TASCOE Tales

Summer 2024 Edition



IMPORTANT DATES:

July 1, 2024- Memorial submissions due July 1, 2024- Convention registration due July 24-27, 2024- TASCOE Convention August 7-10, 2024- NASCOE Convention



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Are y'all ready to be GRAND in Granbury? Who is ready to celebrate the HUGE win for our PTs!?

WOW and WHOOP! What a way to end a week when the Administrator sends the email about our long, long, long awaited PT Reclassification on May 10, 2024! I am still reeling from this win knowing how sweet victory truly is! Our Program Technicians have deserved this upgrade for so many years, and it is such a joy it has FINALLY be granted. For all of you that fought for this upgrade for over 30 years, we THANK YOU! There is one PT that I want to take the time to thank right now. The first PT to be a TASCOE Director and then became the 1st female TASCOE President is the precious Penny Kelton, PT in Lamb County. Her unending dedication and drive remain an inspiration as a role model and mentor to me to this day. She has never given up (42+ years) and will continue to work hard for FSA and TASCOE until she retires.

As I think about all the past Presidents that have proudly served in our association, I take pride in knowing there were only a few women that have gone before me in this role, and I want to thank them for their outstanding service while also paving the way for myself and the future of TASCOE. I have appreciated their advice, knowledge, guidance, and friendship. Following Madam Kelton, in the Women as TASCOE Presidents was the magnificent Morgan Limmer, then the jubilant Jennifer Garcia; to my immediate predecessor our excellent Ex-Officio Christa Kraatz. Congratulations to these ladies for being among the first and still supporting our association! Thank you for your commitment, your service, unending dedication, and love for your fellow employees in giving of your time and willingness to serve. Being a leader in TASCOE requires passion, a strong drive to never give up, willingness to listen and learn plus a lot of time, which is ALL so worth it! Thank you as well to our current and very valuable leadership with our Executive Committee (EC), our Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs and each district's TASCOE Directors and Alternate Directors. Working with all our leadership has been inspiring. Hopefully, each of you is beginning to sense this intense team spirit that we are hoping to create in having constant and quality ongoing communication to you, the members, through our leadership. It warms my heart to serve with all of you. If anyone wants to be more involved and/or in a leadership role in TASCOE, please let us know. We are always thrilled to have volunteers step up to join us. Since your Executive Committee are all 4 Aggies, we can get a bit excited and feel that "TASCOE spirit" is like "Aggie spirit" as it gets folks interested in the bond we share! Let's bring this TASCOE team spirit to Granbury as we enthusiastically engage with all who attend! And let's celebrate together our

PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONT...

wins and remember that our losses still could still be won. As was stated by Sean Higgins: "Every day the clock resets. Your wins don't matter. Your failures don't matter. Don't stress on what was, FIGHT for what could be"

Sound and profound wisdom.

With the TASCOE spirit strong, we are inviting ALL of you once again to our annual TASCOE and FSA framily reunion or rather our annual meetings held during our state convention at the Granbury Conference Center in Granbury, Texas, July 24-27, 2024. For more information, check out www.visitgranbury.com and discover why it is voted as the Celebration Capital of our Lone Star State. You may also tune into our www.tascoe.org webpage and our TASCOE Facebook page for information pertaining to our 2024 TASCOE Convention as you really won't want to miss it! Ask someone to come with you to convention so they can really get the sense of what it all entails. If you have never been to your state convention, I strongly encourage you to attend this event and see what you think! It usually just takes that one time to attend and then you are hooked to return each year. Please come to give us some pointers, suggestions and volunteer your talents. I can nearly guarantee you will not leave disappointed with what we have instore this year!

As I look forward to seeing you all in Granbury, another sincere "thank you" to each of you as members of TASCOE. Your unending support, loyalty, and faith in our mission is truly felt and always appreciated!

Ready to be GRAND in Granbury! Come and join us!

