

# 2025 Health Science Conference Agenda

Sunday, July 20, 2025 11:00am - 12:00pm

**New Teacher & BLS Renewal Registration Only**  
**HOTEL LOBBY**

Sunday, July 20, 2025 12:00pm - 3:00pm

**BLS Instructor Renewal Workshop \*Additional FEE Required**  
**REVEILLE**

Sunday, July 20, 2025 12:00pm - 6:00pm

**New Teacher Workshop \*Additional FEE Required**  
**HULLABALOO**

New Teacher Workshop

Alisha Smith

*Summer Creek High School*

Alisha Smith is currently teaching at Summer Creek High School in Humble ISD. She has been teaching there for 9 years and has been with Humble ISD for 16 years. Classes she has taught include Principles of Health Science, Health Science Theory/Clinical (PCT Certification), Health Science Practicum (CCMA Certification), and the CTE Ambassador class. Before teaching at Summer Creek, she worked in Special Education as a Physical Therapist Assistant. She has been a PTA for a total of 17 years. Alisha has served on multiple TEKS committees and assisted with multiple textbook reviews. In 2018, Alisha was awarded THOA's New Teacher Scholarship. She has also served as Area 6 Board Director and is currently THOA's Past President.

This comprehensive 2-day training provides new teachers with the resources and training needed to teach Health Science. The New Teacher Training will take place on July 20, 12:00-6:00 PM, and July 21 from 8:00 AM-5:00 PM. Registration for this training includes General Conference registration on Wednesday and Thursday. The workshop includes: Overview of health science and understanding of the TEKS, classroom management, health science terminology, teaching strategies, learning styles, and introduction to student organizations. Exposure to classroom and administrative responsibilities, including lesson planning and making those lesson plans interactive using labs and technology.

Sunday, July 20, 2025 3:30pm - 4:00pm

**PM Break for New Teachers and THOA BOD**  
**HULLABALOO**

Sunday, July 20, 2025 3:30pm - 10:00pm

**HOSA Board (Budget Committee and Executive Team Only)**  
**OAK & LAUREL**

Sunday, July 20, 2025 4:30pm - 6:30pm

**BLS Instructor Trainer 2-Day Workshop Registration**  
**HOTEL LOBBY**

Sunday, July 20, 2025 5:30pm - 7:00pm

**General Conference Registration and THOA Headquarters**  
**HOTEL LOBBY**

Sunday, July 20, 2025 6:30pm - 9:30pm

**BLS Instructor Trainer 2-Day Workshop \*Additional FEE Required**  
**REVEILLE**

**American Heart Association BLS Provider Instructor Course**

Connor DeYear

*Daniel E. DeYear Training Center*

Connor DeYear is currently Training Center Faculty for the Daniel E. DeYear Training Center, which was founded in 1984 by his father, Daniel E. DeYear. Connor has been an instructor with the family business for over a decade, becoming one immediately after his high school graduation. He has taught around the state for various school districts and many private businesses wishing to become trained in CPR and First Aid, both within and outside the healthcare field. Connor attended Texas A&M University in College Station and received his BBA in Finance in 2018. He was extremely active on campus as a member of multiple social and academic organizations, a counselor for incoming freshman camp, and the Social Chair for the executive committee for his Men's organization – Aggie Gentlemen of Integrity. After graduation, he worked for PepsiCo as a part of their Frito Lay division in Plano for nearly 4 years, holding multiple finance and insights roles throughout his tenure. He left PepsiCo after going to school in the evenings to get his EMT certification to pursue a career in the fire service. He then worked in private EMS in the Dallas area while he obtained his firefighting certificate. He hopes to be working for a local fire department as a paramedic/firefighter in the near future. Outside of his passion for teaching and all things emergency medicine related, Connor enjoys spending time with his closest friends and family, cooking new things, playing video games, and staying active with various sports.

Nikke DeYear

*Daniel E. DeYear Training Center*

Nikke DeYear is transitioning into the role of Training Center Coordinator for the Daniel E. DeYear Training Center and Rescue Co 10, which was started by her father in 1984 and run by



her mother, Janet, since 2003. Nikke was first certified in CPR & First Aid as a Girl Scout in the 2nd grade. Along with her brother Connor, their lead instructor, Rescue Co 10 and the Daniel E. DeYear Training Center serve school districts and community organizations across the Dallas metroplex and state of Texas to provide high quality CPR and First Aid training. Nikke is a nonprofit and human rights professional who has over 11 years of experience in nonprofit operations, capacity building, and security & logistics. She most recently served for over 4 years as the Head of Operations for the Clooney Foundation for Justice, an international human rights organization operating in more than 40 countries. Her expertise has led her to become a go-to resource for government organizations and nonprofits looking for specialized logistical support and a strategic advisor to those looking to scale operations and mission impact. Prior to this work, Nikke served in various roles across the nonprofit and government industries, including as a case manager for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence at the YWCA of Oklahoma City and as an intern and special assistant at the US Mission to the United Nations Washington, D.C. office. Nikke has a Master's degree in Global Security and a Bachelor's degree in International Studies from the University of Oklahoma and has studied 5 languages: Spanish, Arabic, French, Irish, and French. She spends her free time backpacking, hiking with her dog Nara, cooking, planning her next trip, and slowly building the world's largest personal library. She and her husband Brandon, a drummer and touring musician, love to explore and support the arts and are active and extensive travelers.

Janet DeYear

*Rescue Co. 10/Daniel E. DeYear Training Center*

Janet DeYear is the co-owner and prior Training Center Coordinator for the Daniel E. DeYear Training Center, which has been in business since 1984. She and her husband, Daniel, a retired Fire Chief with Dallas Fire Rescue, along with her son, Connor, have taught thousands of students the life-saving skills of CPR, First Aid and AED usage in schools, healthcare facilities, community organizations and local businesses. Janet and Daniel recently welcomed Nikke DeYear into the family business as the new Training Center Coordinator. Janet is currently a BLS Lead Instructor and Training Center Faculty for their business. Her expertise includes assisting many school districts in the state of Texas, managing the Training Sites under the training center, and mentoring a large number of instructors and Training Site Coordinators who are aligned with the Daniel E. DeYear Training Center. Janet holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance and is a former Claims Superintendent for State Farm Insurance. Janet and her husband have three grown children, a son-in-law, a daughter-in-law to be, and a big, friendly Australian Shephard! Janet is a past PTA President, Girl Scout Leader, soccer mom, and Sunday School teacher. In her free time, she loves to travel, play pickleball, walk/hike, read a good mystery novel, volunteer at various organizations, and scrapbook her family's activities.

Daniel DeYear

*We are 2nd, LLC*

Daniel is originally from The Bronx in New York City and began his Fire Service Career in the Northeast. His time in the Texas Fire Service began over 40 years ago. He previously worked for the Carrollton Fire Department for nearly 10 years, serving in several capacities. He then served for two years as an International Fire Marshal for the U. S. Department of State, Foreign Building Operations, where he travelled to more than 35 countries providing fire & life safety to the United States Embassies and Consulates. He has been with the Dallas Fire Department for the past 30+ years and has held every rank up to Deputy Chief. Currently, he is a retired Deputy Chief. He also serves as the Chairman of the Texas Commission on Fire Protection, Firefighter Advisory Committee and is a member of the Curriculum and Testing Committee and the Health and Wellness Committees. He was the TAFE 2020 Instructor of the Year. In addition to his



involvement with the Daniel E. DeYear Training Center as a Training Faculty, Daniel is a public speaker and can be found at [chiefdeyear.com](http://chiefdeyear.com) and operates under We Are 2nd LLC. He lives in Plano with his wife, Janet, and they have three grown children. He is an avid snow skier and enjoys baseball, football and auto racing.

**Become an American Heart Association BLS CPR Instructor for your district! This course will train you to teach both healthcare and non-healthcare CPR provider classes for your students, fellow teachers and staff. See flyer for more details.**



Sunday, July 20, 2025 7:00pm - 8:30pm

**Conference Attendees Dinner On Your Own**  
See Info in Ap

Sunday, July 20, 2025 7:00pm - 8:30pm

**THOA Board and Staff Dinner**  
President's Room

Monday, July 21, 2025 6:55am - 5:00pm

**Day 1 of Conference**

**Get Ready For Fun Workshops and Gallery of Exhibitors!**

Monday, July 21, 2025 7:00am - 8:00am

**Light Breakfast**  
CENTURY BALLROOM

Monday, July 21, 2025 7:00am - 8:30am

**AM Drink Service Ends at 8:30 AM**

## CENTURY BALLROOM

Monday, July 21, 2025 7:00am - 7:00pm

### General Conference Registration and THOA Headquarters HOTEL LOBBY

Monday, July 21, 2025 8:00am - 11:00am

### Monday Morning Workshops

#### Engage & Educate: Interactive Health Science Lessons and Google Tools with other Technology Tips

Bobbie Kite

*Lubbock-Cooper Liberty High School*

Bobbie is an RN with 20+ years of experience. She graduated from Texas Tech University School of Nursing with a BSN in 2003. She received her professional certification in high-risk inpatient obstetrics, and is certified in limited obstetrical sonography. Bobbie worked for 15 years in Labor and Delivery, and was a childbirth educator for many years. Bobbie has been a certified pharmacy technician for over 20 years and currently teaches A&P, pharmacology, med term, health science theory, and the pharmacy technician certification course at Lubbock-Cooper Liberty High School in Lubbock, TX.

