



## MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Texas Association for Literacy Education is to promote literacy that will enhance the lives of all Texas citizens personally, socially and economically.



## TALE Leaped into Literacy at the 2020 Conference

This year, approximately 350 literacy educators from across the state and beyond traveled to West Texas for the annual TALE conference, proudly hosted by The University of Texas Permian Basin College of Education. The conference was held on February 28th & 29th at the Odessa Marriott Hotel & Conference Center in downtown Odessa. Attendees were invited to "Leap Into Literacy!" as they enjoyed inspirational and informative presentations by keynote speakers Dr. Laurie

Sharp, Donalyn Miller, Kylene Beers and Bob Probst. Also offered were high quality sessions, workshops, round tables, and research poster presentations on a wide variety of relevant topics including Dyslexia and the new ELAR TEKS. Authors Chris Barton, René Saldaña, Jr., A.G. Howard, and local award-winning poet Loretta Diane Walker treated their audience to a wonderful discussion during the author panel moderated by Dr. Charity Embley.

### IN THIS ISSUE

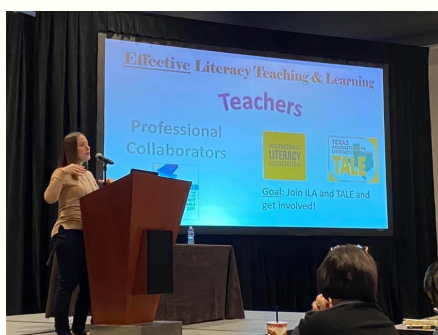
### TALE LEAPED INTO LITERACY AT THE 2020 CONFERENCE

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Left to right: Donalyn Miller spoke during Friday's opening session about the importance of book access for all. Dr. Laurie Sharp, TALE Past President and ILA Board of Directors, presented one of Friday's keynotes, "An Urgent Call for Literacy Leadership". Our wonderful author panel featured Chris Barton, Loretta Diane Walker, A.G. Howard, Dr. Charity Embley, Moderator, and René Saldaña, Jr.

The exhibit hall featured approximately 30 exhibitors, and guests enjoyed playing Bingo throughout the conference. At the conclusion of the conference, Bingo winners were awarded with fabulous door prizes donated by our wonderful authors, exhibitors, and sponsors.

This year's Friday night social was a special treat including performances by local high school and college students. First, conference attendees were beautifully serenaded by the Permian High School Satin Strings. The evening concluded with a lively, cultural dance performance by UTPB's award winning Ballet Folklorico.

We feel especially fortunate that the timing of the conference allowed us to hold it before many conferences were cancelled nationwide due to COVID-19. In addition to learning from educators from all backgrounds and all areas of the state, the conference allows TALE members to network and celebrate their shared passion for literacy.



## 2020 Jack Cassidy Distinguished Service Award Winner Dr. Patricia Durham

Dr. Patricia Durham has demonstrated great contributions to the field of literacy education through scholarly activities. In working with Dr. Durham, it is evident through her scholarship that she is committed to increasing the effectiveness of inservice teacher practice and pedagogy in the field of literacy. Dr. Durham has published several articles in various literacy education journals, including *Journal of Research in Childhood Education*, *Texas Journal of Literacy Education*, and the *ALER Yearbook*. Additionally, she has published a book, *Becoming Fluent in the Language of Content: Developing Strategic Readers as Critical Consumers of Information* and contributed to a book chapter. In addition to the published works, Patricia has been active in various literacy organizations and engages with other

literacy scholars through presentations at annual conventions and meetings such as The International Literacy Association, The Association of Literacy Educator Researchers, and the UK Literacy Association. Dr. Durham is also the program chair for the Masters in Literacy at Sam Houston State University. In this role, she oversees the graduate program and teaches graduate courses in literacy. Dr. Patricia Durham has shown a deep devotion to the field of literacy through her service and leadership. She served as the President of TALE from 2014-2015. Dr. Durham has been an integral part of the success and growth of TALE. Patricia was one of the founding members of the TALE and was instrumental in drafting Bylaws for the organization. Additionally, Dr. Durham has served as the TALE IRA state coordinator search committee chair as well as the strategic planning committee chair. Dr. Durham also worked to plan the 2015 TALE conference and served as a TEKS Advocacy Representative for TALE during ELAR standard revision. In this role, Patricia Durham testified to the Texas State Board of Education at nearly every board meeting. Testimony included sharing the voices of TALE membership regarding opinions of the current TEKS as well as thoughts on needed revisions. She also worked with the Writing Committees to help with the ELAR TEKS revisions. When the new ELAR TEKS were rolled out, TALE members were proud that these standards were crafted in good conscience by the writing committees and included TALE members' voices.

