

Emily Nicole Cornish

Candidate Statement

TSCA has served as a valuable resource since I began my career as a debate coach. It is a valuable source of professional development for coaches across the state. The important role of member development should not be overlooked. As school budgets continue to face constraints, TSCA must look closely at the value of the professional development provided. Panel programming should be viewed from the lens of administrators facing impossible budget decisions. Convention must provide clear value to districts if our members are going to have the opportunity to continue to attend and benefit from the professional development provided. We must take a hard look at whether what we have always done is what we should continue to do.

In the current political landscape, the advocacy role of TSCA simply cannot be overlooked. Advocacy requires constant engagement with leaders at all levels of government. Members should receive frequent messaging from TSCA regarding legislation and policies that affect education broadly and speech education specifically. Producing white papers regarding certain policy decisions certainly provides value to our membership. However, as our members continue to be asked by their districts to take on more and more responsibilities, it is also our responsibility to provide quick access to information. The officers do not have to take the sole responsibility for the organization's advocacy. The officers should create situations and provide the information necessary for the members to advocate for speech education and education broadly.

If elected, these two areas will serve as my focus. TSCA has done so much good for coaches and educators for many years. We can't let good be the enemy of great.

TSCA Membership/Service

1. TSCA member since 2010
2. Committee Involvement
 - a. Region 7 Chairperson, 2010-2013
 - b. Speech and Theatre in Public Schools Chair, 2013-2015
 - c. Governmental Affairs Committee, 2011-2013, 2016-2017
 - d. Instructional Development High School Interest Group Chair, 2015
 - e. Instructional Development High School Interest Group Vice-Chair, 2019
 - f. Instructional Development High School Interest Group Chair, 2020
 - g. Curriculum Committee member, 2015-2016
 - h. Nominating Committee, 2018
 - i. UIL Advisory Committee, 2019-present
3. Presentations
 - a. Cornish, N. (2023, October). *Legal Update*. Presentation at Texas Speech Communicator's Association Convention, Houston, TX
 - b. Cornish, N. (2021, October). *Topic Writing: How to Get Involved*. Presentation at Texas Speech Communicator's Association Convention, San Antonio, TX
 - c. Cornish, N. (2021, October). *Research Strategies from AP*. Presentation at Texas Speech Communicator's Association Convention, San Antonio, TX
 - d. Cornish, N. (2021, October). *Research Strategies from AP*. Presentation at Texas Speech Communicator's Association Convention, San Antonio, TX
 - e. Cornish, N. (2021, October). *Leading When Others Are Lost*. Presentation at Texas Speech Communicator's Association Convention, San Antonio, TX
 - f. Cornish, N. (2020, October). *Setting Strong Student Learning Objectives*. Presentation at Texas Speech Communicator's Association Convention, Virtual
 - g. Cornish, N. (2020, October). *Differentiation: Meeting the Needs and Instilling Kindness in Our Special Populations Students in the Speech and Debate Classroom*. Presentation at Texas Speech Communicator's Association Convention, Virtual
 - h. Cornish, N. (2019, October). *Running Your Own Tournament on Joy of Tournaments and Tabroom*. Presentation at Texas Speech Communicator's Association Convention, Lubbock, TX

- i. Cornish, N. (2019, October). *Instructional Strategies for Students with Differing Socioeconomic Backgrounds*. Presentation at Texas Speech Communicator's Association Convention, Lubbock, TX
- j. Cornish, N. (2015, October) *How our Speech/Debate Classes Function under the New HB5 and Advocating for Your Program*. Presentation at Texas Speech Communicator's Association Convention, Dallas, TX
- k. Cornish, N. (2015, October). *Great Ideas for Teaching Speech – G.I.F.T.S.* Presentation at Texas Speech Communicator's Association Convention, Dallas, TX
- l. Cornish, N. (2015, October). *Teaching Interview Skills in the Professional Communication Classroom*. Presentation at Texas Speech Communicator's Association Convention, Dallas, TX
- m. Cornish, N. (2014, October) *UIL Prose Category B*. Presentation at Texas Speech Communicator's Association Convention, Lubbock, TX
- n. Yeakley, N. (2013, October) *Ethics in Interp.* Presentation at Texas Speech Communicator's Association Convention, Corpus Christi, TX
- o. Yeakley, N. (2012, October) *Paperless Debate and Extemp, AP Classes and Debate*. Presentation at the Texas Speech Communicator's Association Convention, San Antonio, TX

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Education/Certification

M.Ed.—Education Leadership, Lamar University, Beaumont, TX

BA—Political Science and Philosophy, Baylor University, Waco, TX, 2010

Superintendent Certificate – Texas

Principal Certificate—Texas

Teacher Certificate—8-12 Speech and Social Studies: Texas

Leadership Experience

Owner/Director of Texas Speech and Debate Camp, 2011-Present

- Grown the camp attendance from 32 campers to 240+
- Oversee and organize a week-long, overnight camp of 240+ students and 35 staff.

Director of Secondary Curriculum, Athens Independent School District – 2023-present

Principal, Athens High School – 2020-2023

Dean of the PINNACLE Early College High School – Athens High School, Athens, TX, 2017-2020

Dean of Accountability and Instruction – Athens High School, Athens, TX, 2016-2017

UIL Academic Coordinator, Athens High School, Athens, TX, 2011-2014, 2015-present

- Direct all UIL academic activities of a 4A high school.
- Established requirements for sponsors to receive stipends in an effort to increase accountability.
- Supervise multiple overnight trips with over 20 students and 10 adults.
- Represent the school at district planning meetings in regard to UIL academic activities.

