



Conference Newsletter

In this issue:

Conference Co-Chairs Share Their Theme Inspiration

Keynote Speakers Think Outside the Classroom

Conference Schedule

TYCA-SW Info: Awards and Leadership-- Including Vacant Positions!

Welcome from the Chair of TYCA-SW

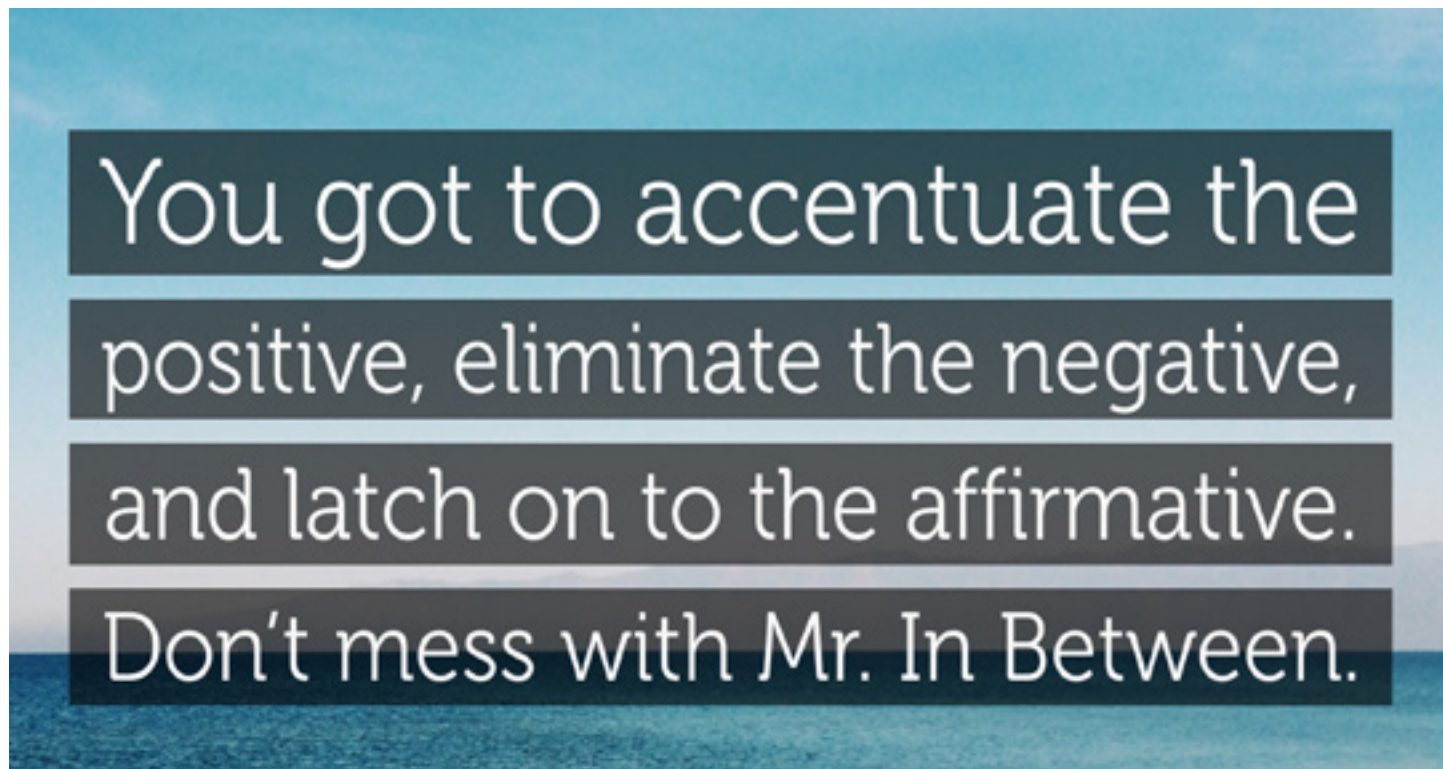


As I finish my final year as chair of TYCA-SW, I am naturally inclined to reflect on the challenges the organization has faced during my tenure. But this minor transition in my professional life happens to coincide with a time of great change and natural reflection as the country tentatively emerges from the pandemic crisis. We still face many uncertainties even as we hope for a return to normalcy (perhaps an illusion even in the best of circumstances), but we will still find ourselves reflecting on the past year and thinking about what has and hasn't worked for our students and ourselves.

With this spirit of reflection in mind, I invite all members across the region to participate in our fall conference, to be held virtually Oct. 15 and 22. The theme of the conference is "Accentuate the Positive": Examining the Successes and Failures Navigated during COVID-19," and proposals are being considered for presentations, with options for both traditional presentations and those focused on a specific teaching innovation. Please check [the website for current information](#).

Whether you submitted a proposal or not, I hope to see all of you in attendance virtually in October as we reflect on this difficult year and help to improve the profession through shared insights and collegial conversation. These conversations have helped sustain us during the past year and a half, and I know the dialogue will continue to move us forward.

Brian Anderson, TYCA-SW Chair



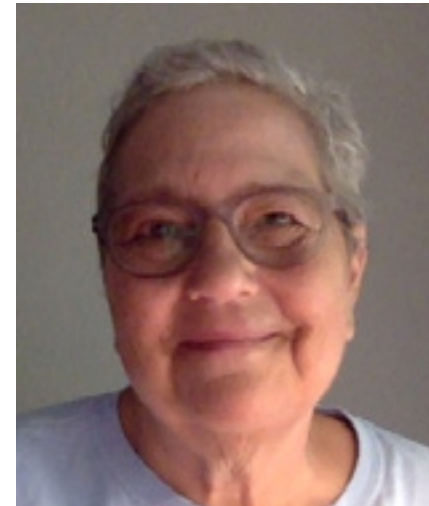
The 2021 Conference Co-Chairs Invite Everyone to Reflect and Renew

At the 2019 TYCA-SW annual conference, keynote speaker Dr. Cristina Cedillo (University of Houston-Clear Lake) asked us to think about how our students' embodied experiences were and could be part of the classroom. She reminded us that our literacies and languages provide opportunities to redefine and reshape Englishes and thus engage our writing projects in and out of classrooms. And she reminded us that the realities of food and housing insecurities, political spaces that erase and remove communities, and a host of other responsibilities are carried into our classrooms.

