

JUNE 2022

# TEXAS EVALUATION NETWORK QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## OUR MISSION:

The Texas Evaluation Network (TEN) is a voluntary, statewide organization serving the multidisciplinary interests and needs of evaluation and other allied professionals.

### The work of TEN is focused in three areas:

1. Promote and advocating evaluation and building evaluation capacity;
2. Provide professional development opportunities for Texas evaluators; and
3. Establish a venue for networking and the exchange of theoretical, methodological, and practical knowledge related to the field of evaluation.

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The Texas Evaluation Network is a formal affiliate of the American Evaluation Association. Our members' interest and skills vary greatly as the organization prides itself on geographic and interest diversity. This is best on display at TEN's evaluation institute hosted annually and through regular webinars.

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# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

TEN Greetings!

I am excited to share the progress on the strategic plan development with you. Many current and past TEN members participated in important conversations with Viable Insights. These conversations are extremely important as we work together to develop a plan for the next 3-5 years for the organization. The plan must reflect the views, ideas, and needs of our members. We are excited that the strategic plan will be ready to be implemented in August 2022.

In this newsletter you will read about the loss of our dear friend and colleague, Dr. Joan Bush. Joan contributed to TEN in different ways and was instrumental in leading the organization. We will continue to honor the work she has done as a TEN member and executive board officer.

In the next two months, the leadership of TEN will transition. Our new board members are dedicated to advocating for evaluation. We are looking forward to welcoming new board members and executive board officers.

I hope you have a wonderful summer.

Emmerentie Oliphant, Ph.D. (Social Work)  
Texas Evaluation Network, President



## Board of Directors: 2022-2023 Slate of Nominees

The TEN Board of Directors is pleased to present the slate of nominees for the 2022-2023 term:

- 1. Dr. Jennifer Hughes**, located in Lubbock, Texas; Managing Director for the Office of Planning and Assessment (OPA) at Texas Tech University; Founding President and Past President of the Texas Association for Higher Education Assessment (TxAHEA)
- 2. Brita Blesi**, located in Houston, Texas; Evaluation Officer at Houston Endowment; she is an active member of TEN's strategic planning committee.
- 3. Rachel Fraizer (student)**, located in Lubbock, Texas; doctoral student in the College of Education at Texas Tech University, pursuing a Ph.D. in Curriculum & Instruction, with heavy research interest in evaluation metrics as seen across Higher Education within the state of Texas; Unit Manager of Graduate Program Analyst & Review at Texas Tech University.
- 4. Dr. Anduamlak Mehaire**, located in Dallas, Texas; Director of Program Evaluation at Dallas Independent School District.
- 5. Dr. Emiel W. Owens, Jr.**, located in Houston, Texas; President of Stat-Lab Data and professor in College of Education at Texas Southern University

## Strategic Planning

**TEN is in the process of developing a strategic plan, with a focus on two priorities:**

1. Increase membership and visibility
2. Ensure equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in all aspects of the organization

We have partnered with Viable Insights to guide our strategic planning efforts: <https://viableinsights.com/>.

Our goal for the strategic planning process is that it will be an inclusive and shared decision-making process. As part of this effort, Deven Wisner, M.S., Managing Partner, and Libby Smith, M.S, Senior Advisor, from Viable Insights, will be conducting interviews with TEN members, past and founding members, and former and current officers.

The strategic plan will be available in summer 2022.



**Deven Wisner, M.S.**  
Managing Partner



**Libby Smith, M.S.**  
Senior Advisor

## IN REMEMBRANCE: Dr. Myra Joan Bush

Myra Joan Bush, called Joan by her friends and family, passed away peacefully at her home on Sunday, April 24, 2022, with her family at her side.

Joan was born in Ft. Worth, TX on November 20, 1961, to Bernard and Patricia Spooner. She was a 1980 distinguished graduate of Irving High School; was a summa cum laude graduate of Baylor University where she received both her undergraduate degree and her master's degree, both in Music Education; and was a graduate of the University of North Texas where she received her Ph.D. in Educational Research.

Though she began her long career in education as a music teacher, Joan found her calling in educational research and evaluation when working on her Ph.D. She worked many years in different school districts, as well as an independent contractor, as a data analyst and program evaluator, earning increased recognition and responsibility for her diligent work through the years. She always had a heart for children and never lost sight of why her work mattered.

Joan is survived by her husband, David; her children, Aaron, daughter-in-law Hyunju and Alec; her sister, Jane; her parents, Bernard and Patricia; several nieces, nephews, and cousins; and many friends.

Joan will be particularly remembered for her musical talent, her thoughtfulness and wisdom, her untiring diligence and drive, and her loving kindness and generosity most of all.



## RECAP & SAVE THE DATES: 2022 TEN Power Hour Series



**THANK YOU** to all who attend our Double Power Hour in April and May 2022, highlighting two approaches to DEI in evaluation. We appreciate our speakers, **Lenola Wyatt-Tutt** and **Dr. Elsa Villa**, for sharing their time and knowledge with us.



### SAVE THE DATES!

**TEN's Power Hours provide an opportunity for TEN members to discuss current topics or issues related to evaluation.**

**Please join us!**

**July 27, 2022, 12:00-1:00 pm CST**

**Working with Funders**

**RSVP here**

**September 20, 2022, 12:00-1:00 pm CST**

**Developmental Evaluation**

**RSVP here**

## CHECK IT OUT: RESOURCES



### **edX**

edX is an open online course provider that hosts university-level courses by Harvard, MIT, and more in a wide range of. Some courses are free of charge.

[Click here to explore](#)

### **FlowCV**

Quickly build a modern resume online for free.

[Click here to explore](#)

### **Learn Anything**

Learn Anything is a platform for knowledge discovery that helps you to understand any topic.

[Click here to explore](#)

### **Tiny Wow**

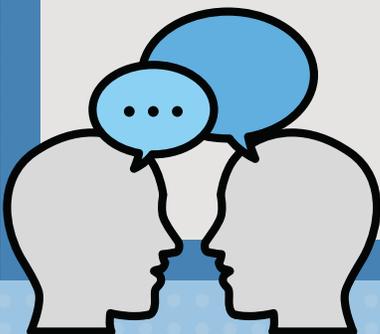
A collection of free online tools to convert to and from a variety of files, including PDF, video, image, and other tools.

[Click here to explore](#)

## HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER?

**We want to hear from YOU! Please share evaluation-related resources with us to consider including in an upcoming TEN newsletter.**

**Email us at [texasevaluationnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:texasevaluationnetwork@gmail.com) with recommendations on books, podcasts, articles, or other resources.**



# Meet Your Newsletter Team

The TEN Membership Committee develops TEN's quarterly newsletter.



**Fanni Farago, MA**, is a new TEN member, a new & emerging evaluator, & a third-year Sociology Doctoral Student at George Mason University. She works as a Research Assistant at the Institute for Immigration Research (IIR). She recently relocated to Houston and joined TEN to connect with local evaluators.

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**Holly Heisler, MPH, MBA**, is the Corresponding Secretary on the TEN Board of Directors. She is a Senior Associate in the Research, Analysis, and Evaluation (RAE) Division at Contracting Resources Group, Inc., a federal management consulting firm.

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**Kim Trevino, MA**, is the Student Representative on the TEN Board of Directors. She is a Research Assistant at the Center of Community Research and Development at Baylor University.