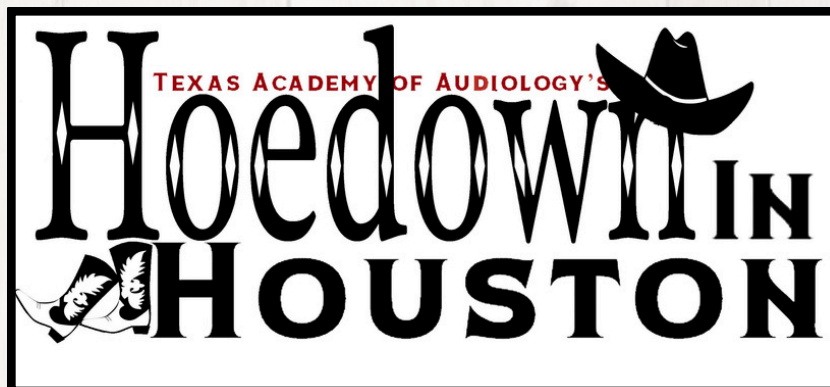




TEXAS ACADEMY
of AUDIOLOGY



SEPTEMBER 2024

What's new?

10/17-10/19

REGISTER
NOW FOR
CONFERENCE!

See the
Schedule
NOW!

Summer
changes to
TDLR rules

The Scoop:
The Scott
Haug
Foundation

TAA Board
Nominations

A Message from your TAA President

Stephanie Williams, AuD
TAA President

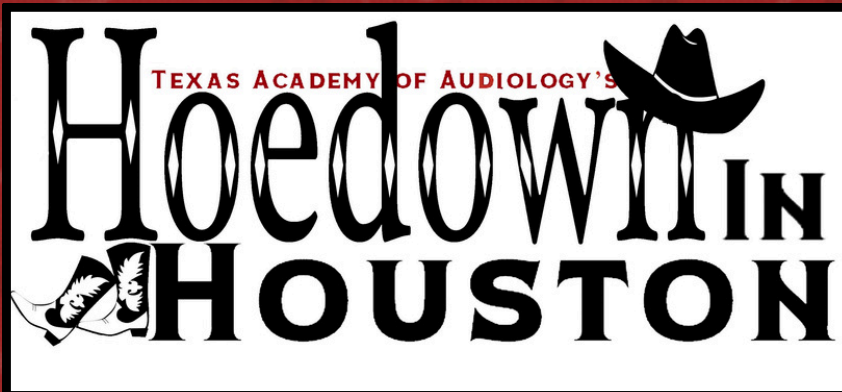
Conference is fast-approaching and I hope that you have taken the time to look through our incredible lineup of speakers with seven Tier 1 opportunities. You don't have to travel far to get excellent continuing education and network with other audiologists. The Scott Haug Foundation fundraiser has a fun twist this year - we will all be headed to Top Golf to raise money for student scholarships. Please plan to join us for this fun event and stick around for the conference.

I am going to continue to beat the drum of how important membership in your state organization is for the future of audiology. Around the country, state legislatures and licensing boards are considering scope of practice changes in all areas of healthcare. Audiology has made big strides in some states, as I am sure you are aware. We are watching these closely and continue to advocate on many fronts for Texas audiologists and our patients. This advocacy is made stronger by numbers. Please renew your membership if you have not already and encourage at least one colleague to do the same. If you are a student, you can join us as well. It is never too early to begin caring about the laws and policies pertaining to your career.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge the loss of two audiologists in the last few months who have greatly impacted the profession in Texas. Haley Owen served on the TAA board for many years and you will read more about her and her service later in the newsletter. Jim Jerger also spent his career building programs and teaching Texas audiologists (myself included). We mourn their loss and honor their legacy in Texas audiology. My thoughts and prayers are with those of you who knew them well.



**TAA 25th
Annual
Conference in
Houston**



REGISTER NOW TO ATTEND IN HOUSTON OCTOBER 17-19!

