



<http://ntrp16.org/>

**North Texas Regional P-16 Council Meeting**

**December 5, 2023**

**9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Attendees:**

**Members Present:** Jill Adams, Kent Anderson, Lindsay Bangert, Leslie Birdow, Kelly Broughton, Renato De Los Santos, Jorge Figueroa, Javier Garza, Tiffany Gilmore, Lisa Harrison, Adam Hile, Abigail Hobart, Christine Hubbard, Lisa Huffman, Tanisha Johnson, Jean Keller, Raul Martinez, Cornelia McCowan, Bobby Morris, Renee Parker, Quortina Phipps, Patsy Robles-Goodwin, Richard Vela, Rosalyn Walker

**A. Greetings and Welcome,**

Jean Keller welcomed Council members and guests and provided an overview of the mission of the Council. The Council members introduced themselves.

**B. Approval of September 20, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes**

Christine Hubbard moved approval of the September 20, 2023 Council meeting minutes, Lisa Harrison seconded the motion, and all approved the minutes as written. The minutes will be posted on the Council's website.

**C. Program and Discussion**

**FASA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Updates: A Deep Dive Discussion**

Javier Garza introduced and thanked the panelists.

**Ben Montecillo**, *SWASFAA (Southwest Association of Financial Aid Administrators) Board of Directors' President, and Associate Managing Director of Texas Tech University Health Science Center*

**Dechá Reid**, *Senior Director III, SFAP Operations, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board*

**Lauren Discher**, *Professional Learning Coordinator, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board*

**Vanessa Malo**, *Director, Workforce Education Initiatives, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board*

The presentation on the new FAFSA program and its changes began with Ben Montecillo, followed by Dechá Reid, Lauren Discher, and Vanessa Malo. Ben provided an overview of the changes to FAFSA and how to navigate them, emphasizing the importance of knowledgeable individuals and resources to support students and families. Vanessa and Lauren offered a state-level perspective on FAFSA, including state deadlines and financial aid programs.

The presenters discussed the changes made to the FAFSA and financial aid, highlighting the potential positive impact for students, such as expanded access to post-secondary education and greater program integrity. However, they also acknowledged the challenges faced by financial aid administrators and admissions offices due to the delayed release of the FAFSA and the burden of maintaining consistent and accurate information across all educational levels

Dechá Reid, Senior Director III, along with colleagues Lauren Discher and Vanessa Malo, provided updates on the state's financial aid programs, including the Texas Educational Opportunity Grant, Texas Grant, and Tuition Equalization Grant, which received additional funding through House Bill 1. The additional funding will allow institutions to assist more Texas students with their educational costs for the current academic year and the next. Dechá also discussed Texas OnCourse resources for college and career planning, and workforce education initiatives and noted that the Texas legislative session made historic investments in higher education, with over \$5 billion appropriated for the 2024-2025 biennium. Please see <https://www.highered.texas.gov/our-work/empowering-our-students/>

The following are the PowerPoint presentations and resources shared by the panelists.



#### **D. Committees Work and Reporting to Council Members –**

1. Communications, Networking & Social Media – Rosalyn Walker & Renee Parker  
The Committee determined that information gathering and sharing were important. The Committee has created folders with FASFA, House Bill 8, and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools information. Please let the group know your needs and interests. This information will be shared on the Council’s website when they are completed.
2. Leadership & Sustainability – Ray Delos Santos & Jorge Figueroa  
The Committee is exploring the charge given by the Council’s Executive Committee to create sustainability and succession plans for the Council and its leadership. Jean

sent Ray an email asking for clarification about the documents needed by the Committee.

3. Professional Development – Lisa Harrison & Christine Hubbard

The Committee discussed issues about students taking dual credit and advanced placement courses and how these issues impact students' financial aid and time to graduation. They suggested additional education around this topic be included in the final Council program.

Additionally, the Committee is working on an educator and school leadership campaign to attract more people to the teaching and educational administration careers.

4. Research, Assessment & Accountability – Bobby Morris & Abby Hobart

The Committee will survey Council members to determine what the members want to know related to PK-16 assessment and accountability. Please share ideas with Committee members. Once the top three (3) topics are chosen, they will seek input into what data they will need to retrieve.

## **E. Updates and Information Sharing**

The next Council meeting is on February 6, 2024, and Rosalyn Walker will be the facilitator. The Council will take a deeper dive into legislation passed during the 88th Texas legislative session and special sessions that may affect education and career development. This program will share the impact of the legislation on educators. Potential topics may include college readiness and students transitioning from secondary and post-secondary to careers. Please share ideas with Rosalyn.

## **F. Adjourn**

Jean thanked the panelists, Bobby, and Javier for an excellent program on FASA and upcoming changes. Jean thanked the Council members for their commitment to student access and success at all levels of education and career development. The Council members were wished a joyful, peaceful, and restful holiday season and a New Year filled with good health and happiness.

**2024 NTRP-16 Council Meeting Dates and Programs**

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Date	Place	Host	Topics	Program Facilitator
February 6, 2024 9 am-noon	Virtual		Changes Based on 88 <sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session and Impacts on Education and Work	Rosalyn Walker
April 9, 2024 9 am – noon (In-Person)	ESC Region 11 1451 S Cherry Lane, White Settlement, TX 76108	Lisa Harrison	Transitions	Lisa Harrison and Renee Parker