

2017 CONVENING CONFERENCE AGENDA



BUILDING MOMENTUM

JUNE 12-13, 2017

**Texas A&M University
Commerce, TX**

EDUCATION
Reach
for TEXANS

DAY ONE June 12, 2017

8:00 am - 10:00 am

Registration

8:00 am - 9:30 am

Hot Breakfast

Ballroom A, B, & C

9:30 am - 9:55 am

Convening Opening & Welcome

Sheila Bustillos, Education Reach President

Ballroom A, B, & C

9:55 am - 10:15 am

Pre-Conference Workshop Report

Amy O'Keefe, Executive Director of Campus Alliance Resource Education (CARE)

at Texas Woman's University

Brenda Sweeten, Clinical Assistant Professor of Social Work at the University of North Texas (UNT)

Ballroom A, B, & C

1:00 pm - 2:10 pm

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Building Momentum on Campus:

Establishing and Supporting Foster Care Alumni Student Organizations

Brenda Sweeten, LCSW, UNT PUSH Advisor and Foster Care Liaison Officer

Maryssa Vasquez, PUSH President

Payton Hernandez, PUSH Vice President

Frankie Green, PUSH Member

Rosemary Adesina, PUSH Member

Jackie Davis, PUSH and UNT Alumni

Room: Ambition

Working with Undocumented Students in Higher Education

Dr. Monica Faulkner, Director and Research Associate Professor of the Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing, The University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin)

Ana Hernandez, Research Assistant, UT Austin

Anayeli Marcos, Research Assistant, UT Austin

Room: Pride

10:15 am - 11:00 am

Tuition Waiver Use in Texas & CPS Legislative Updates

Debra Emerson, Child Protective Services (CPS) Director of Permanency, Family and Youth Services, Foster Adopt Development, and Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children

Ballroom A, B, & C

11:00 am - 11:20 am

Texas Children's Commission: Higher Education and K-12 Collaborations

Jamie Bernstein, Staff Attorney, Supreme Court of Texas Children's Commission

Ballroom A, B, & C

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Networking Lunch

Ballroom A, B, & C

Accountability, Program Evaluation, and the Casey Family Programs' Framework for Program Enhancement: A Trio of Sustainability Factors

Nerissa LeBlanc Gillum, Ph.D, Associate Professor, Family Studies, TWU

Amy O'Keefe, Executive Director of Campus Alliance Resource Education (CARE), TWU

Monica Mendez-Grant, Vice President of Student Life, TWU

Room: Legacy

Your Voice is Heard: Discussing Foster Care Alumni Rights

Jason Robbins, MSW, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Room: Traditions



DAY ONE Continued **June 12, 2017**

2:15 pm - 3:25 pm

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Transforming High Mobility Into Momentum: Moving Highly Mobile Youth Towards Post Secondary Success

Vicky S. Dill, Ph.D. UT Austin

Mr. Ken Martin, B.B.A. UT Austin

Room: Ambition

STAR Heath Foster Care Medicaid Transitioning Youth Orientation

*Mary Armstrong LPC, LCDC Senior Manager Foster
Care Training, STAR Health Foster Care Medicaid,*

Superior Health Plan, Cenpatico Behavioral

Tara Hosch, BA/BS Senior Trainer Senior Manager

Foster Care Training

Gloria Fobbs, LMSW Senior Trainer Senior Manager

Foster Care Training

Room: Legacy

3:25 pm - 3:35 pm

Break (Light Refreshments/Snacks)

Ballroom A, B, & C

3:35 pm - 4:55 pm

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Navigating the Education Training Voucher (ETV) Waters: Tips for Smooth Sailing

*Sarah Humphrey, BCFS Health and Human Services,
ETV Specialist*

*Brandi Purswell, BCFS Health and Human Services,
ETV Specialist*

Room: Legacy

Creating a Pathway Towards Success: The Basics of Starting a Foster Care Alumni Program on Your Campus

*Jennifer Alaniz and Ashley Ochoa, Texas A&M
University-Kingsville, Center for Student Success,
Fostering Towards Success, Advisors*

Room: Pride

Foster Youth Transition Centers

Madeline Reedy, Senior Director, TRAC, CitySquare

Room: Pride

Retention Through Relationships— A Relationship Based Approach for a Foster Care Alumni Program

*Angelica Cancino de Sandoval, Austin Community
College (ACC)*

Roseana Lahti, Special Populations Advocate, ACC

Room: Traditions

4:55 pm - 5:00 pm

Transition to Ballroom A, B, & C

5:00 pm - 5:15 pm

Wrap -Up /Housekeeping

Ballroom A, B, & C

Dinner on your own



DAY TWO June 13, 2017

7:30 am - 8:30 am

Texas A&M University System Meeting

7:30 am - 9:30 am

Registration

7:30 am - 8:45 am

Hot Breakfast

Ballroom A, B, & C

8:45 am - 9:15 am

Texas A&M University System: A Systematic Approach to Support Foster Care Alumni in Higher Education

David Halpern, Office of General Council, Texas A&M University System; Sims Foundation, Board of Director Seedling Foundation, Board Director and mentor in Children of Incarcerated Parents Program

Ballroom A, B, & C

10:30 am - 11:30 am

Inaugural John Emerson Reach Award

Awards and Speeches

Ballroom A, B, & C

11:45 am - 12:45 pm

Networking Lunch

1:00 pm - 2:40 pm

Alumni Journey

Ballroom A, B, & C

2:40 pm - 3:00 pm

Light Refreshment Break

Ballroom A, B, & C

3:00 pm - 3:15 pm

Closing Remarks

Ballroom A, B, & C

9:15 am - 10:30 am

**Legal and Personal Perspectives on the Law
and Realities of Youth in the Foster Care
System**

*Douglas Lowe, Former Anderson County
District Attorney*
Ballroom A, B, & C

3:15 pm - 3:30 pm

**CEU, LPC & MFT Certificates Provided through
Texas Woman's University**
Conference Evaluations Online



Education Reach Governing Board

Keri Rogers, Ph.D., Founding Member
Kathleen Christensen, Ph.D., Secretary/Founding Member
Sheila Bustillos, President/Founding Member
Christine Lynn Norton, Ph.D.
Shannon Ramsey
Jamie Bernstein, J.D.
Monica Faulkner, Ph.D.
Kelly Kravitz

Education Reach Leadership Board

<i>Gaye Vopat</i>	<i>Shannon Mann-Butler</i>
<i>Amy O'Keefe</i>	<i>Jennifer Boniedot</i>
<i>Brenda Sweeten</i>	<i>Terri Winters</i>
<i>Krystal Greenwood</i>	<i>Davina Hollin</i>
<i>Jackie Davis</i>	<i>Zo Conley</i>
<i>Christopher Hensley</i>	

Supporting Organizations

Texas A&M Commerce
Texas Woman's University
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The University of North Texas Printing Services

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