

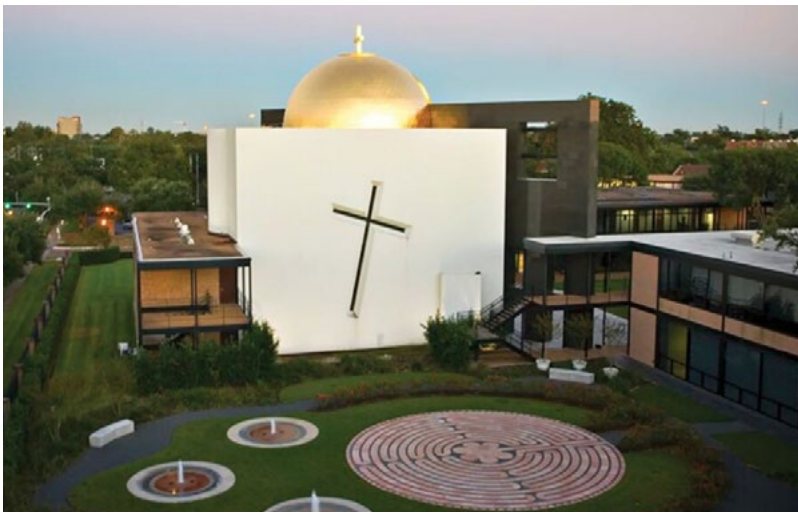
AHEAD in TEXAS

**SPRING CONFERENCE
MARCH 30, 2026-APRIL 1, 2026**



**AHEAD
IN TEXAS 2026**
Expedition Disability Access

**THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS
3800 MONTROSE BLVD
HOUSTON, TX 77006**



WELCOME

The Board of Directors of AHEAD in Texas is so happy to have you join us for the 32nd Annual AHEAD in Texas conference on the campus of University of St. Thomas. We have some outstanding sessions for you, and we appreciate you being with us this year. Taking suggestions from survey responses last year, we hope that this year's schedule supports our need to learn and interact with each other. Join us Monday morning for our opening conference sessions and stay with us through the great presentations that wrap up Wednesday afternoon. The full schedule is included, along with abstracts, and some additional information.

HIGHLIGHTS

Get ready for an unforgettable experience at the AHEAD in Texas Spring Conference! Attendees can earn up to 12 CEU hours while engaging in dynamic breakout sessions and a powerful keynote address. Enjoy meaningful networking opportunities with colleagues from across the state, and be sure to visit the vendor booths for resources, tools, and connections that support your work. Don't forget to stop by the [Silent Auction](#) as all proceeds benefit the AHEAD in Texas Scholarship Fund. There's something for everyone, and your participation supports the collective growth of our field!

AHEAD in Texas Annual Business Meeting

The Annual Business Meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 31st at 8:15am. This meeting is one of the most important events of the conference. This gathering is your opportunity to hear updates from the Board, celebrate the year's accomplishments, and help shape the future of our organization. All members are encouraged to attend and participate in the conversation. Breakfast will be served, so come hungry for both food and ideas!

ACCOMMODATIONS

Interpreting services are provided by Visual Language Professionals. If you have questions or need assistance, please visit the check-in desk or find a member of the Board.

THANK YOU TO OUR HOST CAMPUS

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to President, Dr. Sinda K. Vanderpool, of the University of St. Thomas for graciously allowing us to host the AHEAD in Texas Conference on their campus. Special thanks to the UST on-site committee chair, Angie Maxey, and all committee members who made this conference possible. We are truly thankful for the opportunity to gather in such a welcoming and inspiring environment.



Dr. Sinda K. Vanderpool became the 10th President of the University of St. Thomas in 2025, bringing more than two decades of leadership experience in Catholic and Christian higher education. Prior to her appointment, she served as President and Vice-Chancellor of St. Mary's University in Calgary, where she guided the institution through a period of growth and innovation.

Before her presidential roles, Dr. Vanderpool spent 18 years at Baylor University, where she advanced student success initiatives and most recently served as Associate Vice Provost for Student Success. A scholar of French literature, she earned her Ph.D. from Princeton University and her B.A. with high honors from Davidson College.

Dr. Vanderpool is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and the International Women's Forum. She has also served as the PI for successful federal, state and foundation grants. She was nominated as a Business in Calgary leader and has been honored with the URSA Leadership Award for expanding undergraduate research opportunities. She is active in professional organizations including the American Council on Education the Council of Independent Colleges, and the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities.

