

T S C A



JUSTIN BLACKLOCK

SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE

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9/15/2023



Texas Speech Communication Association

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing this letter to express my intention to run for the position of Vice President-Elect of the Texas Speech Communication Association. It is with great enthusiasm that I submit my candidacy for this esteemed position, and I look forward to the opportunity to serve TSCA and its members.

My journey in the field of communication and speech education started very early in life. From wandering the halls of Texas State University's Communication Studies Department as a child to sitting in my mother's Intro to Speech Comm courses on my days off from school, I have been surrounded my entire life by amazing educators, coaches, and professionals. My mother's love for this profession was where my journey started, but my appreciation has only grown over the years.

In high school, I competed in forensics for Charlotte Brown at Gregory-Portland High School--- having the opportunity to compete for state and national titles. I continued competitive forensics in college, working closely with Wayne Kraemer and really learning what college forensics was like. I graduated with my Bachelors in Communication Studies in 2010 from Texas State University and my Masters in 2012. Immediately after, I moved into full-time teaching and coaching at Tarrant County College, before accepting a position at San Antonio College in 2015 where I continue to teach today. In my time as an instructor, I've served on many campus-wide and district-wide committees such as Learning and Assessment Validation Committees and our Marketable Skills Committees. As a Director of Forensics, I've had the privilege of coaching multiple national finalists over the years—always with the hope of making sure they successfully transfer to 4-year institutions to complete their degrees in higher ed. I've also served as the VP and Director of Tournaments for the Texas Intercollegiate Forensics Association from 2015-2021. And since 2016, I have been a member of TSCA, presenting on multiple panels and serving on several committees each year. I have served as the TSCA Chair of the Instructional Development, College & University Interest Group, and as of this year I am chairing the Colleges and Universities Committee as well as serving as District 20's chair. In 2019, I was named TSCA's Educator of the Year for Colleges and Universities, and in 2021 was named TIFA Educator of the Year. It is my hope that my experience across high school and college speech education will give me insight into how to best support our amazing community.

If elected as Vice President-Elect, I am committed to:

1. **Promoting Excellence:** I will work tirelessly to uphold and enhance the standards of excellence within our association, fostering an environment where members can continuously learn, grow, and thrive.

2. **Enhancing Collaboration:** I will encourage collaboration among TSCA members, educational institutions, and industry partners to create meaningful opportunities for networking, sharing ideas, and promoting the importance of speech communication.
3. **Advocating for Education:** I will advocate for the importance of speech communication education in schools and colleges across Texas, emphasizing its crucial role in personal and professional development.
4. **Inclusivity and Diversity:** I will champion inclusivity and diversity within our association, ensuring that all voices are heard and valued.
5. **Innovation:** I will actively seek out and support innovative approaches and technologies that can benefit our members and the broader field of speech communication.

I am committed to the values and goals of the Texas Speech Communication Association and believe that my experience, dedication, and vision align with the needs of our dynamic and ever-evolving community. If elected, I will work diligently to support the TSCA's mission and serve as a dedicated advocate for its members.

Thank you for considering my candidacy. I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to TSCA's continued success and growth. I look forward to the chance to connect with our members, listen to their needs, and work collaboratively to shape the future of speech communication in Texas.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact me at jblacklock@alamo.edu. I eagerly await the opportunity to discuss my candidacy and vision for TSCA with you and other members of the association.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Justin Blacklock

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Justin Blacklock".

Enclosure: Resume/CV or any supporting documents



Instructor of Speech Communication / Director of Forensics

I've been an educator at the college level for 12 years now, but it feels like I've been connected to the field of education my entire life. As a third-generation educator, motivating others to their fullest potential is a value that has been ingrained in me from a young age. Being in the classroom with my students and in the team room with my speech team is exactly where I need to be.