Respectfully yours,

Jeannine P. Wendel TASCOE President



VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

WINNING!

I hope everyone has enjoyed this magnificent spring we have experienced here in the Lone Star State! I cannot believe Summer is here and that can only mean one thing...Convention Season!

While we are entering this season of accomplishments, awards, graduations etc. I would like to recognize the long overdue PT Reclassification Notice that was recently shared by the National Office. This is a huge victory for current and future employees of FSA. When I begin to think about this win one word comes to mind, membership! This PT Reclassification has been a long time coming and without members and our voice being heard this may not have been possible. If you have new employees or veteran employees in your district, office, neighboring offices, let them know this reclassification is why you should become a TASCOE member.

TASCOE President, Jeannine Wendel and I recently attended the All-South Rally in Mobile, Alabama! This was my first Rally and all I can say is AMAZING! We had great speakers, WDC folks were in person and took questions from the floor. If you ever have a chance to attend a Rally, number one reason is to get those opportunities to voice, face to face, frustrations and opinions from the COF. Reason two to attend, the fellowship! Seeing so many faces, some from last year at NASCOE Convention in College Station, but made some new friends as well. If you have any questions about attending a Rally or National Convention, please reach out and I would be glad to share my experiences and, in my opinion, what you can expect from attending those events.

I hope to see many of my TASCOE family in Granbury July 24-27 for the annual

TASCOE Convention!

Thank Y'all!

John T Tyson
TASCOE Vice-President



DETAILS

Registration Deadline: July 1, 2024

WHEN:

July 24-27, 2024
Wednesday is a travel day.
Meetings start on Thursday.

WHERE:

Lake Granbury
Conference Center
621 E. Pearl Street
Granbury, TX 76048

HOTEL INFO:

Comfort Suites-Granbury 903 Harbor Lakes Drive Granbury, TX 76048 817-579-5559 Group Code: TASCOE

OVERFLOW HOTEL:

Holiday Inn Express & Suites 1515 Plaza Drive North Granbury, TX 76048 817-579-9977

THURSDAY NIGHT:

Warren's Backyard
Dinner, Drinks, Dancing
Shuttle will leave
hotel at 6:30 PM

FRIDAY NIGHT:

& Dinner
Starts at 6:00 PM at the convention center

https://tascoe.org/why-join/convention/



Signup Period May 13 - July 15, 2024

Join TASCOE Today!!!

All new TASCOE members that signup between May 13th thru July 15th, 2024, will be entered into a drawing for one of 3 chances to win either a \$100 gift card or 1 night of lodging at the 2024 TASCOE Convention in Granbury. The choice will be left up to the selected winner! 3 Winners total will be selected.

www.tascoe.org

Prize Options:

• \$100 gift card

-or-

 1 night lodging at TASCOE Convention in Granbury



DOOR PRIZES NEEDED!





SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION

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-Donate items for the live or silent auction -Come to convention and bid on items in the auction -Cash donations are always welcome:)

ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRS, JORDYN HIGGS AND JENNIFER COCHRAN TASCOESCHOLARSHIP@GMAIL.COM

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2024 Scholarship Winners

We had a great group of students apply for scholarships this year, and we are so excited to announce our winners. They are a great group of students who are on to great things. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors. We are looking forward to meeting two of our recipients at this year's TASCOE Convention. Speaking of Friday.....please give some thought to donating an item for the silent and/or live auction and be sure to get those stretches in so you are ready to raise your hand high in the bidding wars!! Please read below to learn more about our recipients.

Associate Scholarship Recipient



Howdy! My name is Brenna Williams, and I wanted to thank you foremost for the opportunity this scholarship will give me to further my education. I graduated from Franklin High School in 2023. I just completed my freshmen year at Texas A&M University. Since I was a little girl, I have wanted to be an Aggie. Both of my parents are Aggies, so I grew up around the culture and traditions. After my undergraduate degree in agricultural leadership at Texas A&M, I plan to attend law school to study criminal law. I was involved in a school organization called Coal FX during my first year of college. I enjoy being involved in my college church group. We have Bible study groups and nights to come together as a community and be close to God. Thanks again, and Gig'Em!

