

TAIR 2013 Candidates for Office

Candidates for Vice President/President Elect

Gabriela Borcoman, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board - Austin. Gabriela is Senior Program Director for Planning and Accountability at Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). Prior to working for THECB she was affiliated with Dallas County Community College District, working in several of its colleges. She is a member of TAIR since 2000, being active as a Nominating Committee member, a presenter and a moderator. For several years, she has been a member of the Program Committee, being in charge of creating and distributing the Annual TAIR Conference brochure and concurrent sessions. At THECB Gabriela is working with data from public and for-profit schools and colleges. Her work includes accountability system for public and for-profit institutions, as well as workforce reports used by all types of institutions. Gabriela holds a PhD in Higher Education Administration with a cognate in Community College Leadership, an MS in Human Development and Childhood Disorders, and a Doctor of Medicine degree.



James Holmes (Lincoln), University of Texas at Austin. Lincoln is currently the senior project manager for Information Management and Analysis at The University of Texas at Austin. He has worked in institutional research since the summer of 1996. Lincoln has been responsible for state, federal and NCAA reporting and now handles requests from the University of Texas System and the Board of Regents. He first became a member of TAIR in 1997. He has been a facilitator and past presenter at TAIR. Lincoln has assisted others in his office, whom have served as TAIR officers, as well as served as the Local Arrangements Chair for TAIR 2011 and currently serving as the SIGs Coordinator for this current TAIR conference. He received his BS and MS degrees from Texas State University.



Candidates for Treasurer

Amy Bawcom, Central Texas College. This year marks Amy's 19th year working in higher education, and she has worked in institutional research and effectiveness since 2000, joining TAIR and SAIR in 2003 and AIR in 2006. She is currently the Director of Institutional Effectiveness at CTC. She was also Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Research, Registrar, and an English faculty member at her alma mater, the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, where she worked for ten years. Amy holds a BS in Business Administration, a BS in English, and an MA in English Language and Literature. This year at TAIR, Amy is presenting a session, leading a roundtable, serving on the Professional Development Committee, and is the Session Coordinator Chair for the Program Committee. In the past, she co-founded the OPIRO (one-person institutional research office) special interest group, and presented two roundtables. She has also served as facilitator, presenter, and planning committee member for SAIR. She is truly honored to have been nominated, and having received the benefits of a travel grant from TAIR and benefitting from the camaraderie and collegiality of TAIR, she would love to put her business background to work as Treasurer to give back to her TAIR colleagues.



Tracy Stegmair, Texas Woman's University. Tracy has worked in Institutional Research since 2003 and has been a member of TAIR since 2004. She worked for six years at Texas Woman's University and later for three years at Richland College. Tracy is now back at Texas Woman's University and is a Senior Business Systems Analyst. She has co-presented two concurrent sessions, a workshop, and two roundtable at past TAIR conferences plus a workshop at a SAIR conference. For the past three years Tracy has served on the TAIR Program Committee preparing the Conference Brochure. She earned two Bachelor's degrees from Texas Woman's University in History and Computer Science.



Candidates for Member-at-Large for Technology

Faron Kincheloe, Baylor University. Faron is Assistant Director of Institutional Research and Testing. He came to Baylor 14 years ago to provide systems administration support for the IR office and help set up the infrastructure for the University data warehouse. Faron now leads the team responsible for administering and maintaining the data warehouse. Before coming to Baylor, Faron worked almost 18 years in industry providing hardware and software support for a variety of manufacturing systems. Faron earned an associate's degree in electronic technology from Texas State Technical Institute, a bachelor's degree in business from Tarleton State University, and a master's degree in information systems from Baylor University. Faron has served on the TAIR program committee for the past two years.



Phil Rhodes, Houston Baptist University. Dr. Phil Rhodes currently serves as the Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness at Houston Baptist University, and has worked in the field of Institutional Research for the last fourteen years. He holds degrees in Mathematics and Statistics from Baylor University. His work interests include enrollment and retention forecasting, financial modeling, SAS programming, and personal productivity. In addition to his TAIR presentations, Dr. Rhodes has been an invited speaker on email management and productivity around the Houston area.



Candidates for Nominating Committee

Lori Blake, Hardin-Simmons University. Lori has served as the Director of Institutional Research at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene since May 2008. She served in the Texas Attorney General office for 17 years prior to joining the staff at HSU. Blake has been a member of TAIR for 5 years and enjoys attending TAIR conferences to enhance her knowledge in the field. She especially looks forward to this annual opportunity to make invaluable professional connections. At HSU, she serves as a member of the Staff Senate Committee that aids the university in making enhancements to procedures, facilities, and staff and student satisfaction. Blake received a bachelor's degree in marketing/management from the University of North Texas in 1988. She is an active member of Broadview Baptist Church and has taught Sunday school classes for 1st through 4th graders for the past eight years. In the summer, Lori teaches VBS classes for her church. Lori lives in Abilene, Texas, with her husband and three children. Lori says she is honored to be nominated to serve TAIR in this capacity.



