



April 10, 2018

Dear TALE Board of Directors:

Please accept this letter of intent for the position of *Secretary* for the 2018 – 2020 term. As a former kindergarten teacher, literacy education has always been a passion of mine. I experienced firsthand the process of teaching children how to develop a strong literacy foundation. That same passion is instilled in the work I do as an Assistant Professor of Literacy Education at Texas A&M University San Antonio. High quality teacher education programs are vital to the success of all children in PK-12 education settings and I remain committed to advocating for our children so that, they too, will receive high quality teachers in their PK-12 classrooms.

Much of my advocacy training has come from organizations such as the National Council for Teachers of English, the International Literacy Association, and the Children's Defense Fund. Each of these organizations has given me various learning opportunities; to include professional and leadership development. During my first semester of my appointment to A&M-SA, I sought out the local and state organizations connected to the International Literacy Association. I was thrilled to learn about the Alamo Literacy Council and the Texas Association for Literacy Education (TALE), two organizations that I immediately supported as a new member. While the Alamo Literacy Council is no longer active, I hope to connect with other literacy advocates across the San Antonio area to discuss the opportunity to rebuild the organization to benefit the San Antonio community. As an active member of TALE, I strive to educate faculty members, teachers, pre-service teachers, administrators, and district personnel about the importance of learning *from* and *with* others. In fact this year, I collaborated with the San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) to gain their support to send 18 teachers and three administrators to the TALE Annual Conference in Canyon, Texas. I'm confident that the teachers and administrators will continue to thrive due to their attendance at the 2018 TALE Conference.

It is evident that my vision for literacy education across the state of Texas is extensive! I believe that as a faculty member I have a commitment to serve teachers and teacher candidates. As a member of society, I have a commitment to serve children and my community. My commitment to these fields drive my goals for my role as Secretary for the TALE organization. I have outlined four overarching goals that would be my areas of focus if elected to the TALE Board of Directors for the 2018-2020 term. These goals are outlined below:

1. Increase awareness of the TALE organization. Specifically, targeting school districts and teacher education programs.
2. Maintain clear lines of communication between the TALE Board of Directors and the members of TALE.

3. Advocate for strong literacy programs, practices, and professionals to increase the literacy development of children and communities across Texas.
4. Strive to maintain accurate records and meeting minutes to ensure all documents are detailed and organized for historical purposes.

Thank you for your consideration for the position of Secretary for the Texas Association of Literacy Education Board of Directors. I look forward to the possibility to serve with educators and advocates who are committed to literacy education at all levels.

In service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'RP'.

Rebekah E. Piper, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of Literacy Education  
Texas A&M University San Antonio  
[rebekah.piper@tamusa.edu](mailto:rebekah.piper@tamusa.edu)

**Rebekah E. Piper, Ph.D.**  
College of Education and Human Development  
Department of Education and Leadership Preparation  
Texas A&M University San Antonio  
One University Way  
San Antonio, TX 78224  
210.784.2533  
[rebekah.piper@tamusa.edu](mailto:rebekah.piper@tamusa.edu)

### **Education**

2015 Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Curriculum and Instruction  
Literacy Education Emphasis & Cultural Studies  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
2009 M.Ed., Curriculum and Instruction: Literacy  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
2007 B.S., Elementary Education (K-6)  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

### **Professional Certifications**

Nevada Certificates K – 8 Teaching (2027)

### **Academic Experience**

2016 – Present *Assistant Professor*, Department of Educator and Leadership Preparation,  
Texas A&M University – San Antonio

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*(Before current tenure-track position-For information of professional advancement only)*

### **Professional Experience**

2013 – 2015 *Visiting Faculty*, Department of Teaching and Learning, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
2012 – 2013 *Graduate Assistant*, Department of Teaching and Learning, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
2012 – 2016 *Ready to Learn Trainer*, Vegas PBS (KLVX)  
2010 – 2011 *Adjunct Faculty*, Department of Teaching and Learning, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
2010 – 2014 *Project Director*, Las Vegas Children’s Defense Fund Freedom Schools  
2009 – 2010 *Site Coordinator*, Las Vegas Children’s Defense Fund Freedom Schools  
2007 – 2012 *Elementary Teacher*, Clark County School District

## Research Concentration

- Early literacy development
- Pre-service teacher education and development
- Curriculum development (specifically culturally relevant curricula)
- Influences of literature on children's literacy development
- Multicultural education in traditional classroom settings

