

September 6, 2022

TAPT Family,

Now that the 2022-2023 school year is rolling, I hope everyone had a great and smooth start of the new school year. Summer break is officially over, and I know we were all very busy during the summer months preparing for the start of the 22-23 school year. I hope you were able to take some time off to decompress and relax so that you are refreshed and ready for a new school year. Remember, it is important for us to take a moment for ourselves, as selfcare helps us destress and refocus. I for one utilized some of my limited free time to catch some sun by the coast, as that is where I decompress and refocus the best.

Our theme for the 2022-2023 school year is ***Sharing Pearls of Wisdom – 50 Years of Foundation***. I believe this theme reflects the foundation that was laid out by our founding fathers, and what we have used for the last 50 years to build on and continue to make this industry one of the best. We must never forget where we started, and the path we traveled to get where we are today. We should focus on the future and share those PEARLS of Wisdom with our staff, employees, and colleagues to continue to grow our industry. Sharing our knowledge with those around us is not only beneficial for our own departments, but also beneficial for our future so that we continue to maintain a strong industry and have a succession plan for generations to come. You see our industry is like a home; to withstand any storm, it must be built on a strong foundation worthy of those who will be living in it. Our founding fathers took their desire to strengthen this industry and built a strong foundation so that future generations can continue to build on top of it to better this industry for our students. Once the foundation was placed, our founding fathers came together and shared their knowledge to build a program that would help transportation departments across the state improve pupil transportation policies and improve standards and equipment locally, statewide, and nationally. This year, as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary, our goal for our Members is to continue to build on this foundation and continue to strengthen our industry, so that we may provide the best transportation service for our students.

2021-2022 had its challenges, but if we reflect on our past, and focus on our future, I know together we will continue to add value, build a stronger foundation, encourage, and empower others to continue to Share Pearls of Wisdom to better our future.

I am excited to lead this year's Executive Committee as your 2022-2023 President and look forward to working with them and you for a great year and great conference in June.

Have a great year!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patricia Ducote', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patricia Ducote, CTPTO
TAPT President 2022-2023