

Dear TALE Members,

I am writing to express my interest in serving as an At-Large Director for TALE. After nine years as a classroom teacher and three years as a literacy consultant for the Region 18 Education Service Center, I decided to pursue a doctoral degree in the curriculum and instruction field. I am currently a full-time student in Baylor University's Ph.D. in Curriculum and Teaching program. In addition to my studies, I serve as a supervisor and instructor for elementary student teachers. I also stay connected to classroom teachers as a part-time instructional coach and professional development provider for the Region 12 Education Service Center. I have recently transitioned into the role of President for Baylor's chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, and I look forward to finding more ways for our members to serve the local community.

At the TALE conference in Waco this spring, I was proud to represent Baylor as my colleagues and I shared our research in the literacy field. I also participated behind the scenes by developing the rubric for evaluating presentation proposals and assisting with registration. Since it was just down the road in Austin, I was able to attend my first International Literacy Association conference this past summer. At both conferences, I was encouraged by the conversations around research and practice in the field of literacy. I was inspired to submit my own proposal for this year's ILA conference, and I am excited to share my research at a poster presentation this fall.

My research passion is in the field of literacy professional development. I believe that knowledgeable and responsive teachers are the most powerful classroom tool we have. By recognizing the teacher as the key leverage point in classroom transformation, I am continually in pursuit of ways to provide the most effective training and support prior to and throughout an educator's career. If elected, I plan to continue and extend TALE's work to provide meaningful professional learning for Texas literacy educators through the annual conference, online communities, and the educator empowerment team.

Sincerely,
Tracy Harper

Tracy Harper

tracy_harper1@baylor.edu

Education

Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, Concordia University, Austin, TX, 2012

Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, Abilene Christian University, Abilene, TX, 2005

Certifications

Texas Certification Early Childhood through Fourth Grade

English as a Second Language Certification

University Teaching Experience

Teacher Educator - Baylor University, Waco, TX, 2017 - Present

Course Taught

- TED 4622: Internship Elementary Part III - Spring 2019
- TED 4623: Internship Elementary Part IV - Spring 2019
- TED 4620: Internship Elementary Part I - Fall 2018
- TED 4621: Internship Elementary Part II - Fall 2018

Courses Co-Taught

- TED 4622: Internship Elementary Part III - Spring 2018
- TED 4623: Internship Elementary Part IV - Spring 2018
- TED 2340: Teaching in Secondary Schools - Fall 2017, Spring 2018

Guest Lecturer

- TED 4326: Mathematics in the Elementary Grades - Spring 2019, Math as Literacy
- TED 2340: Teaching in Secondary Schools - Fall 2018, Differentiated Instruction
- TED 2340: Teaching in Secondary Schools - Fall 2018, E-Folio Presentations & Reflections

K-12 Teaching and Consulting Experience

Region 12 Education Service Center, Waco, TX, Educational Consultant, 2017-present

- Professional development presenter: prepared and implemented literacy trainings for regional teachers
- Provided onsite support for literacy coaching, data analysis, and lesson planning

Region 18 Education Service Center, Midland, TX, Educational Consultant, 2014-2017

Reading Excellence Teams Reading Specialist, 2016-2017

- Professional development presenter: researched, planned, and implemented over 200 training sessions related to best practices in curriculum, instruction, and assessment designed to equip teachers and administrators in raising the level of student achievement; presented at education conferences
- Utilized extensive knowledge of English language arts and reading Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills to assist teachers in identifying developmentally appropriate teaching strategies along with methods for differentiating literacy instruction to support English language learners, students with disabilities, and gifted students
- Modeled best practices in literacy instruction, including differentiating for various student populations and integrating technology, in over 50 classrooms grades K-6th
- Served as content lead: oversaw the planning and scheduling of workshops; managed content-related listserv and webpage; collaborated with leadership team to provide high quality services to customers
- Developed and executed the Summer Literacy Academy, a conference designed to raise awareness and provide support to regional schools in addressing literacy needs
- Provided assistance to 34 school districts in interpreting data, setting goals, acquiring resources, and implementing strategies to increase student performance; used and provided support for data tools such as Istation, TPRI, DMAC
- Assisted teachers in interpreting and utilizing curriculum documents; aligned standards to resources and textbooks; developed a scope and sequence for 4th grade writing
- Collaborated with K-12 team members to design vertically aligned content trainings; worked alongside district administrators in planning for and implementing instructional support
- Developed e-learning sessions related to areas of high need; modeled technology integration in professional development trainings and in classrooms

Pflugerville Independent School District, Pflugerville, TX, Classroom Teacher: 1st, 4th, 5th SSI, 2008-2014

- Inclusion teacher for English language learners, gifted & talented, and students with special needs
- Curriculum writing for new math TEKS and integrated social studies & language arts TEKS; revised specificities; developed a scope and sequence; identified resources; utilized an online curriculum management system; presented curriculum at district staff development
- Student teacher supervisor in cooperation with Texas State University

Brentwood Christian School, Austin, TX, Second Grade Teacher, 2005-2008

- Presenter for Texas Christian Schools Association Conference
- Curriculum writing in math, social studies, science, and K-12 writing alignment
- Student teacher supervisor in cooperation with Abilene Christian University

Publications

Crowley, B. N. & Harper, T. D. (2019). Math by the month: The A-town neighborhood. *Teaching Children Mathematics*, 25(6), 336-337.