Education

- 2012 Master of Arts in Communication Studies Texas State University
- 2010 Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies Texas State University

Awards and Accomplishments

2023 Collie-Taylor Fellowship Award for Coaches	Phi Rho Pi
TIFA Educator of the Year 2021	TIFA/TSCA
TSCA Educator of the Year 2019	TSCA
VP/Director of Tournaments	Texas Intercollegiate Forensics Association (2015-2021)
Assistant to Director of Tournaments	American Forensics Association–NIET 2012
Multiple Gold, Silver, and Bronze Team Honors	Phi Rho Pi National Tournament 2012-Present
Multiple Individual and Team Honors	Fall and Spring TIFA 2010-Present
Semi-finalist in Poetry	2010 AFA-NIET
Bronze (POE), Silver (RT/IT)	2008 Phi Rho Pi National Tournament
5th Place Dramatic Interpretation	2004 NFL Nationals/NSDA Nationals
UIL Poetry State Champion	2005 UIL State Competition\

Positions Held

2015-Present	Instructor of Speech/Director of Forensics	San Antonio College
2012-2015	Instructor of Speech/Director of Forensics	Tarrant County College
2009-2012	Graduate Instructional/Coaching Assistant	Texas State University
2006-2007	Assistant Coach of Speech and Debate	Sandra D. O'Connor HS

Positions Held at TSCA

2019-2021	Chair of Instructional Dev, College & University
2025	Chair of College and University Committee

Conference Presentations

Talking Into the Screen: Engaging the Virtual Audience	TSCA 2022
College Environment/High School Students	TSCA 2022
Developing Yourself Into a Professional	TSCA 2022
Meeting the Undergraduate Student Where They Are:	TSCA 2022
Inclusive VS Exclusive: Learning Styles in Diverse Populations	TSCA 2021
Maintaining High Standards in an Online/Remote Environment	TSCA 2021
From the "Sage on the Stage" to the "App in your Lap"	TSCA 2021
Transitioning from 16wk to 8wk Classes: Pedagogical Perspectives	TSCA 2021
Non-Traditional Students in Online/Remote Classes	TSCA 2021
Promoting Student Presentations in the Online Classroom	TSCA 2020
Forensic Contributions to the Presidential Debate Process	TSCA 2020
Strategies for Increasing Immediacy and Student Performance	TSCA 2020
Online Class as Echo Chambers	TSCA 2019
Teaching Fact Checking	TSCA 2018
Truth About the Workplace	TSCA 2018
Writing Effective Interpretation Intros	TSCA 2018
Bridging the Curriculum	TSCA 2017
Aspiring Coaches Want to Know	TSCA 2017
Finding One's Voice: Coaching POI	TSCA 2016
Programming For the Future (Coordinator)	TSCA 2016

September 15, 2023

Texas Speech Communication Association
Nominating Committee
9821 Colonnade Blvd
San Antonio, Texas, 78230

Dear Chair Contreras and other members of the TSCA Nominating Committee,

I am writing this letter to support Justin Blacklock as the VP-Elect of the Texas Speech Communication Association. The simple truth behind my support of Justin is a firm belief that his passion for the work would serve TSCA well.

As an actively contributing faculty member to both his discipline and his department, and as a team mentor for our forensics students, I see the sort of consistency of purpose with everything Justin does. More than that, his attitude and positivity are infectious and provide the motivation for others to build teamwork, set meaningful priorities, and intentionally engage the challenges and opportunities that provide innovative and transformative momentum. Last, promotion and advocacy for the value of the discipline sets him apart from others - whether it's the simple internal communication that's shared with his fellow faculty and staff, or the external communication that celebrates the accomplishments of the department, he is a true team player.

As a result, I have absolutely no reservations about offering my support to Justin Blacklock's candidacy for VP-Elect of the Texas Speech Communication Association, and I'm very happy to answer any questions the TSCA Nominating Committee may have.

Best regards,



**Kevin Conlon, Chair
the ARTS department**

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the ARTS department

Architecture • Communication Design • Dance • Drama • Mass Communication
Music • Music Business • Radio, TV, and Film • Speech • Visual Arts



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