Brenna is the daughter of Michael Williams, Program Specialist WDC

Associate Scholarship Recipient



Hi, my name is Ayla Wolf! I have recently graduated from Franklin High School. During my time there I was involved in Student Council, FFA, NHS, and played tennis where I had the opportunity to play in the state tournament. In the fall I will be majoring in kinesiology at Texas A&M University. Afterwards my plans are to enroll in the Physical Therapy program at Texas Tech University.

Thank you all for believing in me and investing in my future.

Ayla is the Step-daughter of Michael Williams, Program Specialist WDC

Traditional Scholarship Recipient



I am Kaden Wise, graduating as the Salutatorian from Brownfield High School. I graduated with an Associate Degree in general studies science through dual credits from South Plains University with high honors. I will be attending Texas Tech University to study in biochemistry.

Kaden is the son of Kayla Wise, Terry County Office PT

Vocational Scholarship Recipient



Payton is the son of Lori LeBlue, Colorado County Office PT

Payton Dean LeBlue is a graduate from Fayetteville High School. He is a kind, smart and stubborn kid that believes in donating his free time to various organizations and charities. He moved to Fayetteville about 12 years ago due to his house being destroyed in the 2011 Bastrop fires. The decision to move and rebuild in Fayetteville was an easy one due to most of his family members either lived or were from the Fayetteville area. He has been a member of the National Honor Society since 2021. He also served as the basketball manager starting in the sixth grade and continuing that role until he graduated. He was on the Fayetteville FFA welding team and competed in several competitions. He is an active member of St John's Catholic Church and volunteers for the annual Picnic and other church sponsored events such as bingo. He has assisted his community by volunteering at many other events, such as, food drives, community garage sales and various Ellinger Chamber of Commerce fundraising events. He is continuing to work his two jobs during his college career at Kreb's Services during the week, fence building and at Orsak's Cafe on the weekends. In his spare time he likes to hang out with his family and friends. He plans to keep his two jobs as he attends Texas State Technical College in Rosenberg, Texas to obtain a degree in Electrical Control and Power. Once he graduates he hopes to find a job in the Fayetteville area. The local people of Fayetteville, his family and his friends are what drives him to succeed.

Tales from the Trail...

What's hot and happening with our friends around the state



Nolan County

Nolan County's new CED, Camille Middleton went to the 2024 Sweetwater Rattlesnake Roundup in March and look who she found! Her Predecessor, Nolan County's previous CED, Dennis Cumbie wrapped a snake around her neck! Dennis has worked with the Sweetwater Jaycees for many years and has always been involved in the Rattlesnake Roundup. Before the Roundup he has several presentations on local news stations and at area schools teaching about rattlesnakes and safety. At the roundup you will find him in the milking pit where he is extracting venom from the snakes in order to make anti venom. He retired from Nolan County FSA on April 29, 2023.

Hockley County

Mrs. Brooke Lust, daughter of Mike & Mica Durham (Hockley County PT) graduated from UTPB in May with a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership.





Hockley County

Hockley County PTs, Rebecca Hodge & Lori Pinkert, celebrated another trip around the sun in May!



Lavaca County

Welcome to the TASCOE family, Whitlee Faith Petru! Whitlee was born on April 25th to Dalton and Bailee Petru, Lavaca County PT!



Eldorado Service Center

FSA and NRCS employees from the Eldorado Service Center watching the solar eclipse.

Eastland County

Cash Curtis, grandson of Eastland
County Key PT Sharon Curtis, was
inducted into the Midlothian Jr. High
National Honor Society and received
1st place trumpet solo in UIL
Competition for Midlothian, a 5A
school! Way to go Cash!!