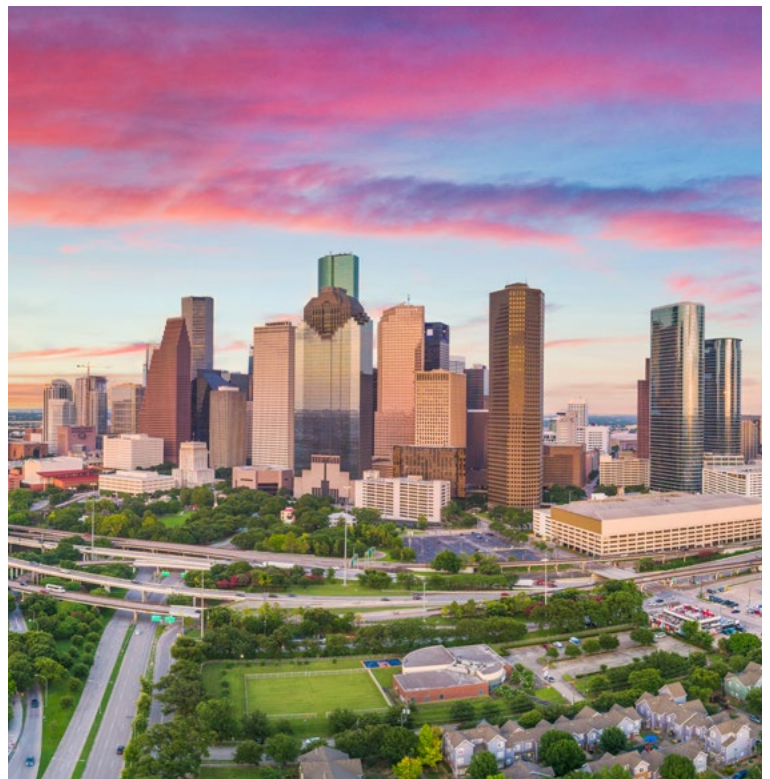
At University of St. Thomas, Dr. Vanderpool is leading efforts to advance student success for students across Houston and beyond. She is focusing on strengthening the University's Catholic mission and expanding national awareness and academic excellence for the University.

ABOUT HOUSTON

America's fourth-largest city is a cosmopolitan destination, filled with world-class dining, arts, hotels, shopping and nightlife. Take a stroll through the historic Heights, spend the day exploring the Museum District or head down to Space Center Houston. Later on, grab a bite in one of dozens of award-winning restaurants, or hang out with the cool kids on Washington Avenue. There's always something to do in this Southern hospitality meets urban chic city.

City Fun Facts

- Houston, the fourth-largest city in the United States
- Houston, with 2.3 million residents, is the fourth most populous city in the United States, trailing only New York, Los Angeles and Chicago. The city is the largest in the South and the Southwest
- At 655 square miles, the City of Houston is larger in area than the cities of Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, New York, Phoenix and San Diego.
- Houston is home to 23 Fortune 500 companies
- Home to Johnson Space Center, the training base and home for our nation's astronauts and the site of Mission Control



MORE INFORMATION HERE

[VISITHOUSTON.COM](https://www.visithouston.com)

