



Spring 2015

TEXAS WOMEN IN HIGHER EDUCATION E-NEWSLETTER

**Texas Women in Higher Education ...
TWHE is the American Council on Education (ACE)
Women's Network state organization for Texas**



2015 Texas Women in Higher Education Conference

Please join me and colleagues from institutions throughout Texas at the 2015 Texas Women in Higher Education (TWHE) annual conference to be held March 30-31, in Galveston, Texas. Our Conference Committee has created a program designed to provide professional development and revitalization in a beautiful island setting at the luxurious Hotel Galvez. The two-day conference will give you a chance to unwind and soak up sun and insights into your own and others professional development in the companionship of women leaders in higher education.

Plan to attend the 2015 TWHE Annual Conference!

- Learn from the expertise of Texas leaders in higher education
- Network with colleagues from across the State
- Rejuvenate in Galveston Island's beautiful vistas and gracious hospitality

Register now at: www.twhe.org



Chair's Welcome

Each month I receive e-mails and phone calls asking how one can join TWHE. The good news is TWHE does not have membership dues and joining is as simple as attending an event or subscribing to a TWHE List serve or newsletter (twhe.org). Given the opportunity, I like to offer my caller or pen/keyboard pal a chance to become engaged with TWHE, a step beyond "joining," and that's when things get exciting!

Women involved in TWHE come from all sectors of higher education and all areas within higher education. The leadership skills we learn are not tied to career tracks but, instead, to individual development. Professional development ranges from beginner to senior level, with examples of women experienced in every stage of professional development. We have the opportunity to network with senior-level women in higher education from across the state at our annual conference and regional events.

How do you know if you should get more engaged in TWHE?

- You enjoy learning about opportunities for women in the leadership of higher education in Texas.
- You are interested in developing your skills and networks.
- You are curious about other colleges and universities in Texas.
- You would like to meet and learn from other women leaders.

If you are interested in becoming more engaged in TWHE, consider the following:

- Serve as an Institutional Representative for your college or university.
- Attend regional events offered by TWHE and ACE.
- Suggest program ideas for local and regional events.
- Attend TWHE annual conference.
- Provide leadership to local campus programs.
- Schedule networking activities among the women at your campus and with women on neighboring campuses.
- Contact me to talk about how you can get involved. [Kristin Harper](#), Executive Director for Undergraduate Studies, Texas A&M University

TWHE Welcomes Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson as Texas A&M University-San Antonio's 2nd president.

Dr. Matson has been involved in higher education her entire professional career. She is a native of San Antonio, Texas transplanted in middle school to Alaska. As an undergraduate student at University of Alaska Fairbanks, she worked as a student assistant while completing her Bachelor of Arts in Management and benefited from supportive administrators who saw in her great potential. She was encouraged to continue her education and received a Master of Business Administration from the University of Alaska Anchorage.

While at UA Anchorage, Dr. Matson worked full time in the Procurement Department and served as an adjunct professor in the business school. Teaching as an adjunct gave her valuable experience



and the opportunity to provide support for students in the framework of rigorous business courses. She also connected with mentor Janet Parker, who encouraged her to continue her education and provided opportunities for her to increase her experiences as a higher education administrator.

University of Alaska Anchorage Chancellor, Lee Borsuch, also served as a mentor to Dr. Matson while giving her opportunities for leadership as the Associate Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services during a time of exponential growth at the university.

In 2004, Dr. Matson was selected by President John Welty to serve as Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer at California State University, Fresno. Along with the rewarding experience of working in a diverse and economically challenged community, Dr. Matson also found a good fit between higher education and her personal values. At Cal State, Fresno, Dr. Matson was encouraged to use her work experiences and institutional initiatives to enhance her doctoral work in Educational Leadership. Aware of her potential to provide even greater leadership, President Welty encouraged Dr. Matson to pursue the presidency at Texas A&M University – San Antonio.

Dr. Matson acknowledges the challenges of balancing full-time work as an administrator in higher education, having a family, and pursuing advanced degrees. Throughout her career, mentors have given Dr. Matson support and professional direction. She returns that benefit by supporting women in higher education through her position on the Higher Education Resource Services (HERS) Board and serving as a faculty member at ACUI's Women's Leadership Institute.

Dr. Matson believes that her accomplishments are a testament to the strength of women. She sees a great need for more women in the presidential pipeline and is concerned when she hears of women who "select out" because of concerns of balancing personal and professional lives. Dr. Matson encourages women to **"Be the CEO of your own career, be the best and invest in yourself."**

TWU's Women in Higher Education: A Success Story

Women in Fast Forward: Advancing Your Leadership was the theme of TWU Women in Higher Education's Fall Conference. Twelve TWU leaders attended the state Texas Women in Higher Education conference in Fort Worth and came away with strong motivation and inspiration to begin a TWU Women in Higher Education group. As one of its first initiatives, they planned the conference to include both internal and external women in higher education.

The goal was to host a conference with 100 attendees. The registration was opened for internal registrants two days ahead of issuing the external invitation. Within 24 hours, 110 internal attendees had registered. The group moved to a new location to accommodate a larger group and opened the invitation to women from neighboring colleges and universities. The final attendance was 165!



The day began with an opening keynote address by Dr. Carine Feyten, TWU's new Chancellor and President, on the topic of *Campfires to Conferences: Women's Way Forward*. Participants had the opportunity to choose three breakout sessions focused on developing specific leadership skills. A wonderful *HerStories* panel at lunch included both experienced and new leaders to higher education sharing their career trajectories and lessons learned. The day concluded with popular door prizes.