Guadalupe County

Allie Aguilar competed in the Elite
Cup Regional Dance competition in
San Antonio on May 11 & 12. She was
awarded the judges award and was
1st place overall for her Solo in the
Senior division. She Will be moving
on to the National competition in
June at the Kalahari Resorts &
Convention Center in Round Rock.
She is the youngest daughter of
Guadalupe County CED Albert
Aguilar, Jr. and Linda Aguilar.



Colorado County

Payton LeBlue, son of Lori LeBlue (Colorado County PT, District 13) and John LeBlue, graduated with honors from Fayetteville High School on May 17. He plans on attending Texas State Technical College (TSTC) in Rosenberg, Texas and obtain a degree in Electrical Power and Controls.

Districts 6 and 7

TASCOE President, Jeannine P.
Wendel, giving updates on all things
TASCOE at Appeals Training held in
Abilene.



Fort Bend County

Arianna, daughter of Veronica Crum, CED in Fort Bend County, was chosen as Charger of the Week at her school for her dedication to her schoolwork and great citizenship shown at school.





Jackson County

David and Tristin Kallus, Jackson County PT, would like to announce their sweet new addition to the family, Lainey Renee Kallus! Lainey was welcomed to the world on March 21st weighing 6lbs. 15oz.



Fort Bend County

Audrina, daughter of Veronica Crum, CED in Fort Bend County, competed with her team at The One Finals in Orlando, FL. The Uptown Girls of Victory Vipers placed 5th overall out of 28 teams and hit a zero deductions on their score!



Dallas/Tarrant Urban Service
Center

The Dallas/Tarrant Urban Service
Center welcomes our new Urban
Program Technician, Angelica Ezell.
Welcome to FSA!!



District 8
The Northern Lights could be seen in District 8!



Dallas/Tarrant Urban Service Center

Randi and Revel, daughter and son of Dallas/Tarrant CED Stefen Tucker, are excited about Disney on Ice during Spring Break.



Montague County

Montague County PT, Crista Byers' grandson Maverick turned 1 in April. He is adorable and will be walking any minute! Just look at those dimples!

Lavaca/Gonzales Counties

Future TASCOE Scholarship winner alert! Colton Hines, son of Clayton and Dawna Hines, Lavaca-Gonzales County CED, recently celebrated his Pre-K graduation!



Clay/Jack County

Grandbaby #9 for Angie Hicks, Clay/Jack County PT, was born on May 7, 2024. Lorelai Nichole Hicks weighed in at 7lbs 5 ounces and was 19.5 inches. What a doll!!



Young & Throckmorton Counties

Young-Throckmorton CED, Jeannine P. Wendel (& hubby, Duane) are certainly proud of their 2023 UNT bachelor degreed daughter, Jillian P. Wendel (22 years old) who loves all styles of art and is truly gifted in curating art events for new and aspiring artists. She will be starting her second year at the University of North Texas Master's Program in Art Education as just completing her first year of a 2-year Master's Program with all "A's" and high accommodations from her professors and peers. Within a year, Jillian has curated three group shows in Denton, Dallas, and Fort Worth. Recently, she curated a group show in her backyard. Galluzzi remarks their favorite aspect of the entire "Speed Bump" art event in the "lil D" / Denton, TX area is seeing the public interact with the art and seeing people's excitement about it. At one of the locations, there was "The SHEd Show", in which the artist Jillian Wendel, an art curator, showcased ten other artists' work in the shed in her very own backyard in Denton. The exhibition in her shed, "fetid", featured mostly Denton and Dallas-Fort Worth-based artists. This was the first year the event had a curator apply and be accepted. There were other unique art demonstrations amongst the other locations around Denton as an art lovers experience to view, shop, purchase art pieces if you wished and enjoy the day. Several pieces were sold in Jillian's show which made it a real success. Jillian has been mentioned in numerous Texas magazines, including Patron magazine, Glasstire magazine and recently in the North Texas Daily. In August, she will curate a solo show with artist Hannah Baskin in Bangalore, India with Gallery A.M.P.S.