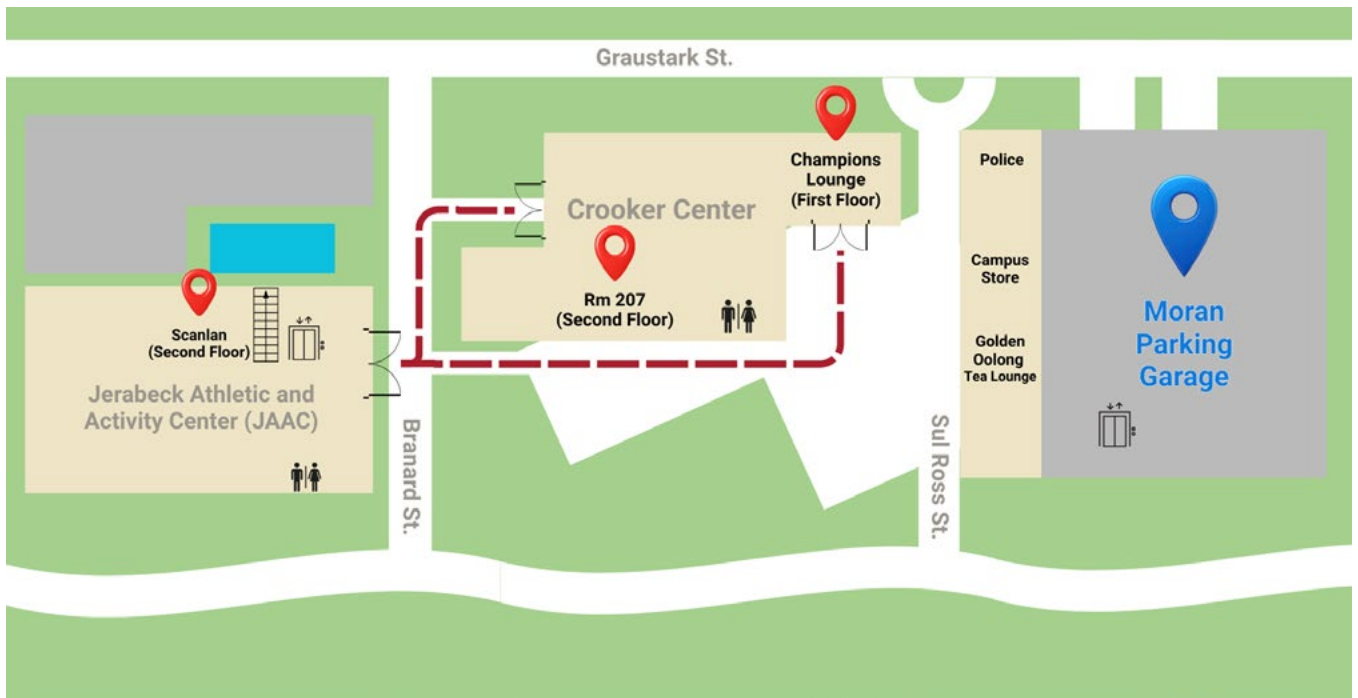


Houston's dining and bar scene is widely regarded as one of the most diverse in the United States, shaped by the city's global influences and strong sense of local identity. For attendees looking to explore beyond the conference, you can see what the locals recommend [here](#) on our AHEAD in Texas website.

Local Favorites



UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS TRAVEL & PARKING



Conference attendees can park in the Moran Parking Garage (located at 3807 Graustark St, Houston, TX 77006). Please check in at the Jerabeck Athletic and Activity Center. The conference will be held in both the Jerabeck Athletic and Activity Center (JAAC) and the Crooker Center.

All session materials can be found [here](#)

SILENT AUCTION

Take a moment to visit the auction area and see what exciting items are up for bid. You won't want to miss out!

The silent auction funds this annual scholarship that honors students with disabilities enrolled in Texas colleges and universities who demonstrate a commitment to using their education in service to others.





2026 SPRING CONFERENCE

March 30-April 1st

Houston, Texas

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2026

Breakfast Session:
8:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Guest Speaker:
9:00 AM-10:00AM

Break: 10:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Sessions: 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Networking Session:
11:45-12:00

Lunch: 12:00 PM-1:00 PM

Sessions: 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Break: 3:45 PM – 4:00 PM

Sessions: 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2026

Breakfast + Business Meeting:
8:15 AM-9:00 AM

Break: 9:00 AM-9:15 AM

Sessions: 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Lunch + KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM

Sessions: 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Break: 3:30 PM – 3:45 PM

Sessions: 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026

Breakfast + Panel Discussion
Session: 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

AHEAD in Texas Awards:
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Session: 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM

Lunch: 12:00PM-1:00 PM

STAY CONNECTED WITH AHEAD IN TEXAS!



Engage with AHEAD in Texas on social media during the conference to be entered into a drawing for prizes during the Tuesday business meeting.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

ADA Was 214 Years In The Making, Now It Is Almost 36 Years Old



Jack McElaney is Microassist's Chief Revenue Officer. Jack's focus is digital accessibility consulting and advocacy within the corporate and educational sectors. For the last nine years he has curated "Accessibility in the News," a widely read weekly newsletter that is a compilation of hand-picked articles (human curated content, no AI), a variety of industry blogs, conferences, training, announcements, tips, job listings, AI employment trends, a listing of accessibility pages, and a Disability Awareness Calendar . It is a very organic newsletter with no ads or sponsors, and it is free. Its sole purpose it to educate people interested or involved in accessibility related to ADA Title I, II, III, Section, 504 and 508, and numerous international topics from countries all over the world. Jack closely watches Title II updates and he created a web page to follow updates, Digital Asset Accessibility Under ADA Title II.

