General Session:

Welcome and Opening Remarks:
Christine Hubbard, President, North Texas Community College Consortium

Introduction of the Keynote Speaker:
Alicia Huppe, Dean, Enrollment and Student Success, Collin College; Chair, North Texas Community College Consortium

CLARA Advisory Council

Keynote Address:
“WHAT’S GRIT GOT TO DO WITH IT?”
Lee Ann Nutt, President, Lone Star College-Tomball

Completion rates in community colleges are improving slightly— but there is still significant work to be done. Beyond college policies and processes, it is time to focus our completion agenda work on the people...the students. “Grit” is now being recognized by researchers as perhaps one of the most significant variables in student success. In partnership with Dr. Paul G. Stoltz, LSC-Tomball conducted groundbreaking research to validate GRIT as a key to improving student outcomes.

#1 — WHAT’S GRIT GOT TO DO WITH IT? Q&A (Ballroom)
Lee Ann Nutt, President, Lone Star College-Tomball
Continue the discussion on GRIT with Lee Ann Nutt in this lively Q&A session. Learn more about how LSC-Tomball has partnered with Paul Stoltz to apply his GRIT research and methodology in the community college environment.

#2 — REIMAGINING THE CLASSROOM: PASSION-BASED LEARNING (Room 42)
Brandi Harris, Professor of English, North Lake College; Ulanda Forbes, Director for Faculty Professional Development and Distance Education, North Lake College
What if you were allowed to explore something you’re passionate about AND get class credit for it? That’s the concept behind Passion-Based Learning. In this session, we will explore the ways that students can meet learning outcomes while exploring topics that are relevant to their lives and interests.

#3 — PLA PORTAL: USING TECHNOLOGY AND TRAINING TO IMPROVE PLA STRATEGIES (Room 48)
Tricia Thomas-Anderson, Dean of Resource Development, Eastfield College; Maria Caratini-Prado, Director of Professional Development, Eastfield College; Christa Jones, Director of Workforce Education, Eastfield College
The PLA Portal Project is a statewide initiative designed to address the need for professional development of higher education personnel in the assessment of prior learning. This session will introduce participants to innovative uses of technology and training opportunities available through the project to create or improve institutions’ PLA processes.

#4 — ACADEMIC RECOVERY: SUCCESS IN S.T.A.G.E.S. (Room 51) CLARA Project
Tara Firmin, Coordinator of Academic Support Services, Tarrant County College Trinity River Campus; Christina Palacios, Financial Aid Specialist, Tarrant County College Trinity River Campus
Students on suspension status for academic or financial aid reasons are frequently doomed to repeat their mistakes because they lack support, knowledge, and resources to become better learners. STAGES connects students to campus and community resources and provides a strict plan for achieving academic success.
#5 — ADDRESSING 60X30TX: AVATAR’S USE OF LOCAL DATA TO SUSTAIN CHANGE (Room 52)
Mary Harris, Professor Emerita, Teacher Education and Administration, University of North Texas; Jean Keller, Professor of Kinesiology, Health Promotion, and Recreation, University of North Texas
Data collected and shared annually by the Texas Education Agency and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board enable cross-institutional analysis by AVATAR (Academic Vertical Alignment and Renewal) regional partnerships. Strategies for establishing local and regional measures of progress in achieving 60x30TX will be highlighted.

General Session:

Lunch:
Buffet lines are set up in the Gateway Center hallway outside the Ballroom.

Introduction of the Keynote Speaker:
Michael Felty, Professor, Physical Science and Chemistry, and Honors Program Director, Trinity Valley Community College; Chair-Elect, North Texas Community College Consortium CLARA Advisory Council

Keynote Address:
“RESILIENCE AND SELF-LEADERSHIP IN THE MIDST OF CHANGE AND STRESSFUL EVENTS”
Mary Steinhardt, University Distinguished Professor, Health Behavior & Health Education, The University of Texas at Austin

Dr. Steinhardt’s research studies how individuals build resilience and strength when challenged with change and chronic stressful situations. She has worked with such companies as 3M, Motorola, Dell, and Applied Materials, as well as the Army’s 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood and Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. Her current research program focuses on promoting resilience-based diabetes self-management programs for African Americans, reducing teacher burnout among public school teachers, and enhancing the resilience of military soldiers and their families.

#6 — RESILIENCE AND SELF-LEADERSHIP IN THE MIDST OF CHANGE AND STRESSFUL EVENTS Q&A (Ballroom)
Mary Steinhardt, University Distinguished Professor, Health Behavior & Health Education, The University of Texas at Austin
Continue the discussion on resilience with Mary Steinhardt in this lively Q&A session. Learn more about how Mary Steinhardt’s Transforming Lives Through Resilience Education modules support students’ ability to master change and bounce back when the going gets tough.

