legend and any footnotes below.

The Review Process

After receiving the original manuscript, it will be reviewed by the Editors and anonymously by two or more reviewers from the Editorial Board or individuals appointed on an *ad hoc* basis. Reviewers will judge manuscripts according to a specified set of criteria, based on the type of submission. Upon completion of the initial review process, feedback will be offered to the original (primary) author with either (a) a preliminary target date for publication; (b) a request for minor editing or changes and speedy resubmission; (c) significant changes with an invitation for resubmission once these changes are made; or, (d) a decision that that the submission does not meet the requirements of *Research and Practice in the Schools*.

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Regional Education Service Centers/school district) AND 3 hours must also be in the area of cultural diversity ((includes but is not limited to: age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, language, national origin, race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, and social economic status)). TASP officially supported this amendment as data indicated that medial number of CE requirements across the nation was 18 hours; thus Texas' 12 hours was much below the average. This new requirement goes into effect October 1, 2014. Remember, if you attend the TASP Annual Convention in October AND the TASP Summer Institute, you can earn all 20 approved hours by just attending TASP's offerings!!!

Have a great school year!
Ashley Arnold
TASP GPR Chair
ashley821@hotmail.com

*See you in
San Antonio!*

