



# The Voice

Texas Business and Technology Educators Association

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## The New Decade: Defining the Technology Revolution

by Dr. Ann Wilson  
Stephen F. Austin State University

### Join TBTEA

If you are a member of TBTEA, Thank You. If not, please consider joining today. We need need want need want need want need want-Yes, we need and want YOU!

Questions?

Call us!!  
979-830-4023

## Texas Career Education Conference

July 12-15, 2010  
Dallas, Sheraton Hotel

Visit  
<http://tcec.com> to register

**Today!**

The theme for 2009-2010 Texas Business and Technology Educators Association is, “The New Decade: Defining the Technology Revolution.” The new decade: 2010 – 2019 will be here in only a few months. According to the March 2008 PC Magazine article, “Five Sci-Fi Scenarios Get Real,” technology is rapidly progressing to where computers will be vastly more powerful, mobile, and connected thanks to nanotechnology. User interface will become seamless and available in all places. Keyboards and mice may persist, but they will become secondary to voice and gesture (think Wii and the iPhone). How will these changes affect our teaching in the next decade? With changes in technology and the changes in education in Texas, now, more than ever, all business and technology educators need to join and be active in your professional organization.

TBTEA has a place for everyone to get involved. Your activism can be as small as supporting your regional representative or as great as getting in the officer ranks. Not only will you benefit from joining TBTEA but when you become a member, your students will be eligible for scholarships sponsored by the organization. After looking at this website, please email me at [bill-ann@suddenlink.net](mailto:bill-ann@suddenlink.net) for additional information and/or to let me know where you would like to serve. Hope you’ve had a good school year!



Visit the TBTEA web site!  
<http://www.tbtea.org>

# Strength in Numbers

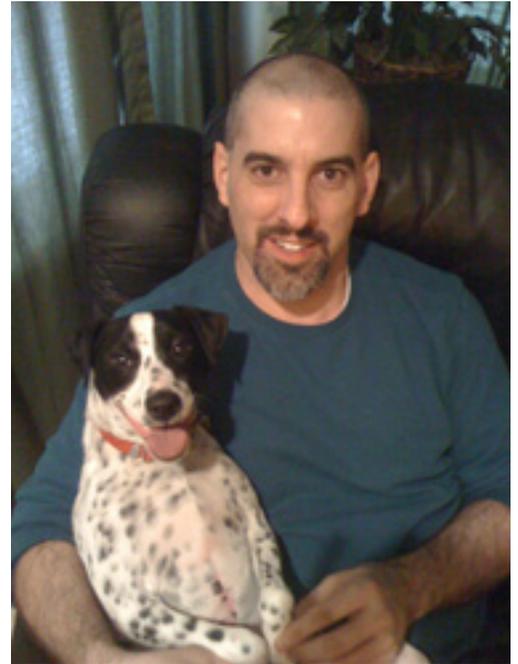
by

**Dan Blier**

**Vice-President for Secondary Education**

**A**thletes often hear the phrase; “you are only as strong as your weakest link.” TBTEA, however, is only as strong as the members we represent. As our membership roster grows, so does our ability to carry more weight with our demands to the Texas Education Agency, Texas Legislature and the State Board of Education.

During the past year, the Membership Committee has been working hard to identify business and technology teachers in Texas. We need your help as members of TBTEA. You know about our programs, and our purpose. Year after year, you have continued to renew your membership. We need you to share your positive experiences with others to help bring new members into our association.



Unfortunately, some of you may have experienced a situation that soured your excitement for TBTEA. I would ask that you contact me directly and share this episode. The Executive Board of TBTEA is interested in your feedback. Our goal is to grow this organization and provide more and more benefits for the membership.

You may contact me directly at [blierdan@aol.com](mailto:blierdan@aol.com).

## BPA and FBLA Advisors

Please don't forget that each year a scholarship is given to a deserving student from each organization. The deadline has past for this year, BUT get ready for 2011. Applications are on the Web site by the beginning of January of 2011.