**MARRIOTT HOUSTON SOUTH HOBBY AIRPORT
9100 GULF FREEWAY, HOUSTON, TX 77017**

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS
SEPTEMBER 9TH**

Thursday afternoon Pre-Conference Sessions

1:00 - 3:00

Oticon

Resound

Neosensory, Inc

3:00 - 5:00

Starkey Hearing

Signia

Phonak

CaptionCall

5:00 - 7:00

President's Welcome Reception

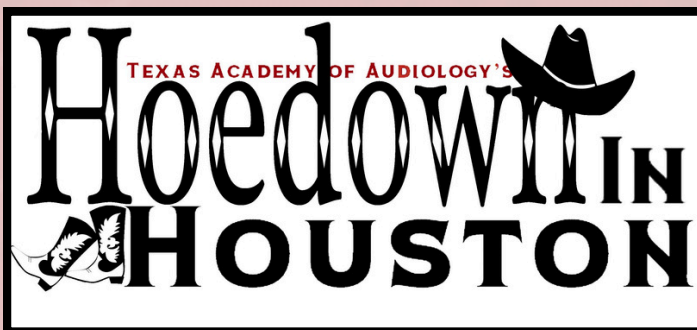
7:00 pm Scott Haug Foundation

Top Golf Fundraiser and Social Event -

bus ride from hotel included

[CLICK HERE](#) to find out more and register for the Top Golf fun!

TAA 25th Annual Conference in Houston



Texas Academy of Audiology

Friday, October 18, 2024 – Schedule (0.55 CEUs Available)

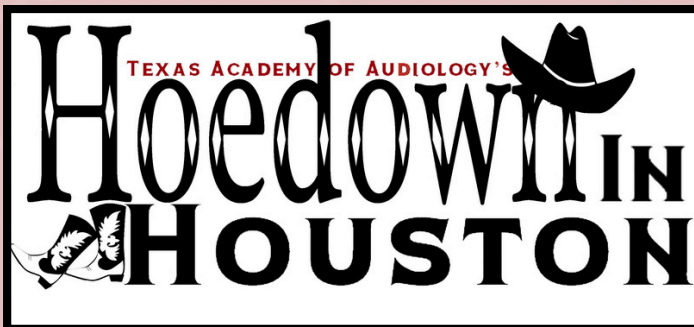
7:30am – 8:00am		Registration with Coffee/Tea	CEUs	Room
8:00am – 8:15am		"Presidents' Welcome" Stephanie Williams, AuD, TAA President		Houston/ Corpus Christi
8:15am – 9:00am		Outstanding Audiologist and Outstanding Audiology Student Award Presentation and Introduction of Scott Haug Foundation Keynote Speaker		Houston/ Corpus Christi
9:00am – 10:00am		"Let's Talk Stress and Burnout in Audiology and How to Build Resilience" Diana Emanuel, PhD	0.10	Houston/ Corpus Christi
10:00am–10:30am		BREAK with Sponsors		
10:30am–12:00pm	I	"The Ups and Downs of Medicare Advantage Programs: What should my clinic do?" Dan Quall, MS	0.15	Houston
	II	"Anatomy and Pathology of Chronic Ear Disease" Nathan Lindquist, MD	0.15	Corpus Christi
	III	"The ACT Test Unveiled: A Game Changer for Precise Hearing Aid Amplification in Noisy Environments" Ashley Hughes, AuD	0.15	Pasadena
12:00pm – 1:00pm		Lunch Buffet with Sponsors Grab some lunch and then join us for Legislative Issues		
1:00pm – 2:00pm	I	"Legislative Update: 2024" Legislative Panel moderated by Hunter Gerhart, AuD	0.10	Houston/ Corpus Christi
2:00pm – 2:30pm		TAA Business Meeting		Houston/ Corpus Christi
2:30pm – 3:00pm		BREAK with Sponsors		
2:30pm – 3:00pm	I	Student Poster Session Moderator Grace Kendrick, AuD	0.05	Foyer
3:00pm – 4:30pm	I	"Enhancing Patient Care: Incorporating Ancillary Services in Private Practice" Kassidy Moore, AuD and Dan Quall, MS	0.15	Houston
	II	"Barriers to Medicaid Audiology Access in Texas" Anna M. Jilla, AuD, PhD	Tier 1 0.15	Corpus Christi
	III	"Rehabilitation Grand Rounds" Shawna Jackson, AuD; Crystal Wiggins, AuD, Bridget Meehan, AuD and Audrey Taylor, AuD	0.15	Pasadena
4:30pm – 6:30pm		BREAK with Sponsors / Silent Auction 25th Annual Reception Light appetizers provided with Cash Bar		Port Aransas/ Galveston
6:30pm–7:00pm		CHANGE INTO COSTUME FOR DINNER DANCE		