Cheyenne Kirkpatrick

*Kilgore High School*

Cheyenne Kirkpatrick has taught health science at Kilgore High School for 13 years as well as teaching as an adjunct professor for Kilgore College. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training and a Bachelor of Science in Education from Southern Arkansas University. She also earned a Master of Science in Sports Management from Texas Woman's University, a Master of Science in Health Education from the University of Texas at Tyler, and a Principal Certificate from Lamar University. She has served on the THOA board for 4 years, and she is currently holding the office of president.

This workshop equips high school health science teachers with interactive, hands-on lesson plans that boost student engagement and real-world learning. Participants will explore creative strategies like simulations and group activities, leaving with a toolkit of ready-to-use resources.

The second half focuses on maximizing Google Tools and other tech platforms to simplify workflow and enhance collaboration. Learn to use Google Forms, Docs, Sheets, and Slides, along with Canva and GooseChase, to create quizzes, online escape rooms, and more. Perfect for educators or professionals seeking practical, innovative ways to engage others and streamline tasks using powerful digital tools.

#### Get Your Hands Dirty Modeling the Body Systems!

CAROLYN HESS

*Southeastern College, Keiser University*

As a lifelong educator, Carolyn Hess has a varied teaching history which has endowed her with a broad skill set and an expansive content knowledge base. Her 25 years in the Texas secondary classroom have given her the opportunity to “spread the Science word” to thousands of students, whether they be in the freshman Biology classroom, Honors A&P, AP Environmental Science, or other disciplines. Carolyn has often moonlighted as an adjunct professor and finds special fulfillment in helping adults re-connect with Science and reinvent themselves after primary careers or parenthood. She also enjoys collaborating with and mentoring teachers in conferences, educator test preparations or Summer professional development experiences.

In this session you will learn ways to increase student engagement and academic achievement in your anatomy lab without relying upon the availability (or cost) of preserved specimens! Using reusable clay, participants will build components of the nervous, digestive, lymphatic and circulatory systems onto models. This active, hands-on approach to anatomy reinforces learning, recruits memory pathways that only tactile experiences can employ, and empowers attendees with a strong sense of accomplishment. The activity of building the human, not simply viewing it, is a powerful and engaging method of learning anatomy.

Lara Climer

North Garland High School

### Harnessing the Student Engagement Power of Digital Escape Rooms

Dr. Lara Climer, EdD, MSN, RN, is a registered nurse and Texas-certified educator in multiple disciplines with over 25 years in public health nursing, CTE, and nursing education leadership. As the owner of Nursing and Health Science Central, she is dedicated to supporting teachers in creating engaging, effective learning experiences. Dr. Climer specializes in the innovative use of educational technology, including digital escape rooms, to enhance instruction, promote critical thinking, and equip teachers with practical tools to improve student engagement and learning outcomes.

This workshop explores the pedagogy behind digital escape rooms and provides practical methods for creating your own. Using Microsoft OneNote and Google Forms, you'll learn step-by-step how to design interactive challenges that reinforce content, promote teamwork, and keep students motivated. By the end of the session, you'll have a ready-to-use template and the confidence to implement digital escape rooms in your teaching. Get ready to bring the fun and engagement of gamified learning to your classroom!



## Phlebotomy 102

Melissa Rohrbough  
*Del Valle ISD*

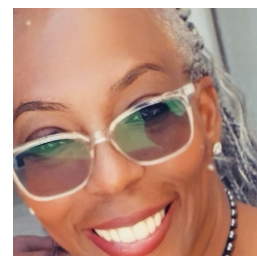
Melissa Rohrbough received a Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology from Southwest Texas University in 1991. She holds a Texas Teaching Certificate for grades 6-12 in Composite Science and holds a Texas Teaching Certificate for grades 8-12 in Health Science. She worked as a laboratory technologist for 6 years before moving to teaching. She taught chemistry and integrated chemistry and physics for ten years before moving to health science in which she is starting her eighteenth year. She has taught various courses in health science including Principles of Health Science, Theory of Health Science, Pharmacology, Pharmacy Technician Certification, Phlebotomy Certification and Clinical Medical Assistant Certification and Patient Care Technician Certification. She is also a HOSA advisor and served 6 years on the Texas Board of Directors for HOSA. She has taught multiple workshops for THOA, Texas Health Occupations Association including Phlebotomy 101, Haven't thought of that and A Little of This and a Little of That. These workshops focused on bringing hands-on activities with instructional strategies for health science teachers. Her educational philosophy is very simple: she makes her classroom a place where students want to be instead of where they must be.

Phlebotomists do more than perform venipunctures. Phlebotomy 102 is a continuation of Phlebotomy 101. In this session we will look at the CLIA waived tests that phlebotomists are allowed to do. I will demonstrate hands on activities to show you ways to teach this information. This includes specimen processing, occult blood, urinalysis and

more. We will also review techniques in drawing blood plus take a look at the new NHA standards coming out after Fall 2023. Do not worry if you have not attended Phlebotomy 101. The activities presented are easy to implement and will enhance your phlebotomy program.

I was a pharmacy technician for 2 years at Methodist -Houston in CVICU/OR while attending Pharmacy School at Texas Southern University. I have been a community pharmacist for 30 years. I currently work as a District Support Pharmacist in Fort Worth. During Covid in 2021, I began teaching at Bill R Johnson CTE in Crowey ISD to share the practice of pharmacy to high school students who could meet the ever expanding roles and responsibilities of technicians in the pharmacy industry. This is my 5th year in education. I have learned that you can indeed teach love, empathy and excellence. "I do, you do, we do:you do " I get to teach @BRJ. Where students learn to serve their community with their knowledge, skill and heart. My husband, Marcus and I have been married for 32 years. We have been blessed with 2 daughters, 2 sons, 2 daughters in loves, 2 granddaughters and 1 grandson.

Let's team up to tackle one of the biggest goal in any pharmacy tech program: getting our students certified and confident. This interactive session brings educators together to swap success stories, brainstorm fresh ideas, and walk away with a toolbox full of ready to go strategies to increase ExCpt and PTCB pass rates. Whether you bring your best practice or just come to explore, you will leave with a collaborative toolkit, new connections, and ideas you can implement on Monday. This is not your sit-and-get session---let's get LOUD and REAL and CERTIFIED!



## Starla's Hands-On Body Systems: Lymph & Immune System...the

Starla Ewan

### *Starla's Creative Teaching Tips*

Starla brings over 42 years year of teaching and brings a rich background of experience ranging from coaching, athletic training, all levels of Biology, college instruction of Anatomy, and years of on-site medical observation. She has been presenting successful teaching methods with teachers during conferences and staff development workshops for over 30 years. Her teaching experience includes Anatomy and Physiology, Medical Microbiology, Pathophysiology, AP Biology, Pre-AP Biology, standard Biology, and mentoring Health Science Curriculum. The success of Starla's teaching strategies and increased student understanding of difficult material through the use of hands-on activities and teaching tricks has led her to share with teachers, massage therapists, and medical personnel nationwide. Starla also works with new year teacher mentorship programs to facilitate a successful transition into the teaching profession and staff developments for campus faculty to coordinate a successful and consistent learning environment for students. If you would like to contact Starla about lessons from the modules or to arrange for her to conduct a dynamic workshop for your school or conference, just email her at [sewan15@yahoo.com](mailto:sewan15@yahoo.com) or call her at 806-787-6018. Your instructors will love the time spent in a workshop that gives them fun and successful lessons to take back to the classroom.

Participants will build the components of the lymph system and WBC's out of bright colors and examine how they play a role in protecting the body and targeting illnesses through the immune response. This affordable and amazing lesson helps students to take complicated events and make them easy to understand and apply to the new outbreak events of today. Instructors can take this successful and fun lesson back to their classrooms and rock their student's world!