#7 — BUILDING CREATIVE SPACES FOR FACULTY AND STUDENT APPLIED LEARNING (Room 42)
Fred Hills, Dean, Arts, Sciences & Business, McLennan Community College; Richard Leslie, Coordinator, Center for Teaching and Learning, McLennan Community College
Nurturing a rich culture of applied learning requires preparation of both faculty and students to be successful. Learn how we build creative spaces that model applied learning in faculty development and innovation and how that model is implemented to engage student learning. Participants will take away our lessons learned and discuss their own models for nurturing a culture of applied learning.
#8 — CREATING PARTNERSHIPS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS AND COLLEGE ADVANCEMENT (Room 48)  
Leon Deutsch, Dean of Teaching & Learning, Grayson College

This session will highlight several specific examples of partnerships that were created that opened doors for the college, students and employers. Strong partnerships can lead to internships, service learning opportunities and mentorship programs. Employers often view these partnerships as a more reliable means for recruiting potential new employees as well. The college benefits in the areas of accreditation, completion rates and job placement rates, and may receive donations of much needed equipment for training students.

#9 — MAKING THE CONNECTION: INCREASING STUDENT SERVICES AND FACULTY ENGAGEMENT (Room 51)  
Carlos Cruz, Director, Student Success Center, Mountain View College

On a college campus, miscommunication can occur between student services and faculty. Using a focus group, Mountain View College identified communication gaps and ways to improve communications and contribute to student success and persistence.

#10 — BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING-PART 1 (Room 52—Board Members Only)  
Jeremy McMillen, President, Grayson College; Chair, Consortium Board of Directors

#11 — GRIT AND COLLABORATION LEADS TO SUCCESSFUL DUAL CREDIT PARTNERSHIP (Ballroom)  
Kevin Moffitt, Lead Counselor, Pilot Point High School; Emily Klement, Associate VP of Instructional Partnerships, North Central Texas College; Debbie Endres, Dual Credit Coordinator, North Central Texas College; Diane Mannion, Dual Credit Coordinator, North Central Texas College

A rural school district and community college with a long time partnership find solutions that lead to comprehensive and successful outcomes for dual credit program and students. The presentation will focus upon the roles of the high school and community college in insuring student success and increased college readiness and student direction. A forum model will allow for questions as well.

#12 — IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING (Room 42)  
James Dang, Associate Professor, Computer Science, Tarrant County College Southeast Campus

In an effort to increase student success and improve student learning, Tarrant County College Southeast Campus has implemented practices to support computer science students: retrieval practice to help students remember course concepts, completion of sample questions to increase exam comfort, faculty review of exam statistics, and goal setting.

#13 — TCC-SE MENTORING PROGRAM (Room 48)  
Charles Smith, Coordinator, The Learning Center, Tarrant County College Southeast Campus

There is a dramatic shift in the tools that are used in today’s technology-based distance education. While distance education is not new, there are new types of socially rich, mobile technologies that empower learners to be more in control of what they learn, when they learn it, and how they learn it. Students are taking more responsibility for their own learning and their approach learning is changing. More and more learners are choosing their own content and the methods by which they are accessing information.

#14 — PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR STUDENT ASSISTANTS (Room 51)  
Heath Stoner, Director, Ornelas HPE Center, Tyler Junior College

The Professional Development Plan for Students is a plan for college managers to implement so that their student workers will significantly grow in work skills so as to produce more in the current work place but also to gain skills for future employment opportunities. The certifications that student workers can attain are unlimited. The certifications offered in the plan are just the beginning for a robust comprehensive certification that can be determined by the college department.

#15 — BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING-PART 2 (Room 52—Board Members Only)  
Jeremy McMillen, President, Grayson College; Chair, Consortium Board of Directors

#16 — NORTH TEXAS ECHS COMMITTEE MEETING (Ballroom—Members Only)  
Kirsten Cooper, Assistant to the President, Tarrant County College Northwest Campus; and Cathy Kirkland, Dean of ECHS, Athens ISD; Co-Chairs, North Texas ECHS Consortium Standing Committee

EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE

Grayson College  
Jeremy McMillen  
President  
Chair, Consortium Board of Directors

North Central Texas College  
Brent Wallace  
President  
Chair-Elect, Consortium Board of Directors

Tarrant County College Northwest Campus  
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President  
Immediate Past Chair, Consortium Board of Directors

PRESENTERS

Tarrant County College  
Tarro Firmin  
Coordinator of Academic Support Services, Trinity River Campus

Christina Palacios  
Financial Aid Specialist, Trinity River Campus

Charles Smith  
Coordinator, The Learning Center, Southeast Campus

Tyler Junior College  
Heath Stoner  
Director, Ornelas HPE Center

University of North Texas  
Mary Harris  
Professor Emerita, Teacher Education and Administration

Jean Keller  
Professor, Kinesiology, Health Promotion, and Recreation

The University of Texas at Austin  
Mary Steinhardt  
University Distinguished Professor, Health Behavior & Health Education

ECHS  
3:00  
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