## Academic Positions

2016 – Present      *Assistant Professor*, Department of Educator and Leadership Preparation,  
Texas A & M University San Antonio

## Courses Taught

### Reading Education

#### **Graduate**

EDRG 5320    Improving Reading in Secondary Schools  
EDRG 5360    Action Research  
EDRG 5365    Schoolwide Literacy Leadership  
EDRG 5315    Children's and Young Adult Literature  
EDRG 5310    Early Literacy Development  
EDRG 5329    Foundations of Educational Research: Literacy  
EDRG 5380    Internship in Literacy Leadership  
EDRG 5335    Models and Theories of Literacy and Language  
Development  
EDRG 5355    Literacy Assessment and Intervention

#### **Undergraduate**

EDRG 3389    Teaching Reading in Intermediate and Middle School  
EDRG 3315    Early Literacy Instruction (lead instructor)

## Course Development

#### **Graduate**

EDRG 5327    Critical Literacies and Critical Pedagogies (Fall 2017)

#### **Undergraduate**

EDRG 3389    Implemented Experiential Learning (SA Reads)

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*(Before current tenure-track position-For information of professional advancement only)*

2013 – 2015	<i>Visiting Faculty</i> , Department of Teaching and Learning, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
2012 – 2013	<i>Graduate Assistant</i> , Department of Teaching and Learning, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

## Courses Taught

### Reading Education

#### Graduate

CIL 621	Assessment in Literacy
CIL 684	Multicultural Children's Literature

#### Undergraduate

EDRL 442	Literacy Instruction I
EDRL 401	Children's Literature
EDRL 443	Literacy Instruction II

## Publications

### Peer Reviewed Manuscripts (\*denotes work with students)

- Sharp, L., **Piper, R.E.**, & Raymond, R. (2018). Are we preparing teachers for literacy leadership? *The Reading Teacher*. doi.org/10.1002/trtr.1704.
- Piper, R. E.**, Vice, T. A., & Pittman, R.T. (2017). Using multicultural children's literature to address social issues: The power of interactive read aloud. *Read: An online journal for literacy educators*. (in press).
- Cummings, A.E\*., **Piper, R.E.**, & Pittman, R.T. (2017). The importance of preparing teachers to teach vocabulary to students in Prek – 12<sup>th</sup>. Grade: The Whys and How's. *Read: An online journal for literacy educators*. (in press).
- Pittman, R., **Piper, R.**, & Garfield, T. (2018). Providing teacher candidates opportunities to excel while engaging elementary students in literacy: A partnership that works. *Journal of Effective Schools Project*, 24, 51-55.
- Dudley, K. L.\*., Pittman, R.T., & **Piper, R.E.** (2017). Using authentic literature to enrich young children's literacy experiences. *Read: An online journal for literacy educators*, 3(4), 9-17.
- Piper, R. E.**, Garrison, S\*., Morgan, L\*. (2017). Creating Elementary-Aged Agents of Change: The Impact of Civil Rights Themed Literature. *TALE Yearbook*. 4, 45-52.
- Piper, R.** (2017). Conversaciones Críticas. *Early Years*. 37(3) 13-15.
- Piper, R.** (2017). Critical Conversations. *Early Years*. 37 (3) 10-12.

### Peer Reviewed Manuscripts Under Review

- Piper, R. E.** & McGhie, T. Family Discussion of Race Impacting Children’s PK-12 Schooling. *Curricular and Non-Curricular Perspectives for Closing Achievement Gaps for Students of Color*. MSU Press. (In Review).
- Sharp, L.A., Diego-Medrano, E., Hughes, C., Raymond, R. D. & **Piper, R.E.** (2018). Overcoming the Challenges and Pressures Experienced by Literacy Teacher Educators. *English in Texas*. (In Review).
- Sharp, L., Raymond, R. & **Piper, R.E.** The preparedness of preservice literacy teachers: Examining viewpoints among literacy teacher educators. *Action in Teacher Education*. (In Review).
- Piper, R.E.** Identity Development through Interactive Read Alouds of MO-CRiTLit. *Education and Urban Society*. (In Review).

### **Non-Peer-Reviewed Publications**

- Piper, R.E.** (September, 2017). Navigating Leadership: Reflections from the First-Year Tenure Track. *Collaborative Educational Programs for the Americas: Educating through Leadership and Ethics*.