Jack was a founding member of the "Digital Accessibility Legal Summit", an active member of its steering committee, and a speaker and contributor at the Summit. At the first legal summit in 2019 he presented, "Resources (and Resourcefulness)" for researching accessibility law. At the 2020 legal summit he presented, "Legal and Accessibility Impacts of COVID-19: Issues Happening Now, and Implications for Upcoming Legal Cases". At the 2021 legal summit he presented, "The Impact of COVID-19 on Accessibility and the Legal Landscape". In 2022 he spoke about, "Lawsuits by the Numbers".

Jack is a member of the "Standard Accessibility Reporting" Board of Directors and a Board Member of Disability:IN Central Texas. He has been a Barbara Jordan Media Award judge and a CSUN presentation judge. Prior to his work in the accessibility field, Jack has held executive management positions at several Thomson Reuters companies, and at Sheshunoff Consulting & Solutions, where he was the managing director of risk services and was responsible for compliance and audit products and services. Jack is a native Bostonian and he lives in Austin, TX.

GUEST SPEAKER

Updates in Law and OCR



Jackie Gharapour Wernz is a nationally recognized education and civil rights attorney with more than 17 years of experience advising and training educational leaders across the country. Her work focuses on helping schools, colleges, and universities navigate complex issues involving Title IX, Title VI, Title VII, Section 504, the ADA, and the First Amendment with clarity, empathy, and practical insight.

A former civil rights attorney with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights under both the Obama and Trump administrations, Jackie combines deep regulatory knowledge with firsthand institutional experience as both in-house counsel and external advisor. She is known for her engaging training style, common-sense approach, and commitment to fostering equitable and legally sound educational environments.

Jackie earned her law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law, where she was a Dillard Scholar and member of the Virginia Law Review. She graduated summa cum laude from the University of Arkansas Little Rock with majors in English Literature, History, and French. Licensed in Texas and Illinois, Jackie lives in Dallas with her husband, children, and vizsla dog. [About | Education Civil Rights Solutions](#)



COMPLETE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Day 1- Monday, March 30, 2026

8:00-8:30	<p>Registration and Check-In Jerabeck Activity & Athletic Center (JAAC)-Scanlan 2nd floor</p>
8:30-9:00	<p>Breakfast Introduce AHEAD in Texas Board of Directors AHEAD in Texas Updates Jerabeck Activity & Athletic Center (JAAC)-Scanlan 2nd floor</p>
9:00-10:00	<p>Guest Speaker Jackie Gharapour Wernz-OCR and Legal Updates JAAC-Scanlan 2nd floor</p>
10:00-10:15	<p>Vendors & Silent Auction -->JAAC and Scanlan Room</p>
10:30-11:30	<p>Who knew? HUD, they are not just about Emotional Support Animals Crooker Center-1st floor Champions Lounge Presented by Earlee Kerekes-Mishra During the 23-24 AY Oregon State Disability Access Services received notice that a student filed a complaint with HUD. As we worked through the request and the complaint, we learned a LOT. We learned that HUD has some confusing language, and they cover a myriad of housing accommodations beyond ESAs. Join me as I share my experience of navigating the nuanced and layered journey through a HUD complaint and investigation.</p>
	<p>Supporting Pregnant & Parenting Students: A Guide to Policies, Procedures, and Adjustments Crooker Center- Room 207 (Second floor) Presented by Rachel White, Alexis Baker, and Angelica Ramos This session will explore pregnancy and parenting support, featuring presenters from three different colleges. We'll cover key legislation, policies, procedures, and accommodations, with plenty of time for a Q&A to address all your burning questions on the topic.</p>