<http://www.tbtea.org>

# Texas Lawmakers Invest in Career and Technical Education (CTE)

*by Marty DeLeon*

Despite a \$9.1 billion state budget shortfall, Texas lawmakers appropriated \$46 million for the 2010-2011 biennium to support career and technical education (CTE) in high schools and colleges. No longer an afterthought, CTE attracted significant interest during the 81<sup>st</sup> Texas Legislative Session with over 28 bills filed by lawmakers to strengthen programs and to build a skilled workforce for tomorrow.

Currently, Texas is experiencing a skilled labor shortage for many industries critical to the economy. Texas Comptroller Susan Combs, the state's treasurer and economic forecaster, published Texas Works 2008, suggesting the state's economy will be negatively impacted by a lack of workers trained in technical fields to fill the 80% of jobs that do not require a four-year degree. As such, the Comptroller established Jobs and Education for Texans (JET), a \$25 million grant program, geared towards community colleges and students. Two-year colleges are eligible for grant funds to defray startup costs associated with new workforce training programs and courses, including courses offered for dual credit. (HB 1935) Funds

may be used for construction or renovation, equipment and related expenses. Need-based scholarships will be available for students enrolling in programs leading to high-demand occupations such as computer science, information technology, engineering technologies, construction, mechanics, advanced manufacturing, and healthcare. Finally, non-profit organizations may be awarded grants for helping low-income students access two-year college and certificate programs.

In support of secondary programs, Senator Shapiro (R - Plano), secured \$21 million for CTE at the high school level. For the first time, the state will pay for exam fees for students earning licenses and certifications leading to high-skill, high wage or high-demand occupations. The Texas Workforce Commission, in conjunction with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, is developing a list of certification exams that will qualify for the subsidy. Additionally, students taking two or more advanced CTE courses and Tech Prep students will draw an additional \$50 through formula funding. Both of these provisions reward districts and students for their commitment to CTE.

In an effort to keep CTE up to date with the demands of industry and with college coursework, the Texas Legislature now requires the State Board of Education to update high school courses when corresponding post-secondary courses in the Workforce Education Manual are updated. (HB3) This link is critical to ensure courses and programs related are on the cutting edge of industry trends. Most likely, this update will occur every three years, as opposed to the standard 10-year cycle for all secondary and elementary school courses.

Another focus of the legislature was to provide flexibility in high school graduation plans. Beginning this school year, students must earn four credits each in the foundational academic areas, two foreign language credits, one credit for fine art and one credit for PE, and will begin high school with at least six free electives. Unless locally required by the district, students do not have to satisfy credit in technical applications and health. (HB 3) With 70% of all high school students take at least one CTE course, this new flexibility will allow students to pursue a coherent sequence of CTE courses or other courses of their

Continued on page 4

choosing and meet state graduation requirements.

To encourage districts to seek partnerships with local and distant community colleges to offer dual credit courses, districts may contract with community and technical colleges outside their service delivery area if the local college is unable to provide the requested course to their satisfaction. (HB 2480)

In related news, districts may also use textbook credits for the purchase of equipment, electronics and software from the conforming and non-conforming lists of approved instructional materials. (HB 4294) And, omnibus bill HB 3646 provides that districts do not have to pay tuition, fees and other costs associated with the 12 college credit hours they are required to offer and districts will continue to receive ADA funding for these students.

Through their actions, lawmakers acknowledged that CTE programs are the key to developing a skilled workforce. They vowed to support and invest in programs that include relevant academic and technical skills and lead to industry-recognized credentials and two- and four-year degrees. With the 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session set to begin in January 2011, it is imperative that the CTE community continue to engage their state lawmakers about the significant role CTE plays in the state's economy and to maintain its investment in CTE.

## Mountain-Plains Business Education Association

2010 M-PBEA Conference

June 23-26, 2010

Fort Collins, Marriott

Fort Collins, CO

Register Today!

<http://www.mpbea.org/conferences.htm>

We need more articles for our newsletters! We all have important information to share. Sometimes it could be just something that is interesting in our profession. Success stories--we would love to hear your success stories. Please consider submitting an article so that our newsletter will be informative and something everyone wants to read.

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