

Eric W. Mears

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Education

Master of Education, School Administration, Lamar University, Beaumont, TX. December, 2010.

Bachelor of Behavioral Science, Speech Communication and English, Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, TX. August, 2001.

Presentations

Live from the Westin! It's PF Debate! Texas Speech Communication Association Convention. October 3, 2015.

Communication Across the Curriculum. Texas Speech Communication Association Convention. October 4, 2014.

Crash Course for New Coaches of Debate and Oral Interp. Texas Speech Communication Association Convention. October 11, 2013.

Scope and Sequence for Differentiated Instruction In Debate 1, 2, and 3. Texas Speech Communication Association Convention. October 11, 2013.

Web Literacy. Texas Speech Communication Association Convention. October 11, 2013.

Advanced Strategies in Public Forum. Texas Speech Communication Association Convention. October 12, 2012.

You Survived Your First Year, Now What? Texas Speech Communication Association Convention. October 8, 2009.

Congressional Debate – Part Two: Building Success. Texas Speech Communication Association Convention. October 8, 2009.

Extemporaneous Speaking 101. Texas Speech Communication Association Convention. October 9, 2008.

How to Teach LD for Novice Coaches. Texas Speech Communication Association Convention. October 4, 2007.

Leadership in Speech Communication and Education

National Speech and Debate Association North Texas Longhorn District Committee. 2005-2009, 2016.

Texas Speech Communication Association Interest Group Chair—Argumentation and Debate. 2014-2015.

Texas Speech Communication Association Interest Group Chair—Instructional Development, High School. 2013-2014.

Speech Communication Association Committee to Nominate the Nominating Committee. 2012-2013.

Texas Speech Communication Association Educator Training Committee. 2010-2012.

Texas Forensic Association Executive Council—Region II Representative. 2010-2011.

State of Texas Certified Principal. 2010.

State of Texas Certified in Instructional Leadership and Design. 2010.

State of Texas Certified PDAS Appraiser. 2010.

Texas Speech Communication Association Governmental Affairs Committee. 2006-2009.

Texas Speech Communication Association Region 10 Chair. 2004-2008.

Coaching Honors and Championships

National Speech and Debate Association Third Diamond Award. June, 2016.

National Speech and Debate Association National Tournament, 2004-2016.

Texas Forensic Association State Tournament, 2002, 2004-2016.

University Interscholastic League State Tournament, 2005-2012, 2015-2016.

National Speech and Debate Association District Sweepstakes Award, 2008, 2010-2013, 2015.

University Interscholastic League State Champion, Informative Speaking. 2011.

National Speech and Debate Association Second Diamond Award. June, 2011.

Texas Forensic Association State Champion, Congressional Debate. 2009.

National Speech and Debate Association Diamond Award. June, 2006.

Professional Career

Flower Mound High School, 2004-Present.

DeSoto High School, 2001-2004.

To the Texas Speech Communication Association Nominating Committee and the Membership At Large,

For each of the past fifteen years, I have sat in General Meetings at TSCA convention and watched Presidents past and present lead this organization with grace, civility, honor, compassion, and a healthy dose of intestinal fortitude. I have admired from afar their work leading our organization through various challenges, be they internal struggles of identity and direction or external pressures on members of our community.

I remember Natalie Bryant singing. I remember Ralph Long telling us stories of sitting in his car listening to the radio. I remember Ann Shofner's quiet directness that commanded the utmost respect as a leader of a vast and diverse organization. I remember the 2015 Presentation honoring members of TSCA from the Panhandle Region and hearing a recurring drumbeat of "Past President", "Past President", "Past President".

All of these memories are inspiring to me, but I have never considered myself to be a member of that league.

Therefore, when I learned of your nomination for Vice President-Elect, I was immediately honored to the point of humility. To be recognized as a leader by peers in an organization with as many voice, opinions, and personalities as ours is remarkable beyond words. And even though I would not have sought out this opportunity of my own accord, I am encouraged by your faith in my passions, abilities, and professionalism to move our Association boldly towards its second century.

My passion for our organization is to be as committed to our profession as we are our discipline. Our identity should not be intertwined with title, rank, or trophy count, but rather in our literal professing of our core beliefs of education.

Speech communication is important not on its own accord, but because education is important. We use the spoken word to convey truth, to direct, persuade, to instill values in those that come after us. We use the spoken word to campaign, to advocate, to lift up those who cannot speak for themselves. We use the spoken word as a weapon against the onslaught of technology, against the detractors who undervalue our profession, against the very fabric of society should that become necessary.

We use the spoken word because we find it effective, we find it emotional, we find it beautiful, we find it a passion.

But more importantly, we must profess.

We must profess the value of continued learning as a challenge others are not willing to entertain. We must profess that speech education is vital to the continuance of our nation's ability to reconcile differences in culture, religion, political ideology, and creed

to continuously pursue that "more perfect union." We must profess to all we encounter that we are educators, we are well-spoken, we are learned, and we are well-organized.

We must seek out ways to connect the already-existent dots in our organization. We must create a pipeline from middle school to high school to collegiate students so that they are more likely to become middle school, high school, or collegiate educators. That, singularly, is the lifeblood of our Association: professing our value so that others join us in professing their value.

Over my tenure as a member of the TSCA leadership, this will be my pursuit as I believe it should be our calling both individually and collectively. We must carefully examine who we could be, who we should be, and, ultimately, who we will be. We can no longer live as an organization whose purpose is a meeting each October. We must expand to be an Association for all seasons and for all members.

With these passions in place, I gratefully accept your nomination for Vice President-Elect of the Texas Speech Communication Association.

With Great Expectations,

Eric Mears