

July 21, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I am humbled and excited to be running for TFA President. For those of you who may not know me, I will be starting my 8th year at Saint Mary's Hall this fall, having taught middle school for my first three years and high school for the past four (with one year of overlap). While I haven't been teaching and coaching for that long, I have been a part of this community since I was in middle school. Having competed and coached at the middle school, high school, and collegiate levels, I have always striven to learn from my peers, grow beyond my limitations, and grow this community. It is with an overwhelming sense of gratitude and desire to serve that I submit my name for consideration.

As we move into the next decade of Texas forensics, we need innovative answers for the questions we've been faced with for the past decade. The questions of State size and of disappearing classroom positions are just two of the many problems that we've faced for years. I don't pretend to have the answers, but I have been having this conversation for years and I feel we need disruptive change and someone who will fight to build a future for our activity.

I have chosen to commit my career and my energy to this activity and the power it has to change student's lives. This October I will finish out my presidency of the TSCA and roll into my role as immediate past president. I see this as a unique opportunity, to be finishing my tenure with the TSCA as I both mentor the next President of the organization and simultaneously be mentored by Joe Uhler as he finishes out his tenure as the interim President of TFA. I consider Joe a mentor and friend and I feel comfortable saying that we could work together to make this transition seamless and ideal for our organization. In fact, I consider a great many of the current EC members to be friends and mentors and I feel confident stepping into a position both leading, but more importantly, working with this group of educators.

In addition to my work with the TSCA, speaking in front of and working with the SBOE, working with State legislators, the THECB and representatives of every level of competition and education across the state of Texas, I have also worked to create the Texas Junior Speech and Debate Association. This started seven years ago when I was the Chair of a TFA ad hoc committee about the future of middle school speech and debate. After putting together a committee of interested coaches and facilitating conversation with coaches all over the state, I made the press to petition the body to include the TJSDA as an interest group with the TSCA. Securing more than double the requisite signatures, we succeeded in including this new organization in our hierarchy of professional organizations. Under my leadership, the TJSDA hosted the first-ever Middle School Texas State Tournament! Despite the radical nature of a new endeavor, the weekend was a monumental success capturing approximately 500 entries, hundreds of student volunteer judges, and hours of dedication and commitment to the next generation of competitors.

It is my understanding that the role of TFA President is predominately working with administrators - acting as a liaison for coaches/competitors/professional organizations and hosting the State Tournament. I have the requisite experience to do both of these primary tasks and the energy and focus to make this organization my priority for the next two and a half years,

both while I follow and learn from Joe and as I step into the role officially at next years' Convention.

I would like to once again express my gratitude and awe at this opportunity to serve the state of Texas. I have an inkling of the other coaches who are stepping forward to run for this position and I am truly humbled to be throwing my hat in this particular ring with these particular coaches. I hope to continue to be a vocal and helpful presence in the State and will do my best to be of service in the future. This community has changed the lives of so many people, including my own, and I would love the opportunity to help steward it into the future.



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