Monday, July 21, 2025 8:00am - 4:00pm

**New Teacher Workshop Continues from Sunday \*Additional FEE Required**  
**HULLABALOO**

Monday, July 21, 2025 11:00am - 1:00pm

**Lunch On Your Own For All General Attendees**

Monday, July 21, 2025 12:00pm - 1:00pm

**Lunch for New Teacher Workshop Attendees and THOA BOD**  
**HULLABALOO**

Monday, July 21, 2025 12:00pm - 1:00pm

**Set Up Booth Exhibits**

Monday, July 21, 2025 1:00pm - 5:00pm

**Exhibitor Booths**  
**CENTURY PRE-FUNCTION,**  
**BALLROOM & LOBBY**

Monday, July 21, 2025 1:00pm - 5:00pm

**Pampering Rooms (Neck, Body or Foot Massage) \$1/min Min.5 minutes**  
**STAR & SHEILD**

Monday, July 21, 2025 3:00pm - 3:30pm

**PM Break 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM**

**CENTURY BALLROOM**

Monday, July 21, 2025 4:30pm - 7:30pm

**BLS Instructor Trainer 2-Day Workshop Continues from Sunday\*Additional FEE**

**Required  
REVEILLE**

Monday, July 21, 2025 8:00pm - 9:30pm

**Movie Night on The Veranda/Terrace/Outdoor Patio**

**Popcorn and Lemonade Provided!**

Tuesday, July 22, 2025 6:55am - 5:45pm

**DAY 2 OF CONFERENCE**

**A day full of great sessions and a Powerful Opening Session!**

Tuesday, July 22, 2025 7:00am - 8:00am

**Breakfast  
CENTURY BALLROOM**

Tuesday, July 22, 2025 7:00am - 8:30am

**AM Drink Service Ends at 8:30 AM  
CENTURY BALLROOM**

Tuesday, July 22, 2025 8:00am - 9:30am

**Tuesday Opening Session  
CENTURY BALLROOM**

Tuesday, July 22, 2025 8:00am - 5:00pm

**Exhibitor Booths**

CENTURY PRE-FUNCTION,  
BALLROOM & LOBBY

Tuesday, July 22, 2025 8:00am - 5:00pm

**Pampering Rooms (Neck, Body or Foot Massage) \$1/min Min.5 minutes**  
STAR & SHEILD

Jenny Yearby

Tuesday, July 22, 2025 10:00am - 11:00am

*Oak Grove High School*

**Group 1 Breakout Sessions 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM with 15 Minutes Q & A Until 11AM**

**Color thru Health Science**  
to shaping the next generation of healthcare professionals. Currently teaching Health Science at Oak Grove High School, located just west of Birmingham, Alabama, she brings a wealth of practical knowledge and real-world experience to the classroom. Before transitioning to education, Jenny spent three years as a school nurse, honing skills that have greatly enriched their teaching approach. Now in their 8th year as a Health Science Teacher, Mrs. Yearby combines a deep understanding of medical practice with a commitment to fostering student learning and growth. Her extensive background in nursing and firsthand experience in school health services contribute to a dynamic and engaging learning environment, preparing students for successful careers in healthcare

**"Color thru Health Science" is an innovative approach to learning, designed to offer students an engaging, creative, and comprehensive experience in the field of health science. This hands-on learning method not only enhances retention but also fosters a deeper connection to the subject matter.**

1. Color thru PCT (Patient Care Technician)- phlebotomy, EKG, patient care
2. Color thru Human Body- body systems, diseases/disorders
3. Color thru Healthcare Careers-duties in each career
4. Color thru Pharmacy Tech- Rx processing, Common Rx and OTC meds



Empowering Clinical Education: Innovative Assessment and Reflection Practices

Casey Denton

*Goodheart-Willcox Publisher*

Casey Denton has a wide array of experience in K-12, CTE, and Higher Education. His expertise comes through authentic technology integration and the creation of engaging, standards-aligned curriculum materials. With a background as a classroom teacher, instructional technology trainer,



curriculum director and a certified school administrator, he is dedicated to empowering educators and students through high-quality resources.

Join us for an engaging session focused on enhancing clinical education through innovative assessment strategies and reflective practices. We will explore practical formative assessment ideas and instructional strategies for reflection that can be easily implemented into your programs. This session aims to empower health educators with tools to facilitate collaboration, foster critical thinking, and improve student outcomes in clinical settings. Participants will leave with actionable insights to elevate their teaching and support student success.



## PCT Skills Builder Plus

Nigora McGill

*National Health career Association*

Nigora McGill is a dedicated professional with a strong commitment to her work at the National Healthcareer Association (NHA), where she has been contributing her expertise for the past four years. Throughout her tenure at NHA, Nigora has played a pivotal role in advancing the organization's mission to provide valuable materials and resources in allied health to educators, thereby enhancing the quality of healthcare education.

In this presentation, we will explore the Certified Patient Care Technician (CPCT) program, highlighting its comprehensive curriculum designed to equip healthcare professionals with essential skills for patient care. Additionally, we will introduce the newly released Patient Care Tech Skills Builder Plus material, which offers enhanced resources and tools to further develop and refine the competencies of patient care technicians. This session aims to provide valuable insights into how these educational offerings can elevate the quality of care provided by healthcare professionals.

## Phlebotomy 101

Melissa Rohrbough

*Del Valle ISD*

Melissa Rohrbough received a Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology from Southwest Texas University in 1991. She holds a Texas Teaching Certificate for grades 6-12 in Composite Science and holds a Texas Teaching Certificate for grades 8-12 in Health Science. She worked as a laboratory technologist for 6 years before moving to teaching. She taught chemistry and integrated chemistry and physics for ten years before moving to health science in which she is starting her eighteenth year. She has taught various courses in health science including Principles of Health Science, Theory of Health Science, Pharmacology, Pharmacy Technician Certification, Phlebotomy Certification and Clinical Medical Assistant Certification and Patient Care Technician Certification. She is also a HOSA advisor and served 6 years on the Texas Board of Directors for HOSA. She has taught multiple workshops for THOA, Texas Health Occupations Association including Phlebotomy 101, Haven't thought of that and A Little of This and a Little of That. These workshops focused on bringing hands-on activities with instructional strategies for health science teachers. Her educational philosophy is very simple: she makes her classroom a place where students want to be instead of where they must be.

Have you been asked to teach phlebotomy and your answer is you want me to teach what? Then this class is for you. I will step you through the process of how to teach phlebotomy and give you hands on lessons you can implement right away. From teaching how to tie a tourniquet to what tests go in what tubes to how to hold a needle, this class will go through the basics. This class is for the new teacher, or the experienced teacher that just wants to brush up on information or skills.

## Starla's Hands-On Body Systems: GI's Functional Unit of Nutrition

Starla Ewan

*Starla's Creative Teaching Tips*

Starla brings over 42 years year of teaching and brings a rich background of experience ranging from coaching, athletic training, all levels of Biology, college instruction of Anatomy, and years of on-site medical observation. She has been presenting successful teaching methods with teachers during conferences and staff development workshops for over 30 years. Her teaching experience includes Anatomy and Physiology, Medical Microbiology, Pathophysiology, AP Biology, Pre-AP Biology, standard Biology, and mentoring Health Science Curriculum. The success of Starla's teaching strategies and increased student understanding of difficult material through the use of hands-on activities and teaching tricks has led her to share with teachers, massage therapists, and medical personnel nationwide. Starla also works with new year teacher mentorship programs to facilitate a successful transition into the teaching profession and staff developments for campus faculty to coordinate a successful and consistent learning envi

Participants will build the functional unit of the GI system and its lacteal and vascular system out of brightly colored clay. This pocket-lesson activity is a great guide for students to learn the common and hidden structure of the villi, understand its role in providing nutrition to the body, and how all other body systems depend on its ability to absorb the "groceries" they need! Common damage or pathology will be applied to help students understand a villi's enemies. Your healthy 'villi' go home with you!



## Transform Your Health Science Programs with Innovative Simulation Solutions

Jeanie Staton  
*Laerdal Medical*

Jeanie Staton, former teacher and Publishing Consultant has been with Laerdal Medical for 10 years specializing in the digital suite of solutions most recently focusing on the Resuscitation Quality Improvement program.

Denise Dyer  
*Laerdal Medical*

Denise Dyer-Wall, LPN has been with Laerdal Medical for over 15 years serving in various roles within the organization. Denise is the Senior Territory Manager for Central and North Texas.

Scott Spakes  
*Laerdal Medical*

Scott Spakes has been with Laerdal Medical for over 8 years serving in various roles in Sales, Business Development and most recently as National Accounts Manager with focus in the Career and Technical Education space.

This session will provide an overview of Innovative simulation solutions for Health Science programs. Session highlights include features and best practices for success in CTE pathways. By incorporating simulation, you can develop a comprehensive and well-rounded educational pathway that allows students to learn, practice, and demonstrate their knowledge and readiness for real-world applications.