# Message from Our Chair - Malene Golding

TALE members,

As I write this letter, our state, country, and the surrounding worldwide community are facing unprecedented challenges presented from the COVID-19 Pandemic which has required educational institutions of every level to close their buildings and provide instruction remotely. I know many of you are making the best of these “dystopian times”, meeting with your students via Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Skype, etc., prerecording lessons, doing virtual check-ins, and more while balancing the responsibilities your personal lives require. Thank you for your sacrifice and hard work. I always say that teachers have a moral imperative to educate our students to the best of our abilities and I know that many of you are going above and beyond to ensure that your students and their families are getting what they need at this time.

Many districts and regional offices across the state are gearing up to roll-out HB 3 Reading Academies. This bill, passed in June of 2019, requires all kindergarten through 3rd grade teachers and principals to attend a teacher literacy achievement academy by the 2021-2022 school year. If you need more information about these academies, please go to <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/early-childhood-education/hb-3-reading-academies>.

On the national front, I wanted to make you all aware of a historic ruling in the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit on April 23, 2020. The court ruled that a basic minimum education is a fundamental right protected by the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and this right includes literacy. This is the outcome of a class action suit that was filed in 2016 against Detroit city schools, the state governor, and several state officials on behalf of the students in Detroit’s public schools. This monumental decision puts us a little closer to legally recognizing that education is a right for all citizens in a democracy, no matter your zip code or neighborhood. If you would like to read more about this case, please [click here](#).

We currently do not know what summer school or even what the 2020-2021 school year will look like, but I know that educators will ensure that we are consistently doing what is best for our students. Being our best requires us to sharpen our saw and learn more through professional development. To this end, I would like to personally invite you to join us for the TALE Summer Book Club as we read and discuss [This is Balanced Literacy](#) by Douglas Fisher, Nancy Frey, and Nancy Akhavan. You can purchase the book with a 20% discount from QEP books. Please go to our website [www.texasreaders.org](http://www.texasreaders.org) for more information. Get your book and join us.

I would like to personally thank everyone who attended our Annual TALE Conference, “Leap into Literacy”, on February 28-29th, 2020 at the new Odessa Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in partnership with University of Texas at Permian Basin. We had a great time teaching, learning and socializing with all of you. I am also grateful that we were able to hold our conference before the pandemic as well. We hope that you all can join us next year at Texas A & M University on February 26-27, 2021 at College Station, Texas. Please consider sharing your expertise by submitting a proposal by Friday, August 2, 2020.

Finally, I’d like to thank all of our board members and committee directors for all the work that you do to make this organization a success.

Sincerely,  
Malene Golding, M. Ed.

## JOIN US!

[talemembership@gmail.com](mailto:talemembership@gmail.com)

Be sure to visit us on our social media pages as well as our website!

[TALE Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter - @TXLiteracyEd](#)

[Instagram - @txliteracyed](#)

**Publications:**

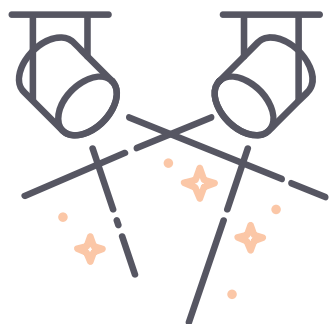
[Texas Journal of Literacy Education](#)

[Yearbook](#)

# TALE

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## Member Spotlight



**Mary Shelton, Ed.D.**  
**Garland, TX**

**What is your occupation?**

I am currently the Coordinator of Secondary English Language Arts and Reading for Garland ISD.

**What degrees do you hold?**

I have a Bachelor of Science from Stephen F. Austin State University, a Master's of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Southern Methodist University and a Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Texas A&M Commerce.

**How are you involved with TALE?**

I am member of the local and special interest councils committee.

**What is your literacy vision?**

Literacy is the key that unlocks all obstacles. It is essential to being a full participating member of society.

**What is something in your life you are most proud of?**

Of all my accomplishments I am most proud of my family. My two boys are my greatest gift and I take pride in all they accomplish. They are my inspiration and joy.

**What words of advice would you offer to other literacy leaders?**

Keep learning, keep engaging, asking questions, seeking new solutions. We can never accept complacency or the status quo, we owe it to our students that we continually search for new opportunities to improve upon our practice.



**Tara Wilson**  
**Odessa, TX**

**What is your occupation?**

Assistant Literacy Professor at The University of Texas Permian Basin. I am also the Literacy Program Coordinator.

**What degrees do you hold?**

BS in interdisciplinary studies, M.Ed Curriculum & Instruction with a minor in Early Childhood and a Doctorate in Literacy

**How are you involved with TALE?**

I was the co-chair for the 2020 conference. I am on the board and serve on two sub-committees. I also participate in the book studies.

**What is your literacy vision?**

That all literacy educators have the tools and determination to guide students into becoming lifelong readers.

**What is something in your life you are most proud of?**

Completing my doctorate! C/O 2015 SHSU!!!! My first (and only) book was published last year.

**What words of advice would you offer to other literacy leaders?**

Be patient and have an open mind when working with children and other educators. Stay up to date on the latest literacy research. Share your opinions and experiences with others.

## Want to contribute to the newsletter?

**Book Reviews:**

Send book reviews no later than July 21, 2020.