11:45-12:00	<p>Speed Connection: Networking Event JAAC Scanlan 2nd floor</p>
12:00-1:00	<p>Lunch and Time to Collaborate with Colleagues JAAC-Scanlan 2nd floor</p>
1:00-1:15	<p>Vendor Introductions & Review Silent Auction Items JAAC-Scanlan 2nd floor</p>
1:30-2:30	<p>Be the Bridge: Addressing the “Competency Gap” Through Micro Skill Development-Crooker Center Champions Lounge 1st floor Presented by JaMeriya Valentine For students with disabilities, the transition to the workforce is frequently hindered by a "competency gap" in non-academic professional skills. This session redefines student support interactions as high-impact development opportunities. Using a Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) lens, attendees will learn how disability professionals can move beyond processing accommodation letters to intentionally coaching "micro-skills" such as professional communication, self-advocacy, and interpersonal skills.</p>
	<p>Autism-Support Program Development, Implementation and Learned Lessons-Crooker Center Room 207 (Second floor) Presented by Maria Montenegro, Christopher Albert, Nancy Razo, & Rebecca Monroe College students with Autism in Texas face challenges that contribute to lower graduation rates, and few universities offer specialized support. In response, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley launched a program using surveys and interviews to better understand student needs. The project aims to develop individualized, autism-specific resources to improve student success.</p>
2:30-3:30	<p>Demystifying The Housing Form Crooker Center Champions Lounge 1st Floor Presented by Earlee Kerekes-Mishra A discussion on improving housing and ESA forms to meet legal standards, gather key information, and address challenges like eligibility, therapeutic relationships, and limited housing availability. Bring your forms, your questions, and your concerns as we share some recent updates that might help you update your forms!</p>
	<p>Beyond the Classroom: Inclusive Education Teachers’ Professional Development Experiences in Ghana-Crooker Center Room 207 (Second Floor) Presented by Letitia Omaboe This study examines the professional development of inclusive education teachers in Ghana, highlighting gaps between policy and practice, limited formal training, and reliance on informal support. It emphasizes the need for stronger, culturally responsive teacher development in low-resource settings.</p>

3:45-4:00	Snack Break, Visit Vendors & Silent Auction -->JAAC and Scanlan Room
4:00-5:00	<p>Mission Control: Launching Your Journey as an Active AHEAD in Texas Member-JAAC-Scanlan 2nd floor Presented by Tamara Mancini and Samantha Johnson</p> <p>Active membership is essential to the vitality and sustainability of professional associations, yet many members are unsure how—or where—to begin. This engaging, space-inspired session invites participants to move from passive participation to mission-critical involvement by exploring the many pathways available within the AHEAD in Texas association. Attendees will learn how to present at conferences, volunteer during the conference, engage as mentors or mentees, volunteer on committees, speak at Lunch & Learn events, and prepare for leadership and Board of Directors roles. Through guided reflection and practical examples, participants will assess their interests, skills, and availability to identify engagement opportunities that align with their professional goals. The session concludes with the creation of a personalized action plan, empowering attendees to take meaningful next steps and contribute to AHEAD in Texas’s mission with confidence and clarity.</p>

Session Materials



Session Evaluations



Conference Evaluation



All session materials can be found [here](#)

COMPLETE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Day 2- Tuesday, March 31, 2026

8:00-8:15	<p>Registration and Check-in JAAC-Scanlan 2nd floor</p>
8:15-9:00	<p>Breakfast AHEAD in Texas Business Meeting JAAC-Scanlan 2nd floor</p>
9:00-9:15	Vendors & Silent Auction -->JAAC and Scanlan Room
9:30-10:30	<p>Better Together: Cross-Campus Collaboration to Improve Housing Accommodation Practices Crooker Center Champions Lounge 1st Floor Presented by Laura Ramsey and Erin Bennett</p> <p>This session explores how Trinity University improved its housing accommodation process by moving from inconsistent, highly individualized decisions to a more standardized and transparent approach. By updating application language, creating clear processes, and strengthening collaboration with Residential Life, the university addressed common student concerns through practical strategies rather than default accommodations, ultimately improving consistency, equity, and communication.</p>
	<p>Beyond Adoption: Strategies to Scale EdTech Impact and Drive Campus-Wide Engagement Crooker Center Room 207 (Second Floor) Presented by Rachel Kruzel</p> <p>This session focuses on moving beyond edtech adoption to successful implementation by building awareness, increasing engagement, and using data to measure impact. It offers practical strategies for change management, scaling usage, and creating campus-wide buy-in to ensure technology investments lead to meaningful, equitable outcomes.</p>