District UIL Academic Coordinator, Athens ISD, Athens TX, 2018-present

- Direct all UIL academic activities in the district, grade levels 2-12
- Represent the district at planning meetings in regard to UIL academic activities

National Federation of High Schools Wording Committee Member, 2019-present

National Speech and Debate Association District Committee Member, UIL NSDA District, 2011-present

- Coordinate the efforts of over 30 coaches from area high schools to support NFL member students.

- Assist in hosting and coordinating a debate tournament consisting of over 300 students.
- Ensuring that all requirements are met for participation in the NFL National Tournament.

NTDA Webmaster, North East Texas Debate Association, 2011-2014

- Responsible for creating and maintaining the NTDA website
- Assisted in developing a new Constitution and Tournament Manuel
- Assist in running the NTDA Championship Tournament

UIL Regional Advisory Committee, University Interscholastic League, 2011-2012, 2017-present

- Assisted in organizing the UIL Regional Academic Tournament.
- Served as a liaison between coaches and tournament directors by mediating coach complaints and concerns with tournament interests.

Teaching Experience

High School Speech Teacher – Athens High School, Athens, TX, 2014-2016

High School Speech Teacher—Prosper High School, Prosper, TX, 2013-2014

- Created a curriculum for Professional Communication
- Began a new debate program

High School AP Social Studies Teacher—Athens High School, Athens, TX, 2010-2014

- Integrated high rigor instruction in a Title I school.
- Achieved AP test scores that met the national average.
- Instituted diverse teaching strategies to reach a diverse student body

Coaching Experience

Assistant CX Debate Coach—Salado High School, Salado, TX, 2009-2010

- Qualified one alternate team to state
- Placed second in district competition and qualified to the UIL state meet

Head Speech and Debate Coach—Athens High School, Athens, TX, 2010-2013, 2014-Present

- UIL CX Debate Champions for 4 consecutive years
- UIL CX Debate silver and bronze medals
- Qualified 12 CX teams to the state meet
- Qualified 4 LD teams to the state meet

- Qualified 4 Extemporaneous Speakers to the state meet
- Two state champions in poetry interpretation
- One state champion in extemporaneous speaking
- One state champion in congressional debate
- Qualified students to the NSDA national tournament 9 times
- State Champion Runner-up Speech Team

Additional Training/Professional Development

Ratliff Academy for School Executives, Mt Pleasant, TX, 2015

Schlecty Conference, Schlecty Institute, Dallas, TX, 2011

AP Summer Institute, College Board, Dallas, TX, 2010

Professional Achievements

Author of 2018-2019 national policy debate topic

One diamond coach with the NSDA

National Federation of High Schools Outstanding Educator Award

Presentations

Cornish, N. (2019, October). *Running Your Own Tournament on Joy of Tournaments and Tabroom*. Presentation at Texas Speech Communicator's Association Convention, Lubbock, TX

Cornish, N. (2019, October). *Instructional Strategies for Students with Differing Socioeconomic Backgrounds*. Presentation at Texas Speech Communicator's Association Convention, Lubbock, TX

Cornish, N. (2019, September) *Policy Debate Topic Lecture*. Presentation at the UIL Super Conference, Tyler, TX.

Cornish, N. (2018, September) *Policy Debate Topic Lecture*. Presentation at the UIL Super Conference, Arlington, TX.

Cornish, N. (2017, September) *Policy Debate Basics*. Presentation at the UIL Super Conference, Tyler, TX.

Cornish, N. (2015, October) *How our Speech/Debate Classes Function under the New HB5 and Advocating for Your Program*. Presentation at Texas Speech Communicator's Association Convention, Dallas, TX

Cornish, N. (2015, October). *Great Ideas for Teaching Speech – G.I.F.T.S.* Presentation at Texas Speech Communicator's Association Convention, Dallas, TX

Cornish, N. (2015, October). *Teaching Interview Skills in the Professional Communication Classroom*. Presentation at Texas Speech Communicator's Association Convention, Dallas, TX

Cornish, N. (2014, October) *UIL Prose Category B*. Presentation at Texas Speech Communicator's Association Convention, Lubbock, TX

Yeakley, N. (2013, October) *Ethics in Interp.* Presentation at Texas Speech Communicator's Association Convention, Corpus Christi, TX

Yeakley, N. (2012, July) *Hosting a UIL Tournament*. Presentation at the UIL Capitol Conference, Austin, TX

Yeakley, N. (2012, October) *Paperless Debate and Extemp, AP Classes and Debate*. Presentation at the Texas Speech Communicator's Association Convention, San Antonio, TX

Professional Affiliations

National Speech and Debate Association, 2010-present

- National PFD tab room, 2018-present

Texas Forensic Association, 2010-present

- State tournament tab room, 2016-present
- Executive Committee Member – 2020-present

Trinity Valley Community College Education Foundation Board of Directors, 2023-present

Northeast Texas Debate Association, 2010-2014 (Webmaster)

Association of Texas Professional Educators, 2010-present

Texas Speech Communicator's Association

- Region 7 Chairperson, 2010-2013
- Speech and Theatre in Public Schools Chair, 2010-2015
- Governmental Affairs Committee, 2011-2013, 2016-2017
- Instructional Development High School Interest Group Chair, 2015

- Instructional Development High School Interest Group Vice-Chair, 2019
- Curriculum Committee member, 2015-2016
- Nominating Committee, 2018
- UIL Advisory Committee, 2019-2021