### **Technical Reports: Peer Reviewed-Non Refereed**

- Piper, R.E.**, Pittman, R.T., Dorel, T.G., Wilson, J.C., & Jozwiak, M. (2017). *Reading Program graduate program review. Submitted to the Texas Education Agency, June 2017.*

### **Manuscripts in Progress**

- Leffew, P\*, Cisneros, G\*, & **Piper, R.E.** Integrating Technology to Enhance Literacy Development: A Teacher’s Perspective. (In Progress).
- Rubio, M\*. & **Piper, R.E.** The Value of Parent Involvement in Early Literacy Education. (In Progress).
- Cantu, C\*. & **Piper, R.E.** Fostering the Home Literacy Environment: The Impact on Early Childhood Education. (In Progress).
- Pittman, R.T., **Piper, R.E.**, & Garfield, T. Increasing Teacher Candidates’ Literacy Knowledge: Why Service Learning Matters. (In Progress).
- Piper, R.E.**, Sharp L., & Raymond, R. Literacy Teacher Educators and Issues of Diversity: Are Teacher Candidates Ready to Enter Today’s Diverse Classrooms? (In Progress).

### **Chapters in Progress**

- Piper, R.E.** Identity Development of Preschool Aged Children: Exploring Gender through Multicultural Literature. (In Progress).

## Presentations

### Invited

- Pittman, R. T., **Piper, R. E.**, & Thompson, C. (2018). *Building Communities of Professional Learners Through Video Coaching*. Invited presentation proposal submitted to the Learning Forward Conference. Dallas, TX.
- Piper, R.E.** (2017, November). Bringing Picture Books to Life: The Power of Read Aloud. *Voices for Children*. San Antonio, Texas A&M University San Antonio. San Antonio, TX. \*Keynote Speaker\*
- Piper, R.E.** (2017, November). Progressing through Graduate School Successfully. *Introduction to Graduate Studies (ENGL5300)*. Texas A&M University San Antonio. San Antonio, TX.
- Piper, R.E.** (2017, November). The Power of Service. *Rotary International District 5840: Annual Interact Conference*. San Antonio, TX.
- Love, S., Pittman, R., & **Piper, R.** (2017, August). Leveraging Technology: Army Community Service Program Directors. Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX.
- Piper, R.** (2017, February). Incorporating Authentic Multicultural Children's Literature: Approaching Critical Conversations. Texas A&M University San Antonio: Annual Hot Topics in Literacy. San Antonio, TX.
- Pittman, R., Love, S., & **Piper, R.** (2017, January). Leveraging Technology: Hybrid Course Delivery. Army Community Services Directors. Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX.
- Piper, R.** (2016, October). Developmental Writing: The Whys and How's. San Antonio Independent School District Cohort. Beacon Hill Elementary, San Antonio, TX.
- Piper, R.** (2016, April). Discovering Identity: Using Literature to Learn and See About Self. *San Antonio Association for the Education of Young Children*. San Antonio, TX.
- Piper, R.** (2015, June). Impact of Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools. *Ella Baker Child Policy Training Institute 20<sup>th</sup>*. Annual Meeting, Knoxville, TN.
- Piper, R.** (2010, June). Delivering the Integrated Reading Curriculum. *Ella Baker Child Policy Training Institute Annual National Conference*, Knoxville, TN.

### International Peer-Reviewed (\*denotes work with students)

- Piper, R.** & Morgan, L\*. (2017, February). Bridging the Gap: Sustaining Culture in the Early Childhood Classroom. OMEP Regional World Conference. Atlanta, GA.

### National Peer-Reviewed (\*denotes work with students)

- Piper, R.E.**, Gerzel-Short, L. Jozwiak, M.M. (2018). Addressing Literacy Development: The Impact of Early Childhood Teachers. Submitted to National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators Annual Conference, Austin, TX.
- Jozwiak, M. M., Gerzel-Short, L., & **Piper, R. E.** (2018). Families and Schools: Literacy Based Linkages. Submitted to Zero to Three Annual Conference, Denver, CO.
- Piper, R.E.**, Pittman, R. T., Carreon, C\*., Ruan, K\*., Snow, R\*., & Tinajero, E\*. (2018). Exploring Cultures through Multicultural Children's Literature: Critical Conversations