Tuesday, July 22, 2025 11:00am - 12:00pm

**THOA Business Luncheon**  
**CENTURY BALLROOM**

Tuesday, July 22, 2025 12:00pm - 12:45pm

**Area 1 Meeting**

## TRADITIONS

Tuesday, July 22, 2025 12:00pm - 12:45pm

**Area 2 Meeting**  
REVEILLE

Tuesday, July 22, 2025 12:00pm - 12:45pm

**Area 3 Meeting**  
CORP

Tuesday, July 22, 2025 12:00pm - 12:45pm

**Area 4 Meeting**  
OAK

Tuesday, July 22, 2025 12:00pm - 12:45pm

**Area 5 Meeting**  
ROSS

Tuesday, July 22, 2025 12:00pm - 12:45pm

**Area 6 Meeting**  
HULLABALOO

Tuesday, July 22, 2025 12:00pm - 12:45pm

**Area 7 Meeting**  
LARUEL

Tuesday, July 22, 2025 1:00pm - 2:00pm

**Group 2 Breakout Sessions 1:00 PM - 1:45 PM with 15 Minutes Q & A Until 2 PM**

Care Beyond the Curriculum: The Power of Health Science Educators in Foster Care Advocacy

Sara Lynn Willis  
*A&M Consolidated High School*

over 28 years of experience in education and healthcare, she currently teaches high school health science courses, preparing students for careers in the medical field. In addition to her role in the classroom, Sara Lynn has served 2 years as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), working to ensure that every child in the foster care system has a voice and the support they need to thrive. This role aligns with her deep commitment to protecting vulnerable children and promoting positive outcomes for youth facing adversity. Through both education and advocacy, Sara Lynn strives to make a meaningful impact by empowering students and standing up for the best interests of children in the court system. She is honored to share more about CASA's mission and how others can get involved in this critical work.

CJ Spencer

*Voices for Children, Brazos Valley*

CJ Spencer – Recruitment & Training Manager, Voices for Children, Inc. CASA of Brazos Valley With over 20 years of experience in training, compliance, and direct service, CJ is dedicated to empowering children and families through innovative, sustainable programs. At Voices for Children, she leads volunteer training and recruitment and strategic partnerships. Her work includes co-authoring a \$2M VOCA grant, developing trauma-informed care training, and creating VFC ROAR—a volunteer-match model based on Lean and Continuous Process Improvement principles. A former certified Green Dot Trainer and Epic Cadence/Prelude Credentialed Trainer, she also manages faith-based outreach initiatives and collaborates with Texas A&M on program data analysis. She serves on the Texas CASA curriculum update workgroup.



Health science teachers are uniquely positioned to recognize and respond to the hidden needs of children impacted by foster care. This session explores how educators can move beyond instruction to become powerful advocates, often in quiet, yet life-changing ways. Learn how your role in the classroom can offer stability, support, and hope to some of the most vulnerable youth in our communities. Whether you are new to advocacy or already walking alongside students in crisis, this workshop will inspire, equip, and empower you to make a lasting difference.



## Creating a Scrub Program that is Perfect for your Program in 2025..

Michael Polk

*Career Uniforms*

Michael Polk: A Visionary in Retail & Training Michael Polk is a dynamic retail and training specialist with over 15 years of experience crafting innovative client development strategies and elevating brand awareness. He studied Marketing Management at Prairie View A&M University in Prairie View, Texas, laying the foundation for a successful career in luxury retail with industry leaders such as Neiman Marcus Corp and Saks Fifth Avenue. Michael's expertise lies in sales, training, and coaching, with a proven track record of driving growth. Among his notable achievements, he spearheaded the development of a custom eyewear platform that boosted sales by an impressive 30% in its first year. His ability to blend strategic insight with hands-on mentorship has made him a sought-after leader in the retail space. Beyond his professional successes, Michael is a dedicated mentor, giving back through organizations like Habitat for Humanity, Project Rowe House, and the Social Movement Dance Theatre. His passion for cultural exploration has taken him to 52 countries, broadening his global perspective and fueling his love for diverse cuisines and coastal getaways. Michael is honored to serve on the advisory board at Houston Community College, where he supports educational and workforce initiatives that prepare students for success in competitive industries. A firm believer in the power of positivity and personal growth, Michael is committed to making a meaningful impact—both in

business and in life.

Payal Haq

*Career Uniforms*

Payal Haq, MBA: Business Optimization Specialist & Industry Leader Payal Haq is a seasoned business optimization specialist with a strong background in operations management, workflow analysis, and strategic efficiency. She earned her MBA from Western Governors University and has years of expertise in streamlining business processes, successfully leading organizations toward growth and operational excellence. As a CEO and Managing Director, Payal has a keen ability to analyze workflows, enhance productivity, and implement strategies that drive success. Her passion for innovation and leadership has made her a trusted expert in the hospitality and business sectors. Beyond her professional achievements, Payal is a devoted wife to Zia and a proud mother of two incredible daughters. She balances her career with family life, embodying resilience, dedication, and the drive to create meaningful impact both professionally and personally.



At Career Uniforms, we specialize in creating tailor-made scrub programs that align with the unique needs of your institution. In 2025, we offer a variety of customization options, including fabric choices, logo embroidery, and color selection, ensuring your students stand out in professional, durable attire. Whether you need individual student fittings, bulk orders, or a full-scale program, our team works closely with you to create a seamless and efficient process. Let us help you build the perfect scrub program that fits your curriculum and enhances your program's identity.



## From Simulation to Certification: Preparing Future Health Professionals with AR/VR

Jonathan Smith

*zSpace, Inc.*

Jonathan Smith is the Director of CTE Solutions at zSpace, dedicated to empowering students through Career and Technical Education. With over a decade in the healthcare industry, he transitioned into education, serving in leadership roles, including CTE Director in urban public schools. He has led initiatives to enhance CTE programs, expand work-based learning, and build industry partnerships. Jonathan holds a B.S. in Biology from Alabama State University and dual M.S. degrees in Biology and Environmental & Chemical Science from McNeese State University and Texas A&M Commerce. His passion lies in transforming education through innovation and real-world experiences.

**Struggling to keep students engaged while preparing them for rigorous industry certifications in nursing, EMT, and EKG? Discover how AR/VR is transforming health science education—turning passive learning into interactive skill-building that mirrors real-world clinical environments.**

**In this dynamic session, explore how educators are integrating AR/VR to simulate patient care scenarios, emergency response protocols, and cardiovascular diagnostics—without the limitations of physical labs or consumables. From early career exploration to credential preparation, see how this technology supports student agency, reinforces academic foundations, and builds the competencies needed for success in high-skill, high-wage health careers.**

**Let's Teach CNA! Brainstorm together our best teaching strategies and testing tricks!**

Colleen Ernst



### *Cleburne ISD*

Entering my 4th year of teaching Certified Nurse Aide and looking to connect with other CNA instructors in TX and discuss teaching strategies, testing, and tips.

This session focuses on Certified Nurse Aide program only. Testing through the state with Prometric has a unique set of challenges. I am entering my 4th year of teaching CNA and learning new things every year! With a pass rate of 95% or higher each year, I want to share my techniques for highly effective teaching for today's teens, and learn from YOU what works for your classroom. This is a collaborative discussion session! Come ready to share & engage.

N/A

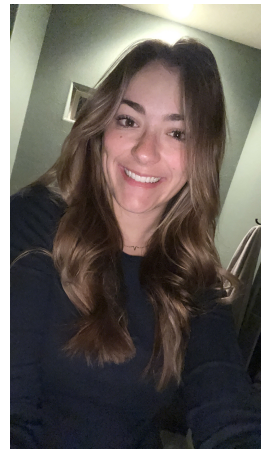
Kim Turnbull - is a registered nurse and retired Health Science Instructor and Nurse Aide Training Competency Evaluation Program (NATCEP) Director for Holland Medical High School/Abilene Independent School District in Texas, where she has taught since 2004. Turnbull earned her BSN at Morningside College and her certificate in Applied Technology, Training, and Development from University of North Texas., and has nursing experience in Medical- Surgical Nursing, Skilled Nursing, Intensive Care, and Home Health. She has earned multiple awards for her outstanding achievements in Health Science education, including the Texas Outstanding Teacher in Community Service Award from the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), Teacher Tribute Awards from Abilene High School and Holland Medical High School, and Abilene Education Foundation Science Teacher of the Year. She is a member of the Texas Health Occupations Association (THOA) and Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), and she has served as a board member for HOSA and is currently serving as a TX HOSA Competitive Events Team Member.

### *Linda Stanhope*

N/A

Linda Stanhope - is a retired Medical Technologist and taught as a Health Science Instructor for the Amarillo Independent School District in Texas for 24 years. Currently, she works with first-year Health Science Technology instructors in Texas as a new-teacher training specialist and aids organizations and districts in staff development and training. In addition, Stanhope works with Texas HOSA—Future Health Professionals on their competitive event team. Throughout her career, she has earned major awards, including the Health Science Lifetime Distinguished Teacher Award and Texas Health Occupations Teacher of the Year. Stanhope holds a Bachelor of Occupational Education degree from Wayland Baptist University.

Have you been assigned with teaching Medical Terminology? Join us in this interactive workshop that specializes in different teaching strategies to make 'Medical Terminology' fun for both the instructor and students. Strategies include both online activities and hands-on labs, skills, research, drills, review games, case studies, quick quizzes and more!



Jasmine Meadows  
*Cleburne ISD*

I am a certified pharmacy technician and have been for the last 6 years. I am still very active with my license. I work at my local pharmacy during the summer and periodically during the school year to keep up to date with the pharmacy world and its constant changes. I am entering my fourth year of teaching, I teach Medical Terminology, Pharmacology and Pharm-Tech. I love teaching and sharing my knowledge with the next generation of healthcare workers!