**TALE Member Spotlight:**

Nominations due no later than July 21, 2020.

**NEW! Student Showcase:**

Show off the work your students are doing by submitting their work for publication! All work must be submitted with a consent form. All work for the Summer newsletter is due July 21, 2020.

[Student Work Consent Form](#)

**EMAIL SUBMISSIONS TO:**  
talnewsletter@gmail.com

**Use newsletter submission  
section as the subject line.**



# Committee Reports

## Membership Committee

TALE membership is currently 380 active members. If you have your account set up to auto renew with your credit card, please be sure to update your account when your card expires. Your account can be accessed at [texasreaders.org](http://texasreaders.org) under the "Members" tab. Membership is \$10 annually. Please encourage your colleagues to join TALE!

## Advocacy Committee

The Advocacy Committee was notified in April that they won the ILA Advocacy Award for the fifth year in a row! We are very pleased to have the work of the committee and TALE members recognized.

Our goal this year is to help educators discover or reinforce ways they can advocate for literacy for themselves, their classrooms, and their communities. One way for us to do that is by building our Twitter life (@AdvocacyTALE). Each month we are focusing on one aspect of literacy and sending out tweets. In May, we are focusing on summer reading - something that is sure to see a change during all of the COVID-19 distance learning. Another part of that is a potential partnership with Raise Your Hand Texas to help educators expand their understanding of advocating for our selves.

We would also like to welcome several new members to our committee: Jayne Latty, Bonnie Reyes, and Elena Guerrero. If you would like to be involved in our work, please email [taleadvocacydevelopment@gmail.com](mailto:taleadvocacydevelopment@gmail.com).

## Community Involvement Committee

We enjoyed seeing everyone #TEALoutTALE with our first TALE shirts at this year's conference. When you're wearing your shirts out among your community, feel free to tag @TXLiteracyEd on Twitter and Instagram with your picture. We'd love to continue the celebration of literacy education in Texas.

## Want to know more?



If you are interested in finding out more about what our committees are working on or if you want to join one of them, follow the links below and/or email the committee chair!

### [Advocacy Development](#)

Director: Sara Ranzau

[taleadvocacydevelopment@gmail.com](mailto:taleadvocacydevelopment@gmail.com)

### [Communication Committee](#)

Director: Alida Hudson

[alida.hudson13@gmail.com](mailto:alida.hudson13@gmail.com)

### [Community Involvement](#)

Director: Brandy Alexander

[talecommunityinvolvement@gmail.com](mailto:talecommunityinvolvement@gmail.com)

### [Educator Empowerment](#)

Director: Kristi Morale

[tale.empowerment@gmail.com](mailto:tale.empowerment@gmail.com)

### [Membership Development](#)

Director: Jackie Ingram

[talemembership@gmail.com](mailto:talemembership@gmail.com)

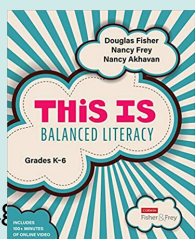
### [TAIR Grants & Awards](#)

Director: Kathy Stephens

[kathystephens@letu.edu](mailto:kathystephens@letu.edu)

## Educator Empowerment Committee

The TALE Educator Empowerment committee is excited about our Summer Book Study of “This Is Balanced Literacy” By Douglas B. Fisher, Nancy Akhavan, and Nancy Frey. This text provides all the tips and tools you need to realize the goal of balanced literacy learning. The book study will run from June 21st-July 18th and discussions will be held via Padlet. Click [here](#) or scan the QR code below to register.



Are you interested in joining the Educator Empowerment Committee? Or, do you have suggestions for topics to focus on during the webinars or recommended books to use during our book clubs? Let us know by emailing [tale.empowerment@gmail.com](mailto:tale.empowerment@gmail.com).

## Communications Committee

Our TALE Twitter Chats, #TALEtalks, have been postponed for now. However, TALE has created the hashtag #TALEOutsideTheBox in order for people to share online resources and creative ways that they are teaching online. Please use this hashtag to share your online teaching ideas or search for resources from others.

TALE is seeking scholarly article submissions for its peer-reviewed journal, the Texas Journal for Literacy Education (TJLE). Learn more details about responding to this call for submissions at [www.talejournal.com](http://www.talejournal.com). Please spread the word about this excellent resource and opportunity for literacy educators!

## Interested in a Local or Special Interest Council?

We are pleased to announce that there are 2 councils completing the final stages of the application process. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Dallas Literacy Council or R.E.A.D (Really Engage and Accept Diversity), you can email them to get more information. You just have to be a member of T.A.L.E. to be a member.

**Dallas Literacy Council email -**[dallasliteracycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:dallasliteracycouncil@gmail.com)

**R.E.A.D email -**[readattale@gmail.com](mailto:readattale@gmail.com)

We hope to get local and special interest councils around the state of Texas. If you are interested in creating a local or special interest council in your area, please email [talelocalcouncils@gmail.com](mailto:talelocalcouncils@gmail.com).