- around Social Issues. Proposal submitted to the annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), Houston, TX.
- Pittman, R. T., Brooks, B., **Piper, R. E.**, & Vice, T. (2018). Valuing the Way "They" Talk: Implications for Increasing African American Students Literacy Outcomes as a Social Justice Obligation. Proposal submitted to the annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), Houston, TX.
- Sharp, L.A., Raymond, R. D., & **Piper, R. E.** (2017, November). Cultivating Effective Literacy Professionals: A State-Wide Analysis of Teacher Educator Perceptions and Preparation Approaches. *Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers (ALER)*, St. Petersburg, FL.
- Jackson, T., Stanford, M., & **Piper, R.** (2017, April). Education Opportunity and the Possibilities of Freedom Schools for Teaching and Learning. *American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Conference*, San Antonio, TX.
- McGhie, T. & **Piper, R.** (2017, April). Family Discussion of Race Impacting Children's PK-12 Schooling. *American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Conference*, San Antonio, TX.
- Piper, R.** & Haddad, Z. (2014, November). Thinking, critically in order to promote critical thinking: An interdisciplinary approach to teaching social studies and literacy in the primary grades. *National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME) Annual Conference*, Tucson, AZ.
- Crosthwaite, J. & **Piper, R.** (2013, November). The Power of Questions: Picture Books and Responding about the World. *National Council for Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Conference*, Boston, MA.
- Piper, R.** (2012, December). Outside Interest and Literacy Practices as Contexts for Increasing Engagement and Critical Reading for Adolescent Boys. *Literacy Research Association 61<sup>st</sup>. Annual Conference*. San Diego, CA.
- Piper, R.** (2012, November). Parental Involvement. Today. Tomorrow. Together. National Council for Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV.
- Piper, R.** (2012, April). The Role of Parental Involvement with Early Literacy Learners. *Western Social Science Association (WSSA) Annual Conference*, Houston, TX.
- Piper, R.** (2009, July). SIGN Your Way to Success: American Sign Language in the Kindergarten Classroom. *I Teach K! National, Annual Conference*, Las Vegas, NV.

### **State/Regional Peer-Reviewed (\*denotes work with students)**

- White, E\*, Castro, S\*, & **Piper, R.E.** (2018, February). Teacher Knowledge and Early Literacy: The Impact on Student Achievement. *Texas Association for Literacy Education (TALE) Annual Conference*. Canyon, TX.
- Cisneros, G\*, Zamora, V., **Piper, R.E.**, & Pittman, R.T. (2018, February). Using Technology as a Source to Improve Literacy Knowledge. *Texas Association for Literacy Education (TALE) Annual Conference*. Canyon, TX.
- Cantu, C\*, Rubio, M\*, & **Piper, R.E.** (2018, February). Home Literacy Environment and the Impact on Oral Language Development. *Texas Association for Literacy Education (TALE) Annual Conference*. Canyon, TX.
- Leffew, P\* & **Piper, R.E.** (2018, February). Teacher's Self Efficacy of Vocabulary Instruction Through the Use of Istation. *Texas Association for Literacy Education (TALE) Annual*



Conference. Canyon, TX.

**Piper, R.** & Garrison, S\*. (2017, February). Creating Elementary-Aged Agents of Change: The Impact of Civil Rights Themed Literature. *Texas Association for Literacy Education (TALE) Annual Conference*. Corpus Christi, TX.

**Piper, R.** (2010, June). Singing and Moving for Success. *I Teach K! Texas Annual Regional Conference*, Austin, TX.

### **Other Scholarship Activity**

**Piper, R.** (2017). Chairperson for Language and Literacy. City of San Antonio Head Start, TX: The Texas A&M University-San Antonio Consortium for Early Education Research and Family Empowerment.

### **Professional Development**

Dr. Sandra Yauncy McGuire. "Teach Students How to Learn: Strategies You Can Incorporate into Any Course to Improve Student Metacognition, Study Skills, and Motivation" – Texas A&M University San Antonio, San Antonio, TX. (2018).

*PK – 12 Education Forum III* – Mays Family Center, The Witte, San Antonio, TX. (2018).

*Women @ Work: Emotional Intelligence* – Dr. Neely. Texas A&M – San Antonio (2018).

*Rotary Leadership Institute: The Rotarian* – Rotary International District 5840, San Antonio, TX (2017)

*Thriving Together: Symposium* – Southside First and Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. Texas A&M – San Antonio (2017)

*Field Supervisor Coaching Training* – Texas Education Agency. Education Service Center, Region 20 (2017)

*Fellow of the Southern Nevada Writing Project* (2012)

*Introduction to Common Core State Standards* (2010)

Support teachers through the transition of Nevada State Standards to Common Core State Standards.

*Effective Parent Communication* (2009)

Support teachers with best practices for effectively communicating with student families.