The TWU Women in Higher Education group is using this successful conference as a springboard to a number of networking, skill-building, and book review opportunities in the Spring 2015 semester. It is our goal to increase the leadership capacity of women at Texas Woman's University.

Reception for Women Texas Legislators and Women College and University Presidents

On January 21, Texas Women in Higher Education hosted a Reception for Texas Women Legislators and Women College and University Presidents at the State Capitol. Members of the TWHE Board were delighted to have the opportunity to mingle with our legislators and presidents and share our focus on advancing women in higher education.

TWHE Presidential Sponsor, Denise Trauth (Texas State University) presented findings from a recent study on the economic impact in Texas of the colleges and universities. Presidential Sponsor Marjorie Hass (Austin College) followed with information on the importance of leadership in higher education and the role all of our institutions have in providing access to education to our growing population.

Attending the reception were Texas Senators Sylvia Garcia (District 6) and Judith Zaffirini (District 21) and Representatives Cindy Burkett (District 113), Angie Button (District 112), Donna Howard (District 48), Celia Israel (District 50).

College and University Presidents in attendance included Emily Cutrer (Texas A&M – Texarkana), Dana Hoyt (Sam Houston State University), Cynthia Teniente-Matson (Texas A&M - San Antonio), Denise Trauth (Texas State University), Sandra Harper (McMurry University), and Marjorie Hass (Austin College).

The reception was co-hosted by the Council of Public University Presidents and Chancellors (CPUPC), The Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas, Inc. (ICUT), and The Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC).



Reception for Women Texas Legislators and Women College and University Presidents Photos





Texas Women in Higher Education (TWHE) Institutional Representatives (IRs): Making a Difference

Every institution of higher education in Texas has the opportunity to designate an Institutional Representative (IR) to keep women administrators on her respective campus up to date with information from the state and national organizations and to create local opportunities of interest with women on her campus. At this time, there are 108 IRs through the state of Texas representing two- and four year, private and public institutions of higher education. IRs are undertaking many wonderful and creative ways to connect, empower, and support women in higher education.

The IR team is dedicated to expanding the number of institutional representatives from two-year and private institutions of higher education. Additionally, the team gathers, shares, and promotes local and regional events and activities conducted by the Institutional Representatives that support the advancement of women in higher education at their institutions and in their regions. We welcome your ideas and suggestions of women leaders on the numerous campuses that are not affiliated with Texas Women in Higher Education. To find out how to connect with your institution's IR or to get involved as an IR, contact one of the following members of the IR team:

Please call an IR Committee member for questions and we are looking forward to seeing you soon.

Dani Day, Collin College, dday@collin.edu, 972-758-3804

Jean Keller, University of North Texas, Jean.Keller@unt.edu, 940-565-3427

Cissy Matthews, Galveston College, cissy.matthews@gc.edu, 409-9441204

Renee McDonald, Southern Methodist University, rmcdonal@mailsmu.edu, 214-768-1128

Teresa Simpson, Lamar University, Teresa.Simspon@lamar.edu, 409-880-8879

TWHE Institutional Representative (IR) Committee – Conducting Survey and Planning Small Grants

The TWHE Institutional Representative (IR) Committee is designing and administering a survey to discern what types of activities and events are being conducted by IRs across the state of Texas. Over the years, small conferences promoting women in higher education, book clubs, social gatherings, and activities to support female students interested in higher education careers have come to TWHE IR Committee member's attention. However, there has been no systematic accounting of who is doing these events, what are their impacts, and how can these initiatives be replicated and scaled. Using Survey Monkey, all TWHE IRs, representing public and private two- and four-years Texas colleges, will be invited to present a profile of who is preparing events for women, who are attending them, and what effect these events are having in their regions. The IR Committee members ask that each IR complete the survey in a timely manner so that the information can be shared at the IR dinner on March 29th during the 2015 TWHE Conference in Galveston. This data will



also be used to define and shape a brand new initiative the TWHE Board of Directors approved at its summer meeting.

TWHE Board approved funds to support Institutional Representatives (IRs) achieve their **IDEALS**, using a small grant program.

- I**dentify women leaders
- D**evelop their leadership abilities
- E**ncourage the use of those abilities
- A**dvance women's careers
- L**ink them to other women and mentors
- S**upport women throughout their careers

With small grants to support connecting women; enhancing the profile of women; and promoting communications between and among women in higher education within the state and its diverse regions, this will strengthen the work of TWHE. Plans are being made to unveil the new TWHE small grants program at the IR Dinner. Please make sure you register for the dinner and plan to join your IR committee on March 29 to learn about what is taking place across Texas and how you can be part of expanding these efforts.

Texas Women in Higher Education (TWHE) is dedicated to developing, advancing and supporting women employed at colleges and universities across the state. TWHE provides its members with the skills needed to reach leadership positions and to enhancing the leadership skills of those already there. TWHE is the American Council on Education (ACE) Women's Network state organization for Texas. Together, the two organizations develop programs that identify, develop, encourage, advance, link, and support women in higher education careers within the state.

Am I a member of TWHE?

The clear answer is yes! By virtue of expressing your interest in TWHE, through participating in the annual conference or providing us with your email address, you are considered a member. TWHE does not charge membership dues. The organization is supported through the successful operation of the annual conference and the sponsorships and donations received in conjunction with the conference. Individuals interested in joining TWHE may visit the website: www.twhe.org

Check out TWHE Listserv

For the latest news and information on TWHE and other topics related to women's leadership, sign up for the TWHE listserv at www.twhe.org

If you have an article or suggestion that you would like to submit to the TWHE Newsletter, please email: Nancy.KingSanders.