

Texas Association of Collegiate Veteran Program Officials

FY26 Conference Agenda

MONDAY, 9 MARCH 2026

Pre-Conference Workshops

9:00 am – 9:15 am	Introduction to TACVPO <i>TACVPO Board</i>	Constellation/Virtual
9:15 am – 10:00 am	Vocational Flight Programs* <i>Heather Cates, Department of Veterans Affairs</i>	Constellation/Virtual
10:00 am – 11:00 am	IHL Flight* <i>Heather Cates, Department of Veterans Affairs</i>	Constellation/Virtual
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Program Approvals - Flight Schools & IHL w/ Flight <i>Dexter Smith, Texas State Approving Agency</i>	Constellation/Virtual
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	LUNCH <i>On your own</i>	
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Registration Desk Open	Main Lobby
1:00 pm – 2:15 pm	VA New SCO Training* <i>TBD, Department of Veterans Affairs</i>	Constellation/Virtual
2:20 pm – 3:35 pm	VA Advanced SCO Training* <i>TBD, Department of Veterans Affairs</i>	Constellation/Virtual
3:40 pm – 4:55 pm	VA Advanced SCO Training* <i>Chelsea Jackson, Department of Veterans Affairs</i>	Constellation/Virtual
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Let's Rodeo, TACVPO! President's Reception <i>All Conference Attendees welcome (hors d'oeuvres provided + cash bar)</i>	Pool Deck Sponsored by Combined Arms
	DINNER <i>On your own</i>	



TACVPO Conference Agenda

TUESDAY, 10 MARCH 2026		General Session
7:00 am – 8:00 am	BREAKFAST <i>On your own</i>	
10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Registration Desk Open	Main Lobby
8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Resource Fair	Prefunction Area
8:30 am – 8:45 am	Opening Ceremony <i>Tila Jernigan, TACVPO President</i>	Constellation Ballroom
8:45 am – 9:45 am	Keynote Speaker <i>Katie Cook, Lt. Col, USMC & Former Blue Angels pilot</i>	Constellation Ballroom
9:45 am – 10:00 am	AM BREAK	The Landing
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Department of Veterans Affairs Update* <i>Kenneth Smith, Executive Director, VBA Education Services</i>	Constellation Ballroom
11:00 am – 11:45 am	National Association of State Approving Agencies <i>Rebecca Ryan, NASAA President</i>	Constellation Ballroom
11:45 am – 12:00 pm	Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) Updates <i>David Salgado, Director, TVC Veterans Education</i>	Constellation Ballroom
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	LUNCH <i>Buffet lunch provided</i>	The Landing
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Veteran Education Excellence Recognition Award (VEERA) Presentations <i>Texas Veterans Commission</i>	Constellation Ballroom
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Combined Arms <i>Johnn Smith, Southeast Texas Regional Manager</i>	Constellation Ballroom
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm	PM BREAK	The Landing
2:45 pm – 3:30 pm	Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Updates <i>Gabriel Lopez, Texas Workforce Commission</i>	Constellation Ballroom
3:30 pm – 4:15 pm	College Credit for Heroes <i>Bob Gear, Texas Workforce Commission</i>	Constellation Ballroom
4:15 pm – 5:00 pm	State Voc Rehab (TWC) <i>Arthur Jones, Texas Workforce Commission</i>	Constellation Ballroom