## Grants

- Piper, R.E.,** Jozwiak, M. M., & Pittman, R. T. (2018). Exploring Praxis: Teachers' Attitudes Towards the Incorporation of LGBTQ-Themed Multicultural Children's Literature. *American Psychological Association – Wayne F. Placek Grant*. (\$9,660). Pending
- Piper, R.E.** & Pittman, R.T. (2018). Multicultural Children's Literature and The Early Childhood Classroom. *San Antonio Regional PK-12 Education Forum*. (\$5,000). Not Funded.
- Pittman, R. T. (PI), **Piper, R. E.**, & Vice, T. (2018). Teaching Students How to Learn: Why This Matters in Higher Ed! *University Strategic Plan: Build. Impact. Transform. Grant- Texas A&M University-San Antonio* (\$16,000). Funded.
- Piper, R.E.** (2017). Unseen San Antonio: Exploring the Underrepresented to Promote Equity and Diversity. (\$2,500). Not Funded.
- Piper, R.E.** (2017). Texas Association of Literacy Educators (TALE) Annual Conference. *SAISD Funded Professional Development* (\$13,005). Funded.
- Pittman, R. T. & **Piper, R. E.** (2017). Using Technology to Provide Immediate Feedback to Elementary Literacy Teachers. Department of Educator and Leadership Preparation Equity Budget Grant (\$3,600). Funded.
- Jozwiak, M., **Piper, R.E.**, & Scott, L. (2017). Rooted in the Community proposal submitted to the United States Department of Education Title V Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (DHSI). (\$2,727,000). Not Funded.
- Co-Principal Investigators –Esparza Young, E., Garcia, N., Garfield, T., Gerzel Short, L., Guerra, M., Harris, S., Janysek, M., Jozwiak, M., Jurica, J., Kearney, W.S., Kim, Y.R., Kwon, E., Murakami, E., **Piper, R.E.**, Pittman, R., Scott, L., Vera, D., Wilson, J., & Wu, H.P. (2017). Teacher Residency – Training and Preparation Partnership RFP #17-027(AT) Proposal as a sub-award of *U.S. Department of Education Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) grant* through the San Antonio Independent School District. (\$802,600). Funded.

## Professional Memberships

### *International*

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|----------------|--|
| 2016 – Present | Member, World Organization for Early Childhood Education |
| 2014 – Present | Member, American Educational Research Association (AERA) |
| 2012 – Present | Member, International Literacy Association (ILA)         |

### *National*

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 2017 – 2018    | Member, National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity (NCFDD) |
| 2014 – Present | Member, National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME)     |
| 2012 – Present | Member, National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)              |

### *Regional*

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 2016 – Present | Member, Texas Association for Literacy Educators (TALE) |
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2013 – 2016 Member, Southern Nevada Council of Teachers of English (SNCTE)

## Service

### *University*

2017 Member, Writing Across the Curriculum Committee  
 2017 Member, University Library Education Librarian Search  
 2017 Member, University Entrance Committee  
 2016 Member, Academic Planning Committee  
 2016 Member, Center for Teaching and Learning Advisory Board

### *College and Department*

2017 - 2018 Member, C&I Faculty Search (3 Tenure Track Positions)  
 2017 Chair, EDRG Faculty Search  
 2017 Member, EDED Faculty Search  
 2016 - Present Co-Chair, COEHD Graduate Hooding Ceremony Committee  
 2016 Chair, EDRG Faculty Search

### *Community*

2017 Co-Chair, *I am a Reader! I am an Illustrator! Family Literacy Night* – Stewart Elementary, San Antonio Independent School District  
 2017 – Present Secretary, Rotary Club of San Antonio South  
 2017 Chair, *Family Literacy Night* – Texas A&M University San Antonio  
 2012 – 2015 Treasurer, Southern Nevada Council of Teachers of English  
 2011 – 2012 Local Affiliate Treasurer for NCTE Annual Conference  
 2012 – 2015 Volunteer, Congressman Steven Horsford  
 2009 – 2015 Volunteer, Pearson Community Center  
 2008 – 2015 Volunteer, Doolittle Community Center

### *Profession*

2018 Reviewer Journal of Negro Education  
 2017 Invited Reviewer “Service-Learning Initiatives in Teacher Education  
 2010 – 2017 Children’s Defense Fund (CDF), Washington, DC  
 2009 – 2015 Curriculum Writer, Children’s Defense Fund Freedom Schools