And then by March 2020, COVID-19 drastically, fundamentally altered all of our learning and teaching situations. 2020 was a crash course in the very things Cedillo had asked us to consider—and for many of us, we could literally see into the lives of our students and they into ours as we met virtually, trying to create learning spaces that maintained our institutional requirements and navigated the many new responsibilities we faced.

More than a year into this new teaching situation, the TYCA-SW Conference chairs would like our 2021 Annual Conference to be a space to reflect on what worked, what didn't, how we innovated, how we failed, and ultimately what adjustments we've made to account for our students' lives and our own outside the classroom. What changes have you made that were successful? What material have you read that has made you rethink teaching? What have you learned about how to best balance your demands? What can you share with our membership to help as we all keep moving forward. Register for the conference at [HERE](#).

The 2021 Conference Keynote Speakers Encourage Language and Place Awareness



Michal Brody
Sponsored by Norton

Chicago native Michal Brody earned her B.A. in General Studies at age 42. She completed a Ph.D. in Linguistics from UT Austin in 2004; her dissertation focused on the language politics of contemporary written Yucatec Maya. She is co-author of three college composition textbooks (*The Little Seagull Handbook*, *Everyone's an Author*, and *What's Language Got to Do With It?*, all published by W.W. Norton). She was a founding faculty member of the Maya Linguistics and Culture program at Universidad de Oriente in Yucatan, Mexico. Her ideas about language pedagogy and writing instruction have been formed from extensive experience teaching non-academic ESL as well as a variety of rhetoric/composition, linguistics, and other language-related courses at universities in Texas, California, and Yucatan.



Tex Thompson

Arianne "Tex" Thompson is a licensed locksmith, egregiously enthusiastic editor, and professional ruckus-raiser. She is the author of *Children of the Drought*, an internationally-published epic fantasy Western series from Solaris, as well as an instructor for Writing Workshops Dallas and 'chief instigator' of WORD – Writers Organizations 'Round Dallas. Now she's blazing a trail through conferences, workshops, and conventions around the country – as an endlessly energetic, catastrophically cheerful one-woman stampede. Find her online at thetexfiles.com and wordwriters.org!

To register for the conference, sign up through Eventbrite by clicking [HERE](#). Registration cost is \$45, which includes access to all sessions and keynote speakers.

2021 Virtual Conference Schedule

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Friday, 15 October | 9:40-9:50 AM | Welcome Address |
| | 10:00-10:50 AM | Presentations |
| | 11:00-11:50 AM | Presentations |
| | 12:00-1:00 PM | Keynote Address |
| | 1:10-2:00 PM | State of the States |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Friday, 22 October | 9:40-9:50 AM | Welcome Address |
| | 10:00-10:50 AM | Presentations |
| | 11:00-11:50 AM | Presentations |
| | 12:00-1:00 PM | Keynote Address |
| | 1:10-2:00 PM | EC Meeting |

The conference is scheduled for Central Standard Time. Attendees can also asynchronously review the Assignment Innovation Track alongside the presentations.

Show Appreciation: Nominate a Colleague for TYCA-SW Awards 2021

Susan Faulkner Excellence in Teaching Award

The Susan Faulkner Excellence in Teaching Award is presented at the annual TYCA-SW conference. It honors the memory of Susan Faulkner, professor and coordinator of the English Department at Cedar Valley College in the Dallas County Community College District in Texas. Susan loved teaching, learning, the English language, TYCA-SW, and her grandchildren most of all. We urge you to nominate a friend or colleague who merits special recognition for his or her hard work and inspired teaching. Send your nominee's name and a brief description of his or her outstanding work. In addition, you may include brief comments from this individual's students and peers, if possible.

Robert W. Wylie Service Award

The Wylie Award is our highest distinction. Each year TYCA-SW honors one person for outstanding contributions made to the profession through long-term service. To nominate a colleague for this award, send the nominee's name and a description of his or her contributions to the profession. You may include comments from others in your nomination as well as any supporting documents (peer feedback, program documents noting service, etc.).

To nominate a colleague for either award, please reach out to the TYCA-SW Leadership Team. To be eligible, nominees must be paid members of TYCA-SW.

2021 TYCA-SW Leadership

Leadership Team:

D. Brian Anderson, Chair
Leigh Ann Moore, Vice-Chair
David Lydic, Treasurer
Sarah R. Fish, Secretary, Newsletter, Scholarship Committee, Webmaster, and 2021 Conference Co-Chair
Vacant, Archivist
Michael Berberich, Awards and Political Information
Allison Laubach Wright, Scholarship Committee
Bruce Martin, National TYCA Representative and NCTE Representative
Toni McMillen, Newsletter, 2021 Conference Co-Chair

Executive Council:

D. Brian Anderson, 2018-2021
Beth Humphreys, 2018-2021
Allison Laubach Wright, 2019-2022
Leigh Ann Moore, 2019-2022
Lane Ferraro Fletcher, 2020-2024
Erin Beaver, 2020-2024

State Reporters:

Beth Humphreys, New Mexico
Vacant, Colorado
Vacant, Oklahoma
Vacant, Texas
Vacant, Louisiana
Vacant, Arkansas