**This content is more specific to PTCB, but ExCPT teachers are more than welcome too! I want to create a space where we can freely ask questions that we have desperately been seeking answers to, in hope that someone else has either had the same issue or has solved the problem. We learn better together, learning from each other's failures and successes. I hope that from this session we gain more insight into what we are teaching and come out a little more confident than we came in.**



Tuesday, July 22, 2025 2:15pm - 3:15pm

**Group 3 Breakout Sessions 2:15 PM - 3:00 PM with 15 Minutes Q & A Until 3:15 PM**

"Partners Advancing Career Education: Building Certified Nursing Assistant Programs for Schools"

Susie Palmer  
*Region 14 ESC*

In 2013 Susie received her nursing degree from San Juan College in Farmington, New Mexico. Her work experience includes being a charge nurse in a rural hospital as well as in long term care and long term acute care. She spent 7 years serving as a district school nurse and nutrition liaison in Farmington, New Mexico. She is currently working at the Region 14 Educational Service Center in Abilene. She is the coordinator and instructor for high school students who are enrolled in the PACE (Partners for Advancing Career Education) program which provides training and culminates with the CNA certification of students who complete the program and pass the state test. She is honored to have had a part in the planning and implementation of the the PACE CNA program which assists rural districts in being able to offer their students a certification in a pathway career to nursing, as well as many other health care careers.

Traci Wasmer  
*Region 14*

After graduating from high school, I pursued a degree at Stephen F. Austin University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Health and Physical Education in 1985. After graduation, I got married and started my family, during which time I decided to stay home to raise my three children. After being a full-time mom, I pursued my dream of becoming a Registered Nurse. I attended San Angelo State University in 1996 and received my Associate Degree in Nursing. I began my nursing career at Rolling Plains Hospital as a Medical-Surgical Clinical Nurse. After a year, I was offered a position in Sweetwater ISD as a Pregnancy Education and Parenting Nurse Case Manager, and I was able to remain in this position for nine years. My family moved to Abilene, Texas, and my nursing experience allowed me to work as a Family Planning Nurse at the Taylor County Health Department for one year, teach Health Science Technology at Cooper High School for two years, and serve as a School Nurse in Abilene ISD for 16 years in both middle school and elementary settings. In 2023, I joined Region 14 ESC in Abilene as the School Health Consultant. I am thankful for all of the experiences I have had as a nurse and the paths it has led me to work with awesome nurses and educators.

**Join us as we explore how Region 14 Education Service Center collaborated with state and local agencies, as well as higher education institutions, to build a thriving Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program across multiple school districts. This innovative initiative not only seamlessly integrated the required CNA curriculum but also fostered powerful partnerships to elevate student success. In this session, you'll gain exclusive insights as a guide to help your school district develop a high-quality, impactful CNA program of its own!**

Interested in adding to your Credentials and Paycheck? National Board Teaching Certification is the answer!

Wendy Avery

*Klein Cain High School*

I am a definite science nerd who loves sharing her passion for teaching Health Science with other teachers. My first job at 16 led to a 12-year career with Walgreens where I became a Certified Pharmacy Technician. I later entered education when kids entered the picture, starting in elementary Special Education before learning that I could combine my love of teaching and pharmacy. I started my Health Science teaching & HOSA adventure helping open Klein ISD's newest high school 8 years ago. In looking to improve my teaching (and how to add to my paycheck, lol!) I discovered National Board Certification, working hard for a year and earning my certification in December.

**It's Game On! Getting Your Students Prepared for Clinical and the Workforce**

Kim Turnbull

*N/A*

Kim Turnbull - is a Registered Nurse (RN) and retired Health Science Instructor and the Nurse Aide Training Competency Evaluation Program (NATCEP) Director in the Abilene Independent School District in Texas, where she has taught since 2004. Turnbull earned her BSN at Morningside College and her certificate in Applied Technology, Training, and Development from the University of North Texas. She has nursing experience in Medical-Surgical Nursing, Skilled Nursing, Intensive Care, and Home Health. She has earned multiple awards for her outstanding achievements in Health Science education, including the Texas Outstanding Teacher in Community Service Award from the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), Teacher Tribute Awards from Abilene High School and Holland Medical High School, and Abilene Education Foundation Science Teacher of the Year. In addition, Turnbull is a member of the Texas HOSA Competitive Events Team.

Linda Stanhope

*N/A*

Linda Stanhope - is a retired Medical Technologist and taught as a Health Science Instructor for the Amarillo Independent School District in Texas for 24 years. Currently, she works with first-year Health Science Technology instructors in Texas as a new-teacher training specialist and aids organizations and districts in staff development and training. In addition, Stanhope works with Texas HOSA—Future Health Professionals on their competitive event team. Throughout her career, she has earned major awards, including the Health Science Lifetime Distinguished Teacher Award and Texas Health Occupations Teacher of the Year. Stanhope holds a Bachelor of Occupational Education degree from Wayland Baptist University.

Deb Borchert

*N/A*

Debra Borchert - is a Registered Nurse (RN) and retired Health Science Instructor with experience teaching Diversified Healthcare Skills, Certified Nurse Aide, Certified Pharmacy Technician Training, and Anatomy and Physiology for the Abilene Independent School District at Holland Medical High School in Texas. She has approximately 30 years of experience in





maternal and child health, including as a Coordinator and Instructor for Prepared Childbirth Education, and served as an OB Staff Nurse in the United States Air Force. Borchert is a member of the Texas Health Occupations Association (THOA) and Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), where she served as an advisor. In 2017, Borchert was nominated for the THOA Area V New Teacher of the Year award; in 2019, she was chosen as the HOSA and Holland Medical High School TLC Science Teacher of the Year.



This 45-minute session is designed to assist health science instructors with building their repertoire of activities when preparing students to attend clinical and ultimately gaining employment in the workforce. We will share activities that incorporate the basic foundations of health science, scenarios to engage your students to think critically and basic skills to review before sending your students into the clinical rotations. This session will also offer tools for clinical expectations and preparation, suggestions for portfolio building and job interview practice. Join us for this information packed session!



## Playing Around In Class

Christine Smikal

*High School Splendor ISD*

Christine Smikal's healthcare journey began as a CNA in 1987 working in a long term care facility. She obtained her LPN while in college at Pace University, Lienhard School of Nursing and graduated with her BSN in 1991. Her career as an Registered Nurse began at Stony Brook University Hospital in New York as a Pediatric Nurse. In 1993, Christine relocated to Texas where she continued in Pediatric Nurse and Adult Orthopedics. November of 2013 she obtained a position as a Health Science Teacher in Splendor ISD and has taught Principles of Health, Medical Terminology and currently teaching Health Science Theory and Health Science Practicum.

Having a variety of games in your toolbox makes it less likely that students will become bored. I will show you ways to use Gimkit, Quizlet, Blooket, and other hands on activities in our classrooms. Many of these programs use repetition and active learning strategies to help students commit items to memory. These games can be played individually or in teams. Working together to answer questions and solve problems is beneficial for students who struggle with the material. The students think they are playing games, but we know we are having them do repetitive practice!

Caren Wonders

*Pearland ISD*

**Smart Budgeting for Health Science Teachers: Maximizing Resources for Effective Instruction**

I have been a medical professional for 24 years and have been in teaching HST for the last 15. I have run clinical rotation programs as well as certified in EKG Tech and Medical billing and coding

Monica Jackson

*Bryan ISD*

I have been in the medical field for 24 years and have been a HST teacher for the last 8 years.

This talk will focus on strategies for effectively managing and allocating the budget for Health Science programs in high school settings. Health Science teachers face unique challenges in securing the necessary resources for hands-on learning, including medical equipment, textbooks, and technology. This session will provide practical insights into understanding and prioritizing budget categories, from lab supplies to student certifications. Attendees will learn how to make the most of limited funds, use community partnerships, and ensure that every dollar spent contributes to enhancing students' real-world healthcare skills.



Sarah Knotts

**What's New at Carolina!**

*Carolina Biological Supply Company*

Sarah Knotts is the Product Manager for Anatomy and Physiology at Carolina Biological Supply Company. She has been working for Carolina for 10 years. Prior to her work at Carolina, she worked at Laboratory Corporation of America as an Immunoassay Technologist. She has a degree in Biology from Peace College.

**Stop by to learn about new products and free resources! View healthcare simulators, models, kits, and more. Find out about our free content located on the Carolina Knowledge Center including workshop downloads, lab activities, infographics, and more. Explore what Carolina has to offer to help you give your students the best experiences possible.**



Linda Creech

**What's New at ICEV Health Science**

Linda Creech is a CTE Curriculum Consultant at ICEV with a passion for supporting educators. She spent five years teaching Family & Consumer Sciences in Alief and Fort Bend ISDs before serving 25 years as a CTE Coordinator at Fort Bend ISD. Linda loves working with CTE teachers, whom she describes as creative, compassionate, and committed to educating the whole child. In recent years, she's developed a special appreciation for health science educators and looks forward to connecting with them each year at THOA, where she finds inspiration and fresh ideas to help teachers thrive.