10:30-11:30	<p>Navigating Parent Partnerships: Strategies for Challenging Conversations in Disability Services Crooker Center Champions Lounge 1st Floor Presented by Samantha Johnson and Tiffany Rivers</p> <p>This session explores how to effectively navigate parent involvement in supporting students with disabilities, focusing on balancing collaboration with maintaining student autonomy, confidentiality, and legal compliance. It provides practical strategies for managing challenges and building productive relationships.</p>
	<p>Beyond Silos: Using Person-Centered Planning to Coordinate Supports and Build Student Readiness Crooker Center Room 207 (Second Floor) Presented by Kayla Canis and Alex Candelaria</p> <p>This session explores how Person-Centered Planning (PCP) can better coordinate campus support services for students with disabilities by aligning resources around student goals. It highlights practical strategies to improve communication, promote self-advocacy, and create a more cohesive, student-centered support system without adding complexity.</p>
11:45-1:00	Lunch and Keynote Speaker-JAAC-Scanlan 2nd floor
1:00-1:15	Vendors & Silent Auction -->JAAC and Scanlan Room
1:30-2:30	<p>Executive Functioning Support for Neurodivergent University Students: A Holistic, Skills-Based Program Model Crooker Center Champions Lounge 1st Floor Presented by Elizabeth Gorman</p> <p>This presentation highlights the need for structured executive functioning support for neurodivergent students and introduces a comprehensive program focused on skills like time management, organization, and well-being. It offers a scalable model with practical strategies that institutions can adapt to better support student success and transition beyond college.</p>
	<p>More than a Meeting: Mastering the Intake Process Crooker Center Room 207 (Second Floor) Presented by Angie Maxey</p> <p>The intake meeting is where the relationship begins—but it's more than a meet-and-greet. This session will walk through best practices for creating a welcoming, compliant, and efficient intake experience. We'll talk about how to gather relevant information, engage students in self-advocacy, and set the tone for a collaborative partnership. Whether you're new to the field or revisiting your process, you'll leave with practical tools and fresh ideas to strengthen your approach.</p>

2:30-3:30	<p>AI-assisted Note-Taking To Enhance The Learning Process, Not Replace It Crooker Center Champions Lounge 1st Floor Presented by Genio</p> <p>This session explores using AI in higher education to support—not replace—learning, especially for students with disabilities who face executive functioning and processing challenges. It presents an ethical AI framework and tools like Genio Notes to help manage cognitive load while maintaining effective learning strategies.</p>
	<p>Fostering Campus Collaboration & Faculty Engagement: Meeting Faculty Where They Are and Building Partnerships Beyond Compliance Crooker Center Room 207 (Second Floor) Presented by Rachel White</p> <p>This session focuses on fostering campus-wide partnerships to support accessibility and inclusion by engaging faculty and key stakeholders collaboratively. It offers practical strategies for relationship-building, professional development, and recognizing inclusive teaching practices to enhance student success.</p>
3:45-4:00	Snack Break, Visit Vendors & Silent Auction -->JAAC and Scanlan Room
4:00-5:00	<p>AI Tools That Actually Work: Practical Strategies for Supporting Neurodiverse College Students JAAC-Scanlan 2nd floor Presented by Betsy Furler</p> <p>This session provides disability professionals with practical guidance on using AI tools to support students with disabilities, enhancing executive functioning, writing, organization, and emotional regulation. It also covers staff workflow tools and strategies for ethical, effective implementation on campus.</p>

All session materials can be found [here](#)

COMPLETE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Day 3- Wednesday, April 1, 2026

8:30-9:30	Breakfast & Panel Discussion: Out of This World Accommodation Requests! JAAC-Scanlan 2nd floor
9:30-10:00	AHEAD in Texas Awards JAAC-Scanlan 2nd floor
10:00-10:30	Final Visit for Vendors and Final Bids for Silent Auction-->JAAC and Scanlan Room
10:30-12:00	Students in Crisis: Understanding Behavior Through Legal, Clinical, and Ethical Lenses : A Cross-Functional Framework for ADA/ Accessibility Professionals JAAC-Scanlan 2nd floor Presented by TeClesha Blanchard and Laura Owens This session guides professionals in assessing and responding to concerning student behavior using a psychological and legal framework. It covers differentiating behaviors linked to disability, crisis, or misconduct, and provides practical strategies for compliant, student-centered interventions that balance legal mandates, psychological understanding, and ethical decision-making.
11:45-12:00	Silent Auction Winners Announced & Collect Payments
12:00-1:00	LUNCH - What's Next on the Horizon for AHEAD in Texas JAAC-Scanlan 2nd floor

