

## A Message from TALE's Advocacy Development Committee

*TALE realizes the importance of keeping members connected with topics and legislative issues concerning literacy. TALE seeks to use our knowledge and experiences to inform and influence others about policy and legislation for meaningful practices.*

### ***TALE's Texas Education Leadership in Literacy Award***

At the 2016 Literacy Summit, TALE's Advocacy Development Committee recognized two outstanding Texas Education leaders for their efforts in promoting literacy for all students: Barbara Cargill (SBOE Member, District 8) and Patricia "Pat" Hardy (SBOE Member, District 11). We are very appreciative of their efforts and support of the statewide literacy coalition during the Texas SBOE's ELAR TEKS review and revision process.



Barbara Cargill



Pat Hardy

### ***ILA Advocacy Award***

During the International Literacy Association's (ILA) 2016 annual conference in July, TALE will be recognized with an Advocacy Award for the first time! ILA presents this award annually to state and provincial councils that demonstrate how they are working to affect educational policy and legislation through effective advocacy at the local, state, and/or national levels. We encourage you to access TALE's Advocacy Award submission at: <http://tale2016ilaadvocacyaward.weebly.com/>



### ***Legislative Updates – National***

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) was officially reauthorized when President Barack Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA) into law on December 10, 2015. The ESSA shifts a great deal of education authority from the federal government back to states and local education agencies. We encourage you to access the Summer 2016 edition of the *Texas Journal of Literacy Education* for an overview of the ESSA and its impact on education in Texas:

<http://www.texasreaders.org/journal.html>



### ***Texas Education Agency Updates***

- The ELAR TEKS revision process is still underway. On April 6, a public hearing before the State Board of Education was held, and several members from Texas literacy and education organizations presented testimony regarding the current proposed revisions and presented much research to support the direction of the proposed revisions. Those who testified included:
  - Dr. Kim Pinkerton, President, Texas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts (TCTELA)
  - Shona Rose, President-Elect, Coalition of Reading and English Supervisors of Texas (CREST)
  - Dr. Patricia Durham, Past-President, Texas Association of Literacy Educators (TALE)
  - Eric Simpson, Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA)

These literacy and education professionals did an amazing job and provided SBOE members with invaluable information to support best practices with literacy instruction. Testimony can be viewed at: <http://www.adminmonitor.com/tx/tea/>



- This summer will mark the launch of new statewide reading and math academies at 20 regional Education Service Centers. These academies will provide high quality, face-to-face professional development to elementary-level public school teachers. Selection of teachers who attend these academies will be by grade-level at campuses where 50% or more of students are economically disadvantaged. The current schedule for implementation, designated grade-levels, and priority campuses are available at: <http://tea.texas.gov/Curriculum/Academies/>



### ***What You Can Do***

Your voice matters! As respected literacy professionals and members of TALE, we encourage you to join TALE's advocacy efforts by engaging in activities as they relate to literacy, such as:

- Write about educational and legislative concerns.
- Present on educational legislation to a group of stakeholders, such as teachers, parents, or community group.
- Invite key officials to visit your school or district.
- Make personal visits to legislators.

You can locate your representatives at: <http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/Home.aspx>



TALE is documenting all advocacy efforts, so please submit copies of any correspondence, pictures, or other supportive documents to Laurie Sharp at: [laurie.sharp2013@gmail.com](mailto:laurie.sharp2013@gmail.com)

### ***Texas Advocacy Groups***

In Texas, there are many education advocates! We value and appreciate the efforts of our advocacy friends. We encourage you to learn more about our state's education advocacy organizations and their current efforts.

- Texas Kids Can't Wait – A statewide public education advocacy group that encourages equity, excellence, and adequacy for Texas' students: <http://www.texaskidscantwait.org/>



- Texans Advocating for Meaningful Student Assessment - A statewide, grassroots organization concerned with the overemphasis and expense associated with testing: <http://www.tamsatx.org/index.html>



We wish you the very best in your advocacy efforts as TALE strives to promote literacy that will enhance the lives of all Texas citizens personally, socially, and economically.

Warmest regards,

Laurie Sharp, Amy Cummins, Melinda Butler, Lisa Avrit, Ferne Farkas, & Teddi Martin