



development district of central texas

Leadership Central Texas 2023
Graduation Ceremony



LEADERSHIP CENTRAL TEXAS 2023



Leadership Central Texas is offered by the Development District of Central Texas to citizens with an interest in leadership who live or work within the seven county-region served by the Central Texas Council of Governments, which includes Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills, and San Saba counties.

LEADERSHIP CENTRAL TEXAS 2023



This year's program covered the following topics:

- **Federal, State, and Local Government and CTCOG Services**
- **Regional Infrastructure and Social Services**
- **Leadership Opportunities**
- **Entrepreneurship, Economic & Business Development**

Guest Presenters and Partners

Janell Ford, Executive Director of
Communications, City of Killeen

Keith Sledd, Executive Director, Heart of Texas
Defense Alliance

Veshell Greene, Vice President of Resource
Development,

United Way of Central Texas

Ebony Jackson, Director, Bell County Indigent
Healthcare Program

Dr. Marty McMahon, PhD., Professor of Business,
University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

Walter Murphy, PhD., Director, UCARE, Texas A&M
University – Central Texas

James McGill, KTMPO Planning Manager

Jim Reed, AICP, Executive Director, CTCOG

Uryan Nelson, Director, CTCOG Planning &
Regional Services

Jesse Hennage, Assistant Director, CTCOG
Planning/Public Safety

Dominic Elizondo, Economic Development
Planner, CTCOG

Darrell Burtner, Director, Urban Operations, HCTD

David Williams, Disaster Finance Coordinator,
Texas Dept. of Emergency Management

Jamie LaDuke, Executive Director, Hamilton EDC

Rod Henry, President and CEO, Temple Chamber
of Commerce

Texas House Rep. Brad Buckley, District 54

Texas House Rep. Hugh Shine, District 55

City Manager Brynn Myers, City of Temple

Bell County Commissioner Robert Whitson,
Pct. 2

City Manager Ricky Tow, City of Cameron

Jason Deckman, City Planner, City of Temple

Casey Simpson, Oncor Area Manager

Brent Connett, Deputy Director, Appointments
Division,
Office of the Governor

Jarvis Brewer, Small Business Advocate, Office
of the Governor

Charley Ayres, Workforce Solutions of Central
Texas

Jason Ehler, Business Advisor, McLennan
Small Business Development Corp.

Michael N'dolo, Director of Economic

Development, MRB Group

Patrick Wagner, General Manager, Middle
Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

Carmen Lim, Director of Housing Division,
CTCOG

George Losoya, Director of Area Agency on
Aging, CTCOG

Johnnie Wardell, Executive Director, Central
Counties Services

Debra Longley, Executive Director, Children's
Advocacy Center of Central Texas



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The Graduates of Leadership Central
Texas 2023





“The Leadership training that I received from the Development District of Central Texas has inspired me to be a better leader. Hearing from so many inspiring Leaders over the last 3 months has given me knowledge of so many resources and programs that I was unaware of. I am eager to act as a Leader in my community and to pass these resources on as needed. I look forward to becoming more involved in some of the programs that we learned about. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity.”

Regina Baker

Executive Director

San Saba County Chamber of Commerce



“My Mission Statement: To Engage more of CTX leaders in the continued discussion, planning and subsequent development of true affordable housing in our communities to meet the needs of the thousands of low-income and homeless individuals and families with the lack of adequate housing options for the poor. I have made some new friends in the community with my efforts to support the homeless and Veteran families in need. I have learned about organizations and govt. entities and have a better understanding of their roles and possible ways to help my communities find support for the vulnerable and homeless.”

Bobby Ehrig

*Executive Director
Citizens for Progress (CFP)
Temple*



“Leadership Central Texas has provided me with a plethora of information from community organizations in our 7-county area. Information that I can take back and share with the staff at Workforce Solutions of Central Texas, who then in turn can share it with our customers out in the community who may need it. My goal is to obtain a leadership role at Workforce Solutions of Central Texas in the next 5 years. I will do so by making myself available to learn all facets of information that are offered to me...I will also take initiative to learn more hands-on information from our current leaders and seek advice on how to grow in my leadership style.”

Caithryn Emanuel

*WIOA Youth Program Specialist
Workforce Solutions of Central Texas
Killeen*



“Thank you for the Leadership Central Texas program for allowing me to participate in the program. I have new knowledge from various departments from Bell County, allowing me future plans for business operations that if I open a business in the community where I live, which agency do I need to coordinate, and how to plan the operation of it. Leadership Central Texas program helped me gain a better understanding of the communities in Bell County. Thank you again for this program.”

Papananchaya “Tik” Lucas
Assistant CEO Marketing
Saruncare Group
Temple



“Leadership Central Texas was enlightening. I learned about the tremendous number of resources available for our community members and businesses.”

Amy Merriman
Chief Operating Officer
Texell Credit Union
Temple



“My mission is to establish recreational service through art as emotional therapy for seniors communities between ages 55/60+...development of opportunities of service for the Lions Club Park Senior Center members at Bell County, Killeen, Tx, which intended participants resulting in benefits for new knowledge of arts projects.”

Carmen Sanchez

*Art Instructor
Lions Club Park Senior Center
Killeen*



“Attending Leadership Central Texas, I feel I can help more people just by knowing what kinds of resources are available. It amazes me how many groups around us are willing to help with just about every obstacle that could be thrown our way. I believe that everyone should be taking this course or something similar. You never know when just knowing what we learned could help someone. Thank you for coordinating the classes and showing us what resources are available.”

Kayla Schraub

*Main Street Program Manager
Hamilton Historical Main Street
City of Hamilton*



“Leadership Central Texas has been a wonderful resource and opportunity for me to learn more about my community. It has given me a glimpse into the infrastructure, economic development, and entrepreneurship of Central Texas. This program has inspired me to complete my Doctorate of Nursing Practice and to continue to advocate for vulnerable populations. The program’s speakers were phenomenal. Their passion for their jobs and their community were contagious, motivating me to champion for and deliver exceptional healthcare in Bell County.”

Risha Sexton

*Labor and Delivery Nurse/Nurse Practitioner Student at Vanderbilt University
Harker Heights*



“I really enjoyed the leadership class, I wish it was more than three sessions. I learned quite a bit about CTCOG, had no idea about all the different programs. It was refreshing to hear from other municipalities about their roles, and how everything relates. It was neat to learn other ideas and initiatives on how to promote and revitalize downtown. My mission is to encourage staff by providing resources to achieve greatness, become effective leaders and role models in the community through mentorship, positive reinforcement and work-life balance.”

Becky Sims

*City Secretary/Zoning Administrator
City of Lampasas*



Going through this training has given me the motivation, the courage, and the knowledge of what to do, whom to contact, and how to go about getting help that I need, for the plans that I need and hope to accomplish. I would like to be part of the growth and the advancement of Killeen as well as the surrounding central Texas area. I am so excited about the strives I intend to make, and I am truly appreciative of the opportunity that I 've been given to be a part of the CTCOG Leadership Class."

Sandra Wooten

*Foster Mother, Volunteer, Author
Killeen*



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