Session Materials

Session Evaluations



Conference Evaluation





2025-2026 AHEAD IN TEXAS BOARD MEMBERS



Director Emerita
Angie Maxey
University of St. Thomas – Houston
713-525-3558 angie@txahead.org



Director of Professional Development
Dawn Kahlden
Tarrant County College
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Director at Large-Nominations
Tamara Mancini, M.Ed.
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
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Director of Finance
Shawn McNeil
Texas State Technical College
346-239-3381, smmcneil@tstc.edu



Director of Membership
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979-209-7251, alexis.baker@blinn.edu



Director at Large-Media and Communications
Angelica Ramos
Odessa College
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Director of Governance
Rachel White, M.Ed.
Vernon College
940-552-6291 ext. 2308, rwhite@vernoncollege.edu



BY LAWS

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1

The name of this organization is the Association on Higher Education And Disability in Texas (AHEAD in Texas). AHEAD in Texas was established in 1992 and incorporated in the State of Texas as a non-profit corporation in 2000. AHEAD in Texas is an affiliate of the International Association on Higher Education And Disability, formerly known as the Association on Handicapped Student Service Programs in Post-Secondary Education. AHEAD in Texas (hereafter known as the Affiliate) shall educate, train and communicate with professionals of various educational agencies serving students with disabilities attending any public or private post-secondary institution in the State of Texas.

AHEAD in Texas does not discriminate against any individual with regard to race, color, gender, age, national origin, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or any other constitutionally or statutorily impermissible reason. This policy extends to all programs and activities supported by AHEAD in Texas.

Section 2

The purpose of the Affiliate shall be to serve as a non-profit organization providing expertise and information on disability issues, rights of persons with disabilities, educational and professional development opportunities to higher education disability service providers and other professionals/interested parties, promoting coordination between agencies, associations and organizations for the purpose of promoting opportunity and advocacy for college and university students with disabilities and supporting legislation that benefits higher education and students with disabilities.

ARTICLE II: STRUCTURE

AHEAD in Texas (hereafter referred to as the Affiliate) is created as a volunteer professional organization directed by a volunteer Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will be composed of elected officers whose responsibility will be to carry out the mission of the Affiliate through policy formation, the execution of fiduciary responsibility, and maintenance and growth of the organization.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

Membership shall be open and available to any interested person according to membership and dues categories as established by the Board of Directors and contained in the bylaws with rights and responsibilities contained therein.

BY LAWS CONTINUED

Section 2

Membership levels:

1. Institutional Memberships:

a. Institutional Silver (\$200): This membership level includes up to THREE PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS who are eligible to hold office and have full voting privileges.

b. Institutional Gold (\$320): This membership level includes up to FIVE PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS who are eligible to hold office and have full voting privileges.

c. Institutional Platinum (\$540): This membership level includes up to NINE PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS who are eligible to hold office and have full voting privileges.

2. Full Professional Membership (\$85)

Directors/Coordinators/Counselors/Staff of Disability Services at 2 and 4 year public and private colleges and universities. In addition, professionals of other agencies/professional organizations providing services to and promoting access or advocating for post-secondary students with disabilities can also serve as professional members. This membership level is eligible to hold office and has full voting privileges.

3. Associate (\$45)

Former professional members, administrative/support staff at any agency/professional organization/post-secondary institution, advocates or family members of students with disabilities. This membership level is not transferable, not eligible to hold office and has no voting privileges.

4. Emeritus Professional (\$20)

Individuals retired from positions in higher education who were previous members of AHEAD in Texas. This membership level is not transferrable, not eligible to hold office and has no voting privileges.

5. Student (\$20)

Individuals enrolled as full-time students in an undergraduate or graduate program at an institution of higher learning. This membership level is not transferable, not eligible to hold office and has no voting privileges.

Section 3

The membership/dues year shall run from January 1 – December 31.

BY LAWS CONTINUED

ARTICLE IV: EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY

Section 1

Executive Authority shall be vested in the Board of Directors, composed of elected Officers. The Board of Directors is empowered to do all things permitted by law and to exercise all authority within the purposes stated in the bylaws contained herein

Section 2

The officers of the Affiliate shall consists of Directors. This will include the Director of Governance, Director of Professional Development, Director of Finance, Director of Membership, Directors-at-Large, and Director Emeritus. Duties of the Board of Directors are outlined in the AHEAD in Texas Affiliate Officers document.