Cathy Delgado, The University of Texas System. Cathy has worked within the UT System for ten years. She is a Research and Policy Analyst with the University of Texas System's Office of Strategic Initiatives. She assists in collecting, processing, and managing a data repository for all 15 UT academic and health institutions. Cathy began working in IR in 2006 at the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College campus. Her six year institutional research experience includes chairing the South Texas Consortium for Institutional Research and presenting at TAIR and SAIR conferences. She would be honored to serve TAIR as a member of the nominating committee.



Dave Downing, University of North Texas. Dave is the Senior Research Analyst in the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness. He has been with the University of North Texas for 15 years and in the IR office for the last five, primarily as a SAS programmer. Dave has been a member of TAIR since 2008 and as active member has served as session coordinator, presented conference sessions, and most recently, served as executive committee Member-at-Large for Technology. Dave earned both his M.S. in Computer Education and Cognitive Systems (Instructional Systems Technology) and doctorate in Higher Education from the University of North Texas.



Jana Marak, Baylor University. Jana is the Associate Director and Coordinator of Testing at Baylor University and has been involved in institutional research since 1986. She served as TAIR Treasurer from 2001-2003 and from 2006-2007. A member of the 2005-2006 TAIR Awards Committee, she has also served on several other TAIR committees including the 2004-2005 Publications Committee, the 2001-2002 Membership Database Committee, the 1999-2000 and 2010-2011 Nominating Committee, and the 1998 TAIR Constitution Committee. Jana has served on committees and as facilitator, workshop presenter, and roundtable presenter at various AIR, SAIR, and TAIR conferences. She has a B.B.A. in Computer Information Systems and an M.S.Ed. in Student Personnel Services from Baylor University.



Soon Merz, Austin Community College. Soon is the VP for Effectiveness and Accountability at Austin Community College. She has been at ACC since 2004. She has worked in higher education for 30 years and has a varied back-ground in institutional research, including community colleges, 4-year institutions, and at the state level in several states. Soon served at the Kansas Board of Regents in Topeka, Kansas and was responsible for creating an institutional research office at the state level and creating a statewide unit record database and reporting system. She also served with the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. At the institution level, Soon directed the Faculty Affairs and Institutional Research office at the University of Kansas Medical Center and served in the Office of Planning and Analysis at Oakland Community College (Michigan). She is active in AIR, TAIR, MidAIR, and the IPEDS Train-the-Trainer program. She served on NPEC for 4 years and the National Student Customer Advisory Committee for 2 years. She holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Kansas, a Bachelor of Science in General Business from the University of Central Texas, and an Associate of Science in General Education from Central Texas College.



Kate Amorella Proff, Texas State University. Kate has been working in the field of institutional research for six years. She fell into the career in 2006 at Texas Woman's University. She has since moved to Texas State University as a Research Analyst. An active member of TAIR, she served as secretary as well as a member of the data advisory and program committees. Kate truly enjoys presenting concurrent sessions and workshops for professional development in IR. Her stint as secretary allowed her to become familiar with the members of TAIR, which will lend nicely to the duties of the nominating committee. She's rather persistent, so future candidates for TAIR office will be unable to avoid her calls, emails, texts, singing telegrams, and skywritten messages.



Kara Larkan- Skinner, Our Lady of the Lake University. Kara has over 10 years of experience in the fields of evaluation, assessment and research. In February of this year, Kara became the Director of Institutional Research at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, TX. She has held previous positions of Director of Institutional Research and Institutional Effectiveness at Amarillo College, Director of Outcomes Assessments, research associate, and was a research assistant during graduate school. Kara is a proactive member of TAIR, she serves on the professional development committee and has provided workshops to the general membership. Kara has presented at additional conferences such as the West Texas Assessment Conference. Additionally, Kara serves on two ad hoc committees for AIR.



Rebecca Richter, Temple College. Rebecca has been a member of TAIR since 1992. During that time, she has been TAIR secretary, served as Program Chair twice, and conducted concurrent sessions, roundtables and SIGs. For her, TAIR has been a tremendous source for professional development. The leaders of TAIR have always been keenly aware of the need for institutional research professionals to have a practical and affordable conference that is highly relevant to current demands and changing priorities. She is honored to be considered for the Nominating Committee.