Health science education is evolving—and so is ICEV. Discover the latest updates to our curriculum, including new courses, features, and certification alignments. Join us for a sneak peek at what's new and what's coming next to keep your classroom ahead of the curve.



Tuesday, July 22, 2025 3:15pm - 3:45pm

**PM Break 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM**  
**CENTURY BALLROOM**

LaDonna Selvidge

Tuesday, July 22, 2025 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Association of Career and Technical Education (ACTE)

**Group 4 Breakout Sessions 4 PM - 4:45 PM with 15 Minutes Q & A Until 5 PM**

Practical Nursing Director at Francis Tuttle Technology Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

**Empowering Health Science Educators as Leaders in Career and Technical Education**

LaDonna's extensive leadership roles reflect her deep commitment to Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Health Science Education at the local, state, and national levels. Her current position as Vice President for the Association for Career and Technical Education's (ACTE) Health Science Education Division highlights her significant influence in shaping policies and practices for health science education. Her involvement in the HSE Division's Policy Committee, in addition to having served as an ACTE-HSE Fellow, underscores her dedication to both policy development and mentoring future leaders. Her service on the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) National Advisory Council on Nursing Education and Practice, as well as her participation in ACTE's Region IV, Oklahoma's Health Science Education Division, and Oklahoma's Career Tech Women in Leadership Program, demonstrates her broad impact on nursing education and leadership in CTE. Through her enthusiasm and advocacy for ACTE, LaDonna actively promotes and advances the mission and values of CTE.

The Association for Career and Technical Education is the nation's leading voice for Career and Technical Education. Join us for an energizing session designed to empower health science educators with the tools and resources to lead confidently within CTE. This session will guide participants through ACTE's leadership and professional development opportunities tailored specifically for health science educators. Learn about ACTE's organization, how to access resources, and build strategic partnerships. Discover how to get involved with ACTE's Health Science Education (HSE) Division, including pathways to leadership and networking opportunities with fellow HSE and industry leaders.



**Modeling and using a Lateral Flow Assay (LFA) to detect a human breast cancer biomarker**

Glenda Goh Denison

*MiniOne Systems*

Glenda Goh Denison, a former Texas science and CTE educator, instructional coach, and curriculum specialist, is passionate about making science education both accessible and meaningful. Now with MiniOne Systems, she helps teachers bring hands-on labs into the classroom through engaging, easy-to-use equipment and kits. With a strong focus on real-world applications, she supports educators in bridging the gap between science and career and technical education, preparing students with the skills they need for future STEM, medical, and biotech careers.

Lateral Flow Assays (LFAs) or "rapid tests" have become a household product during the pandemic when many of us used them to test for COVID-19 infection. These tests are designed to

provide a simple, quick assessment of biomarkers and analytes for health assessment of conditions such as pregnancy and disease, and can also be used to measure biomarkers of veterinary and environmental health. In this hands-on workshop we will examine the most commonly used version of the LFA, and demonstrate how it can be used to illustrate basic immunology and immunoassay concepts.

Wanda Herfarth

*Texas HOSA*

Wanda Herfarth is a Registered Nurse and a retired Health Science Teacher who taught health science in Texas for 22 years in Pearland and Clear Creek ISD. She currently works as the THOA registrar and as the HOSA Competitive Events Supervisor.



Linda Stanhope

*Texas HOSA*

Linda Stanhope is a retired Medical Technologist and Health Science Instructor, where she taught for 24 years for the Amarillo Independent School District in Texas. Currently, she works with Texas HOSA (Future Health Professionals) on their competitive event team. Stanhope has spent many years mentoring new teachers and writing curriculum for Health Science. Throughout her career, she has earned major awards including the Health Science Lifetime Distinguished Teacher Award and Texas Health Occupations Teacher of the Year. Stanhope holds a Bachelor of Occupational Education degree from Wayland Baptist University.

Lets walk through the Texas HOSA Website together to help you and your students learn how to be successful as you prepare for HOSA Competition.

Topics will include: Texas HOSA Guidelines; Dress Codes; Preparing your students for competition; General Rules and Regulations; What to expect once you get to competition.



## SkillsUSA Chapters and Competitions

Cheyenne Kirkpatrick

*Kilgore High School*

Cheyenne Kirkpatrick has taught health science at Kilgore High School for 13 years as well as teaching as an adjunct professor for Kilgore College. She holds a Bachelors of Science in Athletic Training and a Bachelors of Science in Education from Southern Arkansas University. She also earned a Masters of Science in Sports Management from Texas Woman's University and a Masters of Science in Health Education from University of Texas at Tyler and Principal Certificate from Lamar University. She has served on the THOA board for 4 years, currently holding the office of President.

Are you looking to delve into the world of SkillsUSA but feel uncertain about where to start? This presentation is designed to demystify SkillsUSA by exploring how state districts are organized, detailing the various competitions available, and providing you with essential contacts for further information and support. Whether you're an educator, student advisor, or prospective participant, this session will equip you with the knowledge to effectively engage with SkillsUSA and leverage its opportunities for career and technical education.

## Understanding the Why for PLC in Electives: The Power of Collaboration in Non-Core Subjects

Deborah Hunt

*Lamar CISD*

I am a dedicated wife and proud boy mom, driven by a deep commitment to education and service. I have successfully served as Director of Operations for a Federally Qualified Healthcare Center, where I led initiatives to improve access to quality healthcare and optimize organizational performance. In addition, I bring years of experience as an educator in higher education, shaping the next generation of healthcare professionals. Currently, I serve as the THOA Area 2 Director and a Texas HOSA Board Member, where I advocate for health science education and student leadership development across the state. While I value every chapter of my career, my greatest fulfillment comes from working in secondary education—where I am passionate about inspiring and empowering today's youth to realize their full potential and become tomorrow's leaders.

Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) have become a cornerstone of modern educational strategies, focusing on continuous improvement through collaboration. While PLCs have traditionally been associated with core subjects such as math, science, and language arts, their potential benefits in elective courses are often overlooked. This presentation will explore why integrating PLCs into electives can enhance teaching practices, improve student outcomes, and foster a collaborative school culture.

Wednesday, July 23, 2025 6:55am - 1:00pm

**Day 3 of Conference**

**Last Day - Make it Count!**

Wednesday, July 23, 2025 7:00am - 8:00am

**Breakfast**

Wednesday, July 23, 2025 7:00am - 8:30am

**AM Drink Service Ends at 8:30 AM**

**CENTURY BALLROOM**

Wednesday, July 23, 2025 7:00am - 12:00pm

**THOA Headquarters**

**HOTEL LOBBY**

Wednesday, July 23, 2025 8:00am - 9:30am

**Wednesday Morning General Session**

**CENTURY BALLROOM**

KYLEE CUBINE KEYNOTE SPEAKER/PUBLISHED AUTHOR



Kylee Cubine

**SELF**

My name is Kylee Cubine and I am 26 years old. I was born and raised in Longview Texas. I graduated from Hallsville High School in 2017. I obtained an Associate of Arts degree from Kilgore College. I am a published author of my first book titled, "Never Fear Your Climb" and in the process of publishing my second book. I was seriously injured in an ATV side by side accident almost losing my right lower leg in 2013 just a week before my 14th birthday. I turned my tragedy into a survival guide. I enjoy sharing my testimony encouraging others to never give up hope in any situation or circumstance they are experiencing. In my free time I love spending time with my family and friends, helping minister others to become closer to God, and I have learned that I cannot live without him being the center of my life.

Keynote Speaker to share my personal testimony of overcoming tragedy and helping others learn to never give up and trust in God's plan for their purpose in life.



Wednesday, July 23, 2025 8:00am - 12:00pm

**Exhibitor Booths**

CENTURY PRE-FUNCTION,  
BALLROOM & LOBBY

Wednesday, July 23, 2025 8:00am - 12:00pm

**Pampering Rooms (Neck, Body or Foot Massage) \$1/min Min.5 minutes**  
STAR & SHEILD

Wednesday, July 23, 2025 9:45am - 10:45am

**Group 5 Breakout Sessions 9:45 AM -10:30 AM with 15 Minutes Q & A Until 10:45 AM**

Jumpstart Biotechnology Careers by Incorporating Free Bioscience Industry Badges into Science Curricula!

Tamara Mandell

*University of Florida, Biotility*

Tamara Mandell is the Director of the University of Florida's Biotility. Through funding from the National Science Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Education, she led the development of multi-level education and training programs to provide workforce talent for the bioscience industries. She also led the development of the Biotechnology Aptitude and Competency Exam (BACE), which is used to identify qualified candidates for hire, and to provide alternative pathways to employment. Tamara is active on numerous state and national advisory boards for secondary and postsecondary biotechnology programs, is a passionate advocate for the industry, instructors, and students, and lends her expertise to expanding career awareness and integrating industry practices, competencies, and skills into multi-level curricula.