### *Students*

2018 Core Reading Review Session for EC-6 Certification  
 2017 Member, African American Read In Committee, Member  
 2017 Graduate Research Project Advisor: Susan Castro  
 2017 Graduate Research Project Advisor: Elizabeth White  
 2017 Graduate Research Project Advisor: Patricia Leffew  
 2017 Graduate Research Project Advisor: Grace Cisneros  
 2017 Graduate Research Project Advisor: Lauren Morgan  
 2017 Graduate Research Project Advisor: Cindie Cantu  
 2017 Graduate Research Project Advisor: Mara Rubio  
 2017 Member, National Day On Writing Planning Committee

- 2017 Organized Literacy Leadership Panel:  
Klingsporn, K., Munn, R., Munoz, A., Sharp, L. (September, 2017) *The Role and Practice of Effective Reading Specialists*. Texas A&M University San Antonio.
- 2017 **Faculty Sponsor for 3<sup>rd</sup>. Annual Student Research Symposium** (May, 2017) Texas A&M University San Antonio.  
Amanda Ramos: Roundtable Discussion – *The Five Strategies for Effective Vocabulary Instruction in Secondary Classrooms*.  
Annette Jones: Poster Session – *Collation of Spelling Resources*.  
Amanda Ramos: Roundtable Discussion – *Discussing Classroom Management*.  
Sonia Gonzales: Roundtable Discussion – *High Frequency Word Walls in Elementary Classrooms*.  
Grace Cisneros: Poster Session – *The Influence of e-books on Literacy*.  
Mara Rubio: Poster Session – *The Impact of Parent Engagement on Bilingual Preschool Children’s Oral Language Development: An Analysis of Literature*.  
Kaila Ruan: Poster Session – *The World Wide Web and Comprehension: The Impact of Connection and Motivation on Secondary Education Learners*.  
Marisa Barerra: Poster Session – *Effective Strategies for Implementing Intervention Programs for Early Literacy Learners*.  
Patricia Leffew: Presentation – *Techno SAVVY Vocabulary: What Works?*  
Gabriel Navarette: Presentation – *Expanding the Language Learning of ELLs*.  
Shelly Gonzalez: Presentation – *Factors Affecting Students with Low Attendance*.
- 2017 Graduate Research Project Advisor: Amanda Ramos  
2017 Graduate Research Project Advisor: Shelly Gonzales  
2017 Graduate Research Project Advisor: Kamie Anderson  
2017 Graduate Research Project Advisor: Kaila Ruan  
2017 Graduate Research Project Advisor: Annette Jones  
2016 Member, National Day On Writing Planning Committee

### **Awards and Recognition**

- 2018 Recipient – 2018 TALE Conference Research Poster Winner – First Place  
2018 Nominated – AERA Teacher & Teacher Education Early Career Award



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY - SAN ANTONIO

College of Education &  
Human Development

## College of Education & Human Development

Sen. Frank L. Madla Building, Suite 212  
One University Way, San Antonio, Texas 78224

April 11, 2018

Re: TALE Secretary Nomination

To the TALE Board of Directors:

It is with esteem praise that I highly recommend Dr. Rebekah E. Piper for the Secretary position on the Board of Directors for the Texas Association of Literacy Education (TALE). Dr. Piper is a second year, assistant professor at Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-SA). Throughout the past two years, Dr. Piper has deemed herself worthy of this position, as she has supported TALE since her arrival in Texas. Upon beginning a career at A&M-SA, Dr. Piper joined TALE and began getting students involved in TALE. Through district funds that Dr. Piper solely sought, she was able to ensure that 18 students and three assistant principals participated in the TALE annual conference in West Texas this year.

Moreover, Dr. Piper has presented, with students, at the 2017 TALE conference in Corpus Christi. From this presentation, she was able to publish her work, with students, on her research interest regarding the impact of Civil Rights themed literature” in the *TALE Yearbook*, “Using authentic literature to enrich literacy experiences”. Each of these experiences has shown that Dr. Piper is committed to the TALE organization.

Furthermore, Dr. Piper has the experience needed to serve as secretary. She is a great listener. She is well articulate, and she advocates on behalf of various literacy initiatives. Dr. Piper always encourages our faculty to join TALE, as it is dear to her. She has gained advocacy experience in other organizations, such as the National Council of Teachers of English and the Children’s Defense fund. With this experience, positive attitude, and professionalism, she will make a great impact as the 2018-2020 secretary for TALE.

Lastly, I highly recommend Dr. Piper for secretary position in TALE. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 713.320.6297 or [ramona.pittman@tamusa.edu](mailto:ramona.pittman@tamusa.edu) .

Regards,

Ramona T. Pittman, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Literacy