7:00pm–10:00pm - 9th Annual Scott Haug Foundation/Texas Academy of Audiology Bash

"Hoedown in Houston"

Houston/Corpus Christi

TAA 25th Annual Conference in Houston



Texas Academy of Audiology Saturday, October 19, 2024 – Schedule (0.6 CEUs Available)

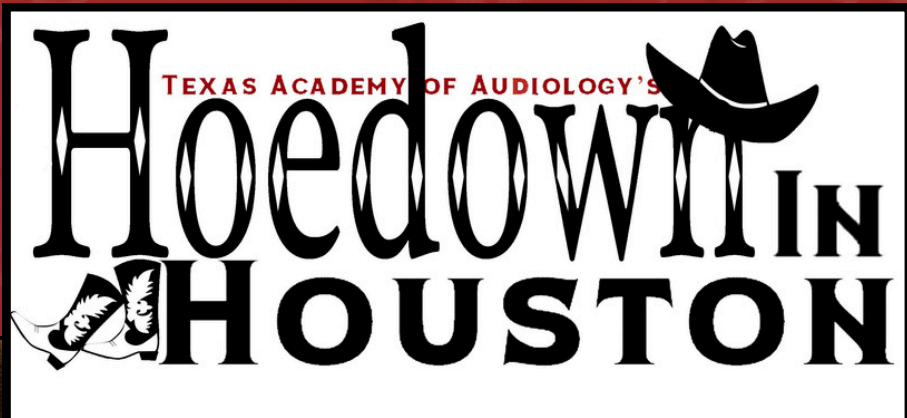
7:30am – 8:00am		Registration – Sponsors Open with Coffee/Tea	CEUs	Room
8:00am – 9:30am	I	“Investigational medicines for hearing loss prevention and hearing restoration: Status update and guidance for audiologists” Colleen Le Prell, PhD	Tier 1 0.15	Houston
	II	“Diagnostics Grand Rounds” Lisa Vaughan, AuD; Shawnee Gastal, AuD; Leslie Rolph, AuD and Mandy Pendleton, AuD	0.15	Corpus Christi
	III	“Evidence-based, patient-oriented hearing aid verification and fine tuning” Pediatric Susan Scollie, PhD	Tier 1 0.15	Pasadena
9:30am – 10:00am		BREAK with Sponsors with Coffee/Tea		
10:00am–11:30am	I	“Coding and Reimbursement Updates” Anna Jilla, PhD, AuD	Tier 1 0.15	Houston
	II	“Noise-induced hearing disorders: Diagnostics beyond the audiogram” Colleen Le Prell, PhD	Tier 1 0.15	Corpus Christi
	III	“Evidence-based, patient-oriented hearing aid verification and fine tuning” Adult Susan Scollie, PhD	Tier 1 0.15	Pasadena
11:30am–12:00pm		BREAK with Sponsors – Grab Lunch		
12:00pm – 3:00pm		Student Leadership Symposium		Pasadena
12:00pm – 1:00pm		“Amplification Tech Talk Round Table” Lunch with Platinum Sponsors Moderator: Stephanie Williams, AuD	0.10	Houston/ Corpus Christi
1:00pm - 3:00pm		“ETHICS” “Ethics Fables” Deborah L. Carlson, PhD	Tier 1 0.20	Houston/ Corpus Christi