To assist educators embed valued bioscience workplace competencies and skills into curricula, inspire students to pursue careers in the bioscience industries, and enthuse them to prepare for the Biotechnology Aptitude and Competency Exam (BACE), UF Biotility has launched a series of

Badges which can be earned individually, or in sequence. As students engage in the badging system, instructors are provided feedback, allowing for the incorporation of topics into instruction and curricula design. The badging system is free to registered BACE test sites, registering to become a test site is free, and there is no obligation to sit for the BACE.



## Making a Muscle Model

Deanie Gold

*Retired*

I retired 4 years ago after 35 years in high school classrooms, 33 of them at the same school. I still actively follow THOA and I'm an active participant in yearly conferences.

Understanding how muscle tissue stretches and contracts is a difficult concept for the best student to understand. Join me in this lab activity where participants will build a realistic model of muscles fibers that really makes sense. This cheap and user friendly lab can be done with a minimum of simple materials. Kids will definitely understand more after this activity!

## Paxton Patterson - What Can I Do To Use It Better?

*Northwest ISD*

I am a Health Science Pathways Instructor at Northwest High School. I have been here for 5 years teaching Health Science Theory and Practicum in CCMA/EKG as well as restarting our HOSA program. I have worked in 2 other school districts since entering the classroom to teach full time over 10 years ago. Before the classroom, I was an Athletic Trainer for 10 years and did a small stint in in-patient Physical Therapy and DME medical sales.

This presentation is for the 75+ school who are already using Paxton Patterson. We will discuss how my team has increased the rigor of the curriculum to fit our needs as the prerequisite course for Health Science Practicums, how making small changes can make a big difference, and how to make grading easier in the instructor.



## Rehabilitation in CTE: Teaching Occupational and Physical Therapy Courses to High School Students | Updates & Networking

Kesli Coffelt, OTR, OTD

*Shallowater high school*

Dr. Kesli Coffelt, OTR, OTD is an Occupational Therapist with Shallowater ISD & current health science teacher of the CTE courses, Occupational Therapy I & II. She has a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas Christian University, Master of Occupational Therapy Degree and Post Professional Doctor of Occupational Therapy Degree from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center with emphasis in curriculum design and teaching. She has 12 years experience as an occupational therapy practitioner including treatment, management, and as an Adjunct Professor at TTUHSC. Kesli has been teaching the OTI and OTII courses at Shallowater ISD since Fall of 2022, was a TEKS committee member to build the courses, continues to work on course development including clinical rotations and appropriate Industry Based Certifications through TEA and various vendors.

Teaching Rehabilitation CTE courses to high school students is challenging. This presentation will focus on updates to the Program of Study, appropriate Industry Based Certifications and progress with vendors and TEA toward more aligned IBC's for rehabilitation classes, clinical rotation options & considerations. Time will be allowed for networking, problem solving regarding program development, & how to teach various concepts. In addition, the plan is to build a networking community so please attend. Please email [kcoffelt@shallowaterisd.net](mailto:kcoffelt@shallowaterisd.net) with topics of conversation or questions for preparation purposes.

### Taking Technology Tools to the Next Level: Advanced Google Tips for Educators

Cheyenne Kirkpatrick

*Kilgore High School*

Cheyenne Kirkpatrick has taught health science at Kilgore High School for 13 years as well as teaching as an adjunct professor for Kilgore College. She holds a Bachelors of Science in Athletic Training and a Bachelors of Science in Education from Southern Arkansas University. She also earned a Masters of Science in Sports Management from Texas Woman's University and a Masters of Science in Health Education from University of Texas at Tyler and Principal Certificate from Lamar University. She has served on the THOA board for 4 years, currently holding the office of President.

Ready to level up your tech game? This hands-on session will explore how to take familiar tools like Google Sheets and Google Forms to the next level. Learn how to organize data visually with color-coded spreadsheets, implement advanced formulas to streamline processes, and create dynamic Google Forms that go beyond basic surveys. Whether you're managing student data, tracking progress, or building interactive assignments, these tips and tricks will help you save time and work smarter. Perfect for educators looking to deepen their digital toolbox and boost efficiency in the classroom.

### The Power of Prevention: How Daily Choices Impact Lifelong Health

McKenzie Gilbreath

*Texas A&M University College of Nursing*

I am a second semester nursing student at the Texas A&M College of Nursing and I am from Waco, Texas. I chose to study nursing because my parents are both first responders and sparked my interest in healthcare at a very young age. Through their hard work and dedication to saving lives, I have seen the many ways they have put their life on the line to help and care for others. After graduation I want to pursue a career in pediatric oncology or women's health, and care for those who are experiencing daunting hospital stays and devastating illness. My experience in a long term care facility last year furthered this passion as I cared for those who did not have familial support and were struggling with chronic disease. I would also like to continue my education after earning my BSN to grow my knowledge of the nursing field and deepen my understanding of advanced diseases and modalities of care.

Claire Lobo

*Texas A&M University College of Nursing*

I am a second-semester nursing student from Houston, Texas. My interest in the medical field started in high school. Since then, I have worked as a Clinic Assistant at the health center on campus, where I gained valuable clinical and communication skills as well as teamwork and collaboration. I am dedicated to patient-centered care and continuous learning throughout my career. I am passionate about providing a safe and caring environment to all patients and am grateful for the opportunity to enhance my knowledge and be an addition to the nursing profession.

Savannah Switzer

*Texas A&M University College of Nursing*



I'm a senior nursing student at the Texas A&M School of Nursing, originally from Belton, Texas. After graduation, I hope to pursue a career in pediatric intensive care—a field that blends critical thinking with deep compassion. My calling to nursing was shaped by personal experiences; during times of loss in my family, the kindness and presence of nurses left a lasting impact on me and inspired my path forward. Last summer, I had the privilege of working in the Post-Anesthesia Care Unit at Baylor Scott & White in Temple. That experience not only strengthened my clinical skills but also reaffirmed my desire to care for patients with gentleness, empathy, and the goal of helping them feel like themselves again. I'm deeply committed to collaborative learning and professional growth, and I look forward to working alongside fellow nursing students and healthcare professionals to educate and inspire for the future of the nursing profession.

Lindsay Monroe

*Texas A&M University College of Nursing*

I am a second-semester nursing student from Houston, Texas. I will graduate in the summer of 2026. After graduation, I hope to work in pediatrics or women's services. Additionally, I am bilingual in Spanish and aim to obtain certification as a translator and nurse for Spanish-speaking clients. Some of my most formative experiences that drew me to nursing were volunteering at a free healthcare clinic and going on a medical mission trip to Mexico. From these experiences, I am drawn to helping reduce healthcare disparities and working in underserved communities to promote health equity.

Claire Walzel

*Texas A&M University College of Nursing*

I am a second-semester nursing student from Allen, Texas. I am studying at Texas A&M College of Nursing with a strong interest in labor and delivery nursing. My passion for healthcare was sparked through my work as a Certified Nursing Assistant and further developed through my role as a student laboratory technician, where I gained valuable clinical and technical experience. Dedicated to patient-centered care and continuous learning, I am committed to promoting nursing excellence through evidence-based practice. I look forward to engaging with others at the conference to exchange knowledge and contribute to the future of nursing.

Allyson Carter

*Texas A&M University College of Nursing*

I am a second-semester nursing student from Houston, Texas, and will be graduating in August of 2026. After graduation, I hope to provide care for women and newborns as a labor and delivery nurse or as a NICU nurse. I found my passion for nursing due to growing up critically ill and surrounded by the hospital environment with compassionate nurses who transformed my health journey. Since then, I have worked as a clinical assistant at the on-campus health center, served as the president of the Aggie Newborn and Obstetrics Nurses Association, and gained healthcare experience at Memorial Hermann Hospital and Texas Children's Hospital as an intern. I am passionate about extending the human component of medicine and creating a supportive environment surrounding the patient and their families.

LeRoy Marklund

*Texas A&M University College of Nursing*

Dr. LeRoy A. Marklund is a 30½-year U.S. Army Veteran and clinical assistant professor at Texas A&M University College of Nursing. In May 2020, he was recalled out of retirement and served on active-duty in support of the COVID-19 pandemic at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, as a Critical Care Nurse and Director for the Clinical Nurse Transition Program. His academic interests are military healthcare, disaster preparedness, trauma resuscitation, emerging infectious diseases, and team building. Since July 2018, he taught



undergraduate Pathophysiology, Evidence-Based Practice Intensive Writing, and Adult Health II Nursing. Dr. Marklund serves on the TAMU Troops to College Committee and Honor Council along with involvement with the TAMU Health Science Center – Interprofessional Education and Research Steering Committees for Disaster Day and Operation Border Health Preparedness. As a Soldier for Life, Dr. Marklund keeps his students front and center. He is faculty advisor for the student organization, Aggie Military and Veteran Healthcare Alliance, and assists with Men in Nursing. He holds national certifications as a Critical Care Nurse Specialist, Critical Care Registered Nurse, Certified Emergency Nurse, Certified Neuroscience Registered Nurse, and instructs Basic Life Support, Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support, Pediatric Advance Life Support, Team STEPPS, and Stop The Bleed.