Johnson County

Rowan, Son of Johnson County PT, Tori Johnson celebrates his last day in 2nd Grade with his teacher, Mrs. Hand. He is ready for a fun filled summer at the Boys and Girls Club, competing in summer reading challenges and lots of visits to the local pool!



Terry County

Kaden Wise, Son of PT-Kayla Wise graduated from Brownfield High School. He was Salutatorian and will attend Texas Tech University and major in Biochemistry.



Fayette/Lee County

CED, Levi Garlick and his son, Jacob, goat roping at their family reunion this summer. Levi only ended up with a few bumps and bruises!



Fort Bend County

Ava, daughter of Veronica Crum, CED in Fort Bend County, graduated 5th grade and is ready for Middle School!



Johnson County

Rowan, Son of Johnson County PT,
Tori Johnson receives the "Choose
Love Certificate and was
nominated to say the pledges for
assembly



Houston-Leon-Madison & Anderson Counties

Layla Harrelson, daughter of PT Amber Harrelson, recently celebrated her 15th birthday and wrapped up school year at her FFA banquet.





Falls County

Marissa Fitz, daughter of Falls County Program Technician, Donna Fitz was named 2024-2025 Riesel High School Drum Major. Marissa and her mom also enjoyed a trip to Branson Missouri with the band to perform at Silver Dollar City.



Houston-Leon-Madison & Anderson Counties

Amber Harrelson, PT for Houston-Leon-Madison & Anderson Counties, went on a girl's trip to celebrate the end of the school year for her daughters. Pictured left to right are: Amber, April Morris, Amber's daughter Julie, Amie Moore, and Amber's daughter Layla.





Throckmorton County

BIG BRAIN TIME! Michelle Singleton, Throckmorton County PT, is so proud of her son, Ben Burk, a Junior at Newcastle High School. He worked hard to win the State UIL 1A State Champion in the Calculator Applications math contest in Austin this May. Ben was also a member of the back-to-back 1A State Champion Calculator Applications Team and the 1A State Champion Mathematics Team from Newcastle ISD.



Montague County

Camrin Byers, daughter of
Montague County PT, Crista Byers,
recently celebrated her upcoming
nuptials with a bridal shower. She
looked beautiful and everyone had
a wonderful time. She felt so
blessed to have so many friends
and loved ones come to her
shower.

Wise County

What a busy end of the school year it has been for the boys of April M Cowling, Wise County PT.

John just finished his Freshman Year with A Honor Roll. He received his Greenhand Degree in FFA as well as 2 Supervised Agriculture Experiences (SAEs) in Goats and Rabbits.

Carson completed 5th Grade with AB Honor Roll and is ready for 6th Grade.

Carson also has a new Hereford show steer, Rooster Cogburn. The first steer jackpot for Carson was a success with him winning his class and winning Reserve Champion British.













Colorado County

Clay Hoffmann, son of Colorado
County CED-Dawn Hoffmann, finished
out his 4th grade year earning A
Honor Roll and being named Hard
Working Shorthorn out of his class.



Houston-Leon-Madison
Counties

The gals at the FSA office in Crockett catching a glance at the eclipse.

Colorado County

Kylee Hoffmann, daughter of Colorado
County CED-Dawn Hoffmann,
participated in the Crowned Flamingo
Pageant in Victoria, TX. She placed 1st
runner up in the Pre-Teen Division.
She also received awards for Best
Model, Most Confident, People's
Choice Top 10, and Raffle Ticket Sales
Top 10.



VISIT OUR ORGANIZATION WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION OR FOLLOW US ALL ON FACEBOOK!!



www.tascoe.org

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Texas-association-of-FSA-County-Office-Employees/188526634494360

www.nafecfsa.com

https://www.facebook.com/fsacountycommittees/





www.nascoe.org

https://www.facebook.com/NASCOENews/

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