Get those calendars marked for the coming years

2025 in Denton – October 9-11, 2025
Embassy Suites by Hilton Denton Convention Center
3100 Town Center Trail, Denton, TX 76201

CONFERENCE BADGES SHOULD BE WORN AT ALL TIMES.
A BADGE IS REQUIRED FOR ADMITTANCE INTO EXHIBITOR HALL,
CEU SESSIONS, RECEPTIONS, AND LUNCH SERVICE.

**TAA 25th
Annual
Conference in
Houston**



Friday, October 18th at 7PM

**We are planning a Hoedown style
Dinner dance with all the fixin's!**

**Don't forget your boots, chaps and
cowboy hats for the costume
contest!!**



SILENT AUCTION:

PLEASE SEND PHOTO OF ITEM TO SARAH.WILLIAMS@RIVER-ENT.COM 

1.DESCRPTION OF THE ITEM

2.PICTURE/ GRAPHIC OF THE ITEM

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR ITEM OR GIFT CERTIFICATE TO HOUSTON!

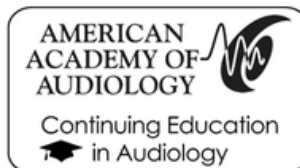
THANK YOU!



CEUs Offered



Texas Academy of Audiology is a CE approved sponsor by TDLR for Texas licensing for **Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists and Hearing Instrument Fitters and Dispensers**. This conference is approved for a maximum of **1.15 CEUs (11.5 hours)** for state licensing requirements. The conference will also provide **0.2 CEUs (2 hours) of Ethics**.



TM

TAA has submitted for approval by the American Academy of Audiology to offer Academy CEUs for this activity. Pending approval this program is worth a **maximum of 1.15 CEUs**. Academy approval of this continuing education activity will not imply endorsement of course content, specific products, or clinical procedure, or adherence of the event to the Academy's Code of Ethics. Any views that are presented are those of the presenter/CE Provider and not necessarily of the American Academy of Audiology.

We look forward to seeing many of our student members at this year's conference in Houston! Below is an outline of the opportunities available to students at the conference.

The Scott Haug Foundation and several local audiologists have generously agreed to sponsor students to attend the TAA Conference! The conference registration will be covered in full if all requirements are met. Students will be responsible for transportation to Houston and lodging.

Steps for Students:

1. **Required:** Become a student member with TAA (register on website- \$25) [texasaudiology.org](https://www.texasaudiology.org)
2. **Required:** Volunteer 4-5 hours at conference (length of time depending on number of students that volunteer). See below for link to Application.
3. **Required:** Attend Scott Haug Student Symposium session on Saturday from 12:00-3:00PM. See below for more information.
4. **Free Registration:** Grace Kendrick will provide registration coupon code for conference. Coupon codes will be sent to email addresses provided in the volunteer application after the 9/06 deadline. Questions can be sent to grace.m.holderman@gmail.com.

Student Volunteers:

Volunteers will assist throughout the conference. Volunteers will be assigned sessions to attend and help with time keeping and the Q&A portion of the session. Volunteers may also be assigned to help with registration, distribution of meal tickets, or set-up of various events throughout the conference. Students who volunteer must be TAA members. Students can apply to volunteer at the following [link](#).

Sign Up



Friday, October 18th: Student Poster Session:

Our poster session will feature posters highlighting either clinical cases or novel research projects from students of the Texas AuD programs or externs at Texas facilities. Submissions are open only to student members of TAA. Students must be available on Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 from 2:30-3:00PM for poster presentations at the conference. Presentations should document research projects (including novel research, results from pilot studies, or systematic literature reviews) or clinical cases in the areas of hearing or balance science. Cash prizes awarded to first and second place posters.