Crowley, B. N. & Harper, T. D. (2019). Math by the month: Field trips. *Teaching Children Mathematics*, 25(5), 272-273.

Harper, T. D. (2018). Book review: The four o'clock faculty: A rogue guide to revolutionizing professional development by Richard Czyz. *Teacher Development*, DOI: 10.1080/13664530.2018.1495099

Conference Presentations

Harper, T., Smith, J., & Magill, K. (April 2019). *Mentoring social studies pre-service teachers: Teaching, learning, and experiencing the politics of fear*. American Educational Research Association Conference, Toronto, ON, CA.

Johnston, K., & Harper, T. (March 2019). *Literacy that transforms: Bringing critical practices to the ELAR classroom*. Presented at Texas Association of Literacy Educators Conference, Waco, TX.

Nichols, T. P., Johnston, K., Harper, T., Knofski, L., & Jiao, Y. (March 2019). *Possibilities and tensions in ELA standards: Perspectives from states, districts, and schools*. Presented at Texas Association of Literacy Educators Conference, Waco, TX.

Harper, T. (January 2019). *What am I watching? A closer look at word study & vocabulary instruction*. Presented at the Region 12 Literacy Conference, Waco, TX.

Bowen, M., Harper, T., Knofski, L., & Miller, R. (October 2018). *Media literacy education: The secret to student thinking*. Presented at the American Association for Teaching & Curriculum Conference, Dallas, TX.

Harper, T. (October 2018). *Flip the genre: Extending writing through student-selected topics*. Presented at the Texas Association for the Improvement of Reading Conference, Waco, TX.

Harper, T. (June 2018). *Learn from her: Exploring women from the past and present to enhance literacy*. Presented at the TransformEd Elementary Conference, Waco, TX.

Harper, T. (June 2018). *Enhancing comprehension through media literacy*. Presented at the TransformEd Elementary Conference, Waco, TX.

Harper, T. (February 2018). *Enhancing comprehension through media literacy*. Presented at the Region 12 Literacy Conference, Waco, TX.

Harper, T. (October 2017). *Reinvent interactive writing with google apps*. Presented at the Texas Association for the Improvement of Reading Conference, Waco, TX.

Harper, T. (May 2016). *Getting graphic: Using infographics in the elementary classroom*. Presented at the TxGoo Conference, Frisco, TX.

Harper, T. (July 2015). *Empowering expository writers*. Presented at the TEKS Resource System Conference, San Antonio, TX.

Invited Speaker

Harper, T. (February 2019). *Judging a book by its cover: An introduction to media literacy education*. Abilene Christian University Alumni in Action, Abilene, TX.

Professional Organization Membership

American Educational Research Association
American Association for Teaching & Curriculum
International Literacy Association
Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society
Texas Association for Literacy Education

Service

Proposal Reviewer, American Association for Teaching & Curriculum, 2018
Proposal Reviewer, Texas Association of Literacy Educators, 2018
Classroom Teacher Grant Reviewer, Kappa Delta Pi, 2018
Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society
President, Spring 2019 - Present
Vice President, Fall 2018 - Spring 2019

Awards

2018 O. L. Davis, Jr. Laureate Scholarship Recipient, Kappa Delta Pi

BAYLOR

U N I V E R S I T Y

April 29, 2019

Dear TALE Board of Directors:

I am writing to offer my strongest support for Tracy Harper's nomination for the TALE At-Large Director position. An experienced classroom teacher, K-12 teaching consultant, and current doctoral student in Curriculum and Teaching at Baylor University, Tracy is well-positioned to serve in this leadership position on the Board of Directors. During my time as Tracy's graduate supervisor, her passion for pairing her professional experiences with current research and practice have served as a solid base for her strong leadership capacity and initiative.

Tracy has demonstrated leadership skills in different domains, most notably through her coursework, ongoing research projects, and current role as an undergraduate intern supervisor. In her short time as a supervisor, she has humbly asserted herself as a leader for newer supervisors looking for guidance in how to best lead pre-service elementary teachers. For instance, Tracy has organized weekly check-ins for fellow intern supervisors to discuss the best practices for communicating research, instructional strategies, and formative assessment approaches, to name a few. Tracy is incredibly knowledgeable in the areas of literacy pedagogy, assessment, and professional development, and she only continues to expand on this knowledge through her time and leadership at Baylor.

As a new professor to the state of Texas, Tracy was one of my first colleagues to inform me about TALE and the many opportunities to get involved with your organization. In fact, Tracy and I presented at the most recent TALE conference. During the conference, Tracy sought out ways to connect with new colleagues, attend a variety of sessions, and enthusiastically discussed ways to further get involved with your organization. The TALE Board of Directors would benefit from Tracy's leadership, ranging from valuable input at regular board meetings to leading initiatives that will strengthen TALE's reach across the state of Texas. I strongly offer my support for her nomination.

If I can provide more details or further input, please do not hesitate to contact me at Kelly_Johnston@baylor.edu. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelly C. Johnston
Assistant Professor of Literacy
Department of Curriculum and Instruction