**Most Americans do not understand that many diseases can be preventable. There is overwhelming clinical research showing that small lifestyle choices greatly impact the trajectory of one's life and well-being. This evidence-based research project explores the key components that contribute to holistic health: Nutrition, gut health, and vaccinations. These key components encourage the autonomy of patient care and act as a preventative measure against diseases throughout the lifespan. Education, research, and advocacy for disease prevention can influence our society's well-being by promoting healthy choices.**



Maggie Landes

Harker Heights HS

### Welcome to the Jungle: The Rookie Advisor's Guide to the HOSA Competitive Events Program

Dr. Landes is a Medical Doctor with 21 years of clinical practice experience and board certification from the American Academy of Pediatrics. She also has a Bachelor's Degree in Biomedical Engineering from Vanderbilt University as well as a Master's Degree in Public Health Nutrition from Liberty University. She is entering her 4th year of teaching high school Health Science courses and is also the HOSA Advisor at Harker Heights High School - a large Title I, public 6A high school in Killeen ISD in Central TX. Dr. Landes has served for one year as the THOA Area 5 Director after being elected to this position at the 2024 Summer Conference.

If you've got enthusiastic HOSA students who are ready to participate in the Competitive Events program, but you are stressed, intimidated, or flat out befuddled on how it all works... THIS is your session!

We are going to demystify the Competitive Event structure, the timeline, and the prep and make it easy to follow so that you can have a great experience with HOSA Competitive Events in your chapter this school year!



Wednesday, July 23, 2025 11:00am - 12:00pm

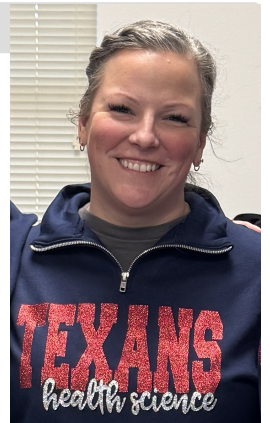
### Group 6 Breakout Sessions 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM with 15 Minutes Q & A Until 12 PM

Suzanne Miller

#### Hands-On Learning Through Hands Off Teaching

Over 20 years of experience, the last 12 years have been in the classroom as a Health Science Instructor. I have been using the Paxton Patterson labs for 5 years.

Learn about a fun and interactive way for students to gain hands on experience with over 70 health care careers through hands on labs while fostering student independence, problem-solving, collaboration, and content literacy. We will discuss the Paxton Patterson Health Science Careers Labs and how they have had a positive impact on my students and my classroom.



### Put Some Muscle into It with Anatomy in Clay

CAROLYN HESS

*Southeastern College, Keiser University*

I'm Carolyn Hess, and I currently teach Biology at Keiser University and Anatomy & Physiology at Southeastern College. I have taught Science in secondary and post-secondary environments for the past twenty years, but my very favorite subject is A&P! Don't get me wrong, I love to talk through a good Anatomy & Physiology PowerPoint, but hands-on is the way to go! Bringing the subject to life through tactile experiences keeps the learners engaged and reinforces the learning.

The joints can be difficult to teach because of their complexity, especially the knee and the shoulder. Join me as we build the joint together, talking through the components as we make them out of clay! This method is guaranteed to hold your students' attention and reinforce their understanding of important concepts such as origin, insertion, synergists, antagonists, tendons and more. This fun way to teach and learn can work for people of all skill levels and all knowledge levels. Don't be afraid to get your hands dirty!

*Lamar CISD*

### Strategies to Prevent Teacher Burnout

I am a wife and a mother of boys. I hold an MBA and an MEd, as well as a Certified Billing and Coding Specialist certification. Additionally, I am a Nationally Registered Certified Medical Assistant. My experience is highly diversified, spanning leadership roles in healthcare operations and education. I have served as the Director of Operations for a Federally Qualified Healthcare Center, demonstrating my expertise in managing healthcare services. I am your THOA Area 2 Director and Texas HOSA Board Member. Moreover, I have taught in higher education, contributing to the development of future professionals. However, my greatest passion lies in secondary education, where I find the most fulfillment in shaping and inspiring today's youth.

Do you find yourself running out the door at the end of the school day, feeling physically and emotionally drained? Teaching is a demanding profession, and without the right coping strategies, stress can take a toll on your well-being. This session will provide practical techniques to help you manage stress, regain your passion for teaching, and create a healthier work-life balance. Learn how to set boundaries, prioritize self-care, and build a support system that empowers you to thrive in the classroom. Don't just survive the school year, rediscover the joy of teaching!



What did I get in to? Starting or restarting a health science program of study, this is how I did it.

*Misty Overfelt*

*Florence High School*

Misty Overfelt has a Bachelor's of Science in Exercise and Sports Science graduate from Phillips University (1998) and a Master's of Health Science in Teaching and Learning from University of St. Augustine (2022). In 2003, Overfelt took the job as Head Athletic Trainer at Highland Community College (HCC) in Highland, KS. She was named Co-athletic trainer of the year 2003-2004 and was instrumental in growing the student athletic training program from 3 students to 14. In 2005, she became the Athletic Trainer for Palestine High School (PHS) and teacher. Again, she was influential in growing the student athletic training program from just 4 to 20 students. While at PHS, she established a relationship with Trinity Valley Community College (TVCC) that allowed the PHS athletic training students to aid TVCC athletic training staff at TVCC home football games, opening a door for continuing education and opportunities after high school. In 2012, Overfelt took the job as athletic trainer and teacher at Florence High School (FHS). She established a student athletic program at FHS, which saw several of her students receive scholarships to various junior colleges and universities. The program grew under her supervision. In 2016, an opportunity opened at Hutto High School to teach health science and be a HOSA sponsor. It was here that she also became an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). While at Hutto, she helped grow the health science program and establish three health science practicums: EMT, CCMA and Pharmacy Tech. The program grew from 2 health science teachers to 5 teachers within 4 years. Overfelt returned to Florence High School in the Fall of 2022 and was

charged with revamping the health science program and establishing industry based certification (IBC) that students could complete before graduating. A complete overhaul of the existing program has occurred and a pathway of study has been established. This year we have students testing in an IBC as an EKG tech and as EMT. Next year, we hope to add CCMA as an IBC. In her spare time, Misty enjoys spending time with Jerry and their families and friends. She also enjoys taking part in competitive shooting events, hunting, and working on the family farm/ranch.

Have you been hired for a health science position, and the school doesn't have a real health science program of study, or your POS needs to be revamped? Taking over a broken program is just like starting a new program and I have done this twice now. The first thing you need is support from administration, they have to be on board for it all to work the best. Then, get to planning. You will end up teaching 3-4 preps, but you got this! Get the IBC so students can get that CCMR!

Janet Villarreal  
TEXAS HOSA

Wednesday, July 23, 2025 12:00pm - 1:30pm

### **HOSA Update, Awards & Closing Luncheon**

Employed at Doctors Hospital (1981 to 1993) Health Science Instructor: United South High School and United North High School (1994-2006) Served on the Texas HOSA Board of Directors: Area 7 Representative (2004-2006) Employed as Texas HOSA Executive Director in 2006 with 11,000 members; in 2018-2019, Today Texas HOSA membership exceeded 40,000 members with more than 1000 chapters

Linda Stanhope  
Texas HOSA

Linda Stanhope is a retired Medical Technologist and Health Science Instructor, where she taught for 24 years for the Amarillo Independent School District in Texas. Currently, she works with Texas HOSA (Future Health Professionals) on their competitive event team. Stanhope has spent many years mentoring new teachers and writing curriculum for Health Science. Throughout her career, she has earned major awards including the Health Science Lifetime Distinguished Teacher Award and Texas Health Occupations Teacher of the Year. Stanhope holds a Bachelor of Occupational Education degree from Wayland Baptist University.

Wanda Herfarth  
Texas HOSA

Wanda Herfarth is a Registered Nurse and a retired Health Science Teacher who taught health science in Texas for 22 years in Pearland and Clear Creek ISD. She currently works as the THOA registrar and as the HOSA Competitive Events Supervisor.

Come and learn what is new with HOSA and Texas HOSA! Many changes that you will want to take note of. Don't miss this session.



Thursday, July 24, 2025 6:00am - 10:00am

### **Breakfast Own Your Own BRAZOS TEXAS KITCHEN**

Thursday, July 24, 2025 8:00am - 11:00am

**Explore College Station on your own! - Educational Suggestions Provided Upon Request at Registraion**

Thursday, July 24, 2025 2:00pm - 3:00pm

**Post Conference Meeting with THOA Staff and Hotel**

Thursday, July 24, 2025 3:00pm - 4:00pm

**Post Conference Meeting with THOA Staff and CVB**

2024 Fall Training Agenda for New and Experienced Teachers