Submission Guidelines:

- Research submissions must include the (1) title of poster, (2) names of all authors, (3) abstract of 75 words, and (4) multiple choice question for audience about the research
- Clinical case study submissions must include (1) title of the case study, (2) name of the presenter, (3) summary of the case (75 words or less), and (4) multiple choice question for audience about the case
- Submissions must include the contact information (email; phone number; university/externship facility affiliation; and physical address) of the primary author (i.e., the entrant)

Poster Submission can be submitted at this link: [Deadline: 9/06/2024](#)

Saturday, October 19th 12:00-3:00PM: Scott Haug Student Symposium Session

Provides students the opportunity to learn and become more involved with legislative issues and advocacy efforts within the field of audiology. Provides students with the opportunity to learn from a panelist of audiologists across a variety of different backgrounds to answer common questions about applying for jobs, interviewing, negotiating offers, and much more! This year students will also have the opportunity to submit their resumes prior to the conference for review by the panelists to offer valuable feedback.

Please reach out if you have any additional questions. We look forward to seeing many of you at this year's conference.

Thank you,
Grace Kendrick, AuD
TAA Student Engagement Liaison



Important Updates on TDLR Licensing Verification and Cognition Screenings

Anna M. Jilla, Au.D., Ph.D. – Vice President of Professional Issues

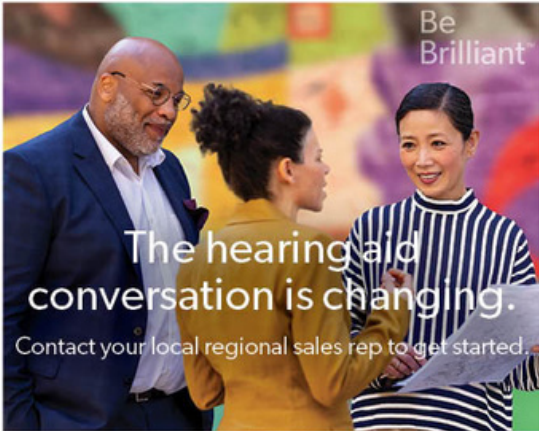
The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) recently adopted rule changes, published in the May 10, 2024, issue of the Texas Register. These changes include two significant updates that are particularly relevant to our profession.

First, the new rules introduce an online verification process for licensing, which is expected to reduce administrative delays and help new licensees begin providing services in Texas more quickly. Previously, licensees were required to provide written proof of licensure and good standing in other states during their application process. This requirement often increased the administrative burden on the licensing bureau and delayed the processing of new licenses in the state. The changes will now allow TDLR to reference online licensure verification systems from other states during the processing of new audiology licensure applications in Texas.

Second, the Department has proposed adding cognition screenings as part of a comprehensive communication evaluation for audiologists. The Texas Academy of Audiology (TAA), including our team, supported this change, emphasizing that cognition screenings are "part of a holistic communication evaluation." It was noted in the TDLR rulemaking process that these screenings are "not a medical evaluation or diagnosis." As such, cognition screenings should not be portrayed as diagnostic assessments for cognitive issues or decline. It's crucial for licensees to market these services truthfully and in alignment with existing ethical standards to avoid any misleading information. The TDLR Code of Ethics (Rule 111.152, Advertising) prohibits licensees from presenting false, misleading, deceptive, or non-verifiable information about their services.

These updates reflect the evolving nature of our practice, and we encourage all members to stay informed and compliant with the new rules. Questions regarding these TDLR rule changes can be directed to professionalissues@texasaudiology.org or directly to the licensing body, TDLR, at <https://ga.tdlr.texas.gov:1443/form/csgeneralinquiry>.


Reference: Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. (2024, May 16). Commission adopts rules. Accessed from: <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/news/rulemaking/2024/05/10/commission-adopts-rules-2/>.



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You're Invited to our Top Golf Birthday Party!

This year is the Foundation's **40th** Birthday and we want to celebrate and raise money for student scholarships.

