



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September 25, 2020

Happy Fall! I hope you are doing well, and that you and your family are remaining safe and healthy. I know many of us have returned to doing what we know best – transporting our students – after many months of uncertainty. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my well wishes to everyone along the Gulf Coast, as I know they are facing the aftereffects of Tropical Storm Beta.

Our TAPT Executive Committee met last weekend, and I want to express my gratitude and appreciation to this amazing group of individuals and Transportation professionals. We had a productive meeting and discussed many key topics for the 2020-2021 school year, including professional development courses, state roadeo, and state conference.



The following are important items to note regarding the topics discussed this weekend.

- The Professional Development Committee, led by Mr. Erwin Sladek and Mr. Kirk Self, provided a presentation of the PDC program for the 2020-2021 school year. The PDC program includes a robust slate of classes, and I want to thank Mr. Sladek, Mr. Self, and the members of the PDC for their efforts in bringing forth a great learning opportunity for our members.
- The Executive Committee unanimously approved the selection of Klein ISD as the host of the 2021 School Bus Safety Roadeo on June 12, 2021. Please recall, the decision was made last school year to separate roadeo from the state conference to provide a more unique and engaging experience for school bus drivers and attendants. We will be offering professional development courses on Sunday, June 13th, for our roadeo participants and anyone else interested in attending courses. Information will be available soon to all districts that would like to apply to be considered by the Site Selection Committee to host the 2022 state roadeo.
- The preliminary agenda for the 2021 state conference was reviewed by the Executive Committee. A special thanks to our TAPT Secretary, Ms. Patricia Almaraz, for her hard work in developing our preliminary agenda. I am very excited to announce that our keynote speaker for the state conference will be Mr. Gerry Brooks. Mr. Brooks is an elementary school principal in Lexington, KY, and is recognized nationally for his public speaking and his hilarious (and often relatable) videos. I look forward to welcoming him to the TAPT family in June and to hearing his words of wisdom and encouragement (while sharing a few laughs).

As you can tell, I am excited with the direction that TAPT is headed for the 2020-2021 school year. Our Executive Committee is here to serve you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your area director if you have any comments or questions. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Take care and stay safe,

Kayne M. Smith, Ed.D.
TAPT President

2020-2021