Section 3

The Director of Governance, Director of Professional Development, Director of Finance, Director of Membership, Directors-at-Large shall be elected at-large from the active and eligible voting members of the Affiliate by a date set by the Board of Directors. The Director Emeritus shall be appointed annually by the Board from the pool of existing past Officers. The terms of all officers will begin June 1. Nomination and elections of Board Members will follow procedures established by the Board of Directors.

Section 4

The term of office for the Director of Governance, Director of Professional Development, Director of Finance, Director of Membership, and Director-at-Large shall be for two (2) years. The term of office for the Director Emeritus shall be for one (1) year. In the event of a vacancy in any office, the Director Emeritus shall assume those duties without prejudice to the ensuing term of office. All other midterm vacancies shall be filled by Board of Director appointment and approved by a majority

Section 5

The officers shall have full authority to conduct the affairs of the Affiliate between meetings of the Board of Directors.

Section 6

Such authority must remain within the provisions of and not conflict with the bylaws, decisions, actions or policies established by the Affiliate.

BY LAWS CONTINUED

ARTICLE V: FINANCE

Section 1

The Board of Directors shall be responsible for maintaining the fiscal integrity of the Affiliate and for ensuring financial stability and growth. The Director of Finance will serve as the chief financial officer of the Affiliate.

Section 2

Income shall be derived from sources consistent with the purpose and mission of the Affiliate. Affiliate funds shall be invested in instruments which are insured and/or are of a type and level of risk approved by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall review periodically the types of instruments and the level of risk allowed for investments. All financial transactions, fees and references made thereto will be in U.S. funds.

Section 3

The financial and accounting records of the Affiliate will be compiled into a summary report at the close of the fiscal year in a manner prescribed by the Board of Directors. The fiscal year shall be January 1 through December 31.

ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES

Section 1

The Affiliate Board of Directors, shall establish, maintain, and dissolve such standing and ad hoc committees as may be needed to conduct its business and activities. Chairs of each committee will be selected and appointed by the Board of Directors. The listing of established committees and councils is outlined in the AHEAD in Texas Committees document.

Section 2

Chairs of standing and ad hoc committees may be expected to attend Board meetings and report on activities of their respective committees. Committee chairs function in an adjunct and advisory manner to the board and do not have voting privileges on Board matters.

ARTICLE VII: IMPEACHMENT AND REMOVAL

An elected officer may be impeached by the Board of Directors for actions that are seriously negligent, fraudulent, illegal, and/or unethical within the duties of the respective office. Impeachment procedures will be delineated in the Board Policy and Procedure Manual.

BY LAWS CONTINUED

ARTICLE VIII: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The most current edition of Robert's Rule of Order shall be the Parliamentary guidelines for proceedings of the Affiliate whenever it does not conflict with Constitution and /or these bylaws.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

Section 1

Amendments or other changes in these bylaws may be initiated in the following ways:

The Board of Directors may propose amendments.

Any active voting member may submit, in writing, a proposed amendment to the Board of Directors.

Section 2

The Board of Directors will consider the proposed amendment(s) upon approval of a simple majority of the Board of Directors; the amendment shall be made available to the entire membership for vote. Upon two-thirds approval of those voting from the general membership the amendment shall become part of these bylaws.

Approved April 2025

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS AND VENDORS

On behalf of the entire AHEAD in Texas team, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your generous support of our conference. Your commitment to our mission and your contributions made a significant impact on the success of this event, and we are truly grateful for your partnership. Your support not only helped bring together a community of professionals dedicated to advancing higher education access and equity, but also provided valuable resources and enriched the overall attendee experience.

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UNT  **ELEVAR**

A special thanks to Symplicity for also sponsoring our lanyards and nametags!
We encourage conference attendees to turn in their completed vendor passports to be entered into a drawing to win a grand prize.



Thank you to all the committees who played a vital role in organizing the AHEAD in Texas Conference. Your hard work, dedication, and passion for ensuring the success of this event did not go unnoticed.

From mission planning to liftoff and beyond, each crew's contribution was mission-critical in turning this conference into an inspiring journey for every explorer on board. The precision and care invested in every detail, reflects your dedication to charting new frontiers, connecting distant worlds, and pushing past every boundary in our path.

Session Evaluations



Conference Evaluation



Session Materials



Silent Auction



Committee Interest



STAY CONNECTED WITH AHEAD IN TEXAS!



Engage with AHEAD in Texas on social media during the conference to be entered into a drawing for prizes during the Tuesday business meeting.