We are looking forward to a fun night of seeing old friends and making new relationships!

The event will Start with a charter bus from the TAA convention center at Houston Marriott South at Hobby Airport 9100 Gulf Freeway Houston, Texas 77017. **We will leave the Marriott Hotel at 7:00 pm on Thursday Oct, 17th and arrive at Top Golf Webster** at approximately 7:30 pm.

Once at Top Golf we will have a full dinner and drinks. Menu will be Steak/Chicken Fajitas with all the side and fixings. Two beer or wine drink tickets included. Other food and drinks will be available for individual purchase.

We will have the entire lower lounge area reserved for our event which includes: billiard tables, shuffleboard and direct access to our golf bays for a fun team tournament "Top Golf" event. It is not required to play in the golf tournament so feel free to just come and enjoy a fun meal and atmosphere with all your TAA and SHF friends!

At approximately 10:30-10:45 we will have buses heading back to the Hotel.

This event is partially sponsored by some of the manufacturers and exhibitors from our profession, so attending is a great way to market and show your appreciation to them as well.

Cost is \$25 per person. Audiology student registration is free! Sign up is required.
<https://www.signupforms.com/registrations/38401>

We can't wait to see ya'll in Houston!

SIGN UP



Nominees for TAA Board of Directors



Hunter Gerhart, AuD

I have had the privilege of serving on the Board for the Texas Academy of Audiology for the past two years. Throughout my tenure as both a Texas Audiologist and TAA Board Member, I have witnessed the profound impact that our unified voice and collaborative efforts have had on our daily practice as Audiologists. The TAA Board has already made significant contributions to improve access to hearing healthcare through insurance mandates, over-the-counter hearing aid regulations and newborn cCMV screenings to name a few, however, there is still work to be done. I believe we have an opportunity to reduce some of the challenges and barriers to audiological care and treatment for Texas Medicaid recipients as well as an opportunity to align our scope of practice with our education, training, and qualifications. Maryland became the lodestar for the rest of the country when they passed legislation earlier this year to be able to order blood work and imaging as it relates to the auditory or vestibular functions of the human ear. It would be an honor and privilege to spearhead and lead these efforts as your next President of the Texas Academy of Audiology.



Rachel Higgenbotham, AuD

I am running for the position of Member at Large: Vice President of Education as I highly regard the value of continuing education. I seek to bring diverse and well-rounded perspectives and opportunities to our annual conferences.



Sonia Cuero, AuD

I am interested in serving on the TAA board as Member at Large: Vice President of Legislative Issues because I believe in advocacy. Legislative issues play a large role in access, treatment, and reimbursement. It is important to continue our momentum to transition our profession to be recognized as practitioners. Policies are an integral part of our standard of care and our scope of practice.

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Membership Update

The Texas Academy of Audiology relies on annual membership dues to support Texas Audiologists in every facet. We currently have 342 members. There are about 1500 licensed audiologists in our state, turn to your fellow audiologist and ask if they are a member today! Thank you to those who have joined and renewed! If you haven't renewed or have never joined TAA, there is not a better time than now. Having more support from Texas audiologists will help us do more to protect our scope of practice, reimbursement, and representation- not to mention being able to bring in bigger and better learning opportunities and membership perks from you all.

Important membership deadline update: 2024 membership enrollment will end on September 09, 2024. We will not be offering renewal for the current year (and therefore discounted membership rate) at the 2024 conference, but you will be able to renew for 2025 at that time! If you wish to attend conference at the membership rate, please renew TODAY at www.texasaudiology.org

Again, a big thank you to our members for the continued support. Feel free to reach out to me with any membership questions at hdpavlicek@hotmail.com

Holly Pavlicek, Au.D.
Vice President of Membership, TAA

Renew
Now!



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Call (822) 691-9000 to get started or visit www.captioncall.com to request CaptionCall.



TAA Political Action Committee (@taa-PAC)

ATTN: TEXAS AUDIOLOGISTS



Kimberly DeBona

@TAA-PAC

venmo



Scan QR code for payment

Attention Texas Audiologists!!

Well, the Primary is over and had some interesting results. However, we still have the General election coming up and we will need to support those legislators who will champion our causes. Please consider donating to the TAA PAC today!

You may go online to the TAA website
[https://texasaudiology.org/PAC Donation](https://texasaudiology.org/PAC_Donation)

Or you may Venmo with the QR code below or
@TAA-PAC last 4 of cell: 7091

Finally, you can mail a check payable to TAA PAC
to:

Kimberly DeBona
4016 Tiffany Trl
College Station, TX. 77845

Please consider supporting your TAA PAC before
the end of the year. We can't do it without your
support!



The Texas Academy of Audiology In Loving Memory: Honoring Dr. Haley Owen

I would like to take time and remember, not in sorrow, but in profound gratitude for the life and legacy of our colleague, Haley Owen. A beacon of compassion and expertise in the field of audiology for the DFW area (as well as offices in Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado) and a relentless advocate for those affected by hearing loss. Haley was more than a clinician; she was a true leader, reshaping the landscape of audiological care in her practice at Livingston Hearing Aid Centers as their Director of Audiology with dedication and a deep commitment to their patients.

Beyond the clinic, Dr. Owen was an advocate, raising awareness and championing the cause of accessibility and support for the hearing-impaired community through her five years of service as VP of Legislative Affairs for Texas Academy of Audiology, a lifetime member of TAA, and recent addition to the Board of Directors for Scott Haug Foundation. Her efforts included testifying before multiple committee meetings at the Texas Capital for her profound belief in the importance of the right of every individual to access hearing healthcare.

As we remember Haley, let us carry forward her spirit of clinical excellence, adventure, and infectious joy. Personally, I cherish memories of our candid conversations and collaborations, often accompanied by a shared laugh over a drink or two. Haley's belief in networking and mutual respect among healthcare advocates will continue to inspire us all.

Rest peacefully, friend. Your light will continue to shine brightly in our memories and in the lives you have transformed.

Shawna Jackson, AuD
Past-President, Texas Academy of Audiology



TAA Board of Directors

ELECTED OFFICERS

STEPHANIE (COX) WILLIAMS, AU.D., PRESIDENT
ALEXANDER MORRIS, AU.D., PRESIDENT ELECT
TRACY BOARD, AU.D., PAST PRESIDENT
SARAH MCALEXANDER, AU.D., SECRETARY/ TREASURER
CARMEN LANDRY, AU.D., VP OF EDUCATION
ANNA JILLA, AU.D., PH.D., VP OF PROFESSIONAL ISSUES
SARAH WILLIAMS, AU.D., VP OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
HUNTER GERHART, AU.D., VP OF LEGISLATIVE ISSUES
HOLLY PAVLICEK, AU.D., VP OF MEMBERSHIP



APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS AND SUPPORT STAFF

SHAWNA JACKSON, AU.D., PAST-PRESIDENT
JANET KRUEGER, M.A., WEBSITE MANAGER
MATTHEW LYON, AU.D., GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
ADRIANA MICIAK, AU.D., SPONSOR LIASON
JAMIE HAND, AU.D., PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE
GRACE KENDRICK, AU.D., STUDENT ENGAGEMENT
KIMBERLY DEBONA, AU.D., PAC TREASURER
JANA HENSLEY, CPA, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
BRAD SHIELDS, LOBBYIST



who is hiring?

SEE ALL OF THE CURRENT JOB LISTINGS:
[HTTPS://TEXASAUDIOLOGY.ORG/CLASSIFIEDS.PHP](https://TEXASAUDIOLOGY.ORG/CLASSIFIEDS.PHP)

Looking to hire a Texas Audiologist? Looking for a new position?
Post your job listing and view current jobs available.
Contact us at website@texasaudiology.org with any questions.

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