TACVPO Conference Agenda

WEDNESDAY, 11 MARCH 2026

Breakout Sessions

7:00 am – 8:00 am	BREAKFAST <i>On your own</i>	
8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Resource Fair	Prefunction Area
8:00 am – 3:00 pm	Q&A with TVC Veterans Education Staff <i>1x1; walk-ins welcome; SAA and Hazlewood</i>	Timber Grove
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Dixon Center for Military and Veteran Services <i>Wendy Lang, Senior Advisor for Policy and Research</i>	River Oaks 70
	Lessons Learned Moving Beyond Spreadsheets For VA Benefit Management <i>Gisele Hinajosa, MilVet Navigator</i>	Museum Park 70
	VA - 85/15 Requirements* <i>Kate Caruso, Department of Veterans Affairs</i>	Constellation West
	Hazlewood - Database Overview & Updates <i>Dominique Gill, Texas Veterans Commission</i>	Constellation East
9:00 am – 9:15 am	BREAK	The Landing
9:15 am – 10:15 am	Lone Star College <i>David Yebra, Chief Veteran's Officer</i>	River Oaks 70
	VA - VR&E* (tentative) <i>Kelly Shupak, Department of Veterans Affairs</i>	Museum Park 70
	VA - Work Study Programs* <i>Dawn Blue, Department of Veterans Affairs</i>	Constellation West
	Uniform Application - NCDs & Government Agencies <i>Anthony Williams, State Approving Agency</i>	Constellation East
10:15 am – 11:15 am	Empowering Faculty: Implementing Green Zone Training to Support Military-Connected Students Across Campuses <i>Siara McMahon, Lone Star College</i>	River Oaks 70
	Innovative Approaches to Military-Connected Student Success <i>Jessica Hodges, Marissa Pina, Breanna Greer, Ontoria Robinson, and Jamie Gregory - Dallas College</i>	Museum Park 70
	VA - Compliance Surveys* <i>Heather Cates, Department of Veterans Affairs</i>	Constellation West
	Uniform Application - Accredited IHLs <i>Andrea Watts, State Approving Agency</i>	Constellation East

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WEDNESDAY, 11 MARCH 2026		Breakout Sessions
11:15 am – 12:15 pm	Business Office Best Practices <i>LeAnn Picket, Texas A&M University</i>	River Oaks 70
	NVEST Project <i>Monteigne Long and Abby Kinch</i>	Museum Park 70
	VA - Debt Management Center* <i>Nicole Haselberger, Department of Veterans Affairs</i>	Constellation West
	Risk-based Surveys & Supervisory Visits <i>Pat Gaudet, State Approving Agency</i>	Constellation East
12:15 pm – 1:45 pm	LUNCH <i>Buffet lunch provided</i>	Vista Ballroom
1:45 pm – 2:45 pm	Hazlewood Act Automation Project <i>Reuben Aleman, The University of Texas at San Antonio</i>	River Oaks 70
	NVEST Working Group Meet-up <i>Working Group Members</i>	Museum Park 70
	VA - Enrollment Manager* <i>Department of Veterans Affairs</i>	Constellation West
	SAA Approvals – Program Lists <i>Andrea Watts, State Approving Agency</i>	Constellation East
2:45 pm – 3:00 pm	PM BREAK	Rio Grande lobby
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	The SVO Blueprint: Building and Sustaining Dynamic SVO's Across Texas <i>Siara McMahon, Lone Star College</i>	River Oaks 70
	Combined Arms <i>Johnn Smith, Southeast Texas Regional Manager</i>	Museum Park 70
	VA - Non-College Degree Training* <i>Sharon Coverdell, Department of Veterans Affairs</i>	Constellation West
	TVC Education Outreach <i>Dominique Gill, Texas Veterans Commission</i>	Constellation East
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	How to build partnerships with staff and faculty that best support Veteran students <i>Paul Calhoun & Jazz Nixon, University of Houston-Downtown</i>	River Oaks 70
	VA - VR&E* (tentative) <i>Kelly Shupak, Department of Veterans Affairs</i>	Museum Park 70
	VA - Debt Management Center* <i>Nicole Haselberger, Department of Veterans Affairs</i>	Constellation West
	Hazlewood Act – Hazle-Talk: Bring Your Best and Worst Situations for Panel Discussion with Q&A <i>Dominique Gill, Texas Veterans Commission</i>	Constellation East

TACVPO Conference Agenda

THURSDAY, 12 MARCH 2026		Business Day
8:00 am – 9:00 am	NETWORKING BREAKFAST	Constellation Ballroom
8:00 am – 3:00 pm	Mentorship Break-out/Sign-up	Constellation Ballroom
	TACVPO Membership Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• President Report• Treasurer Report• New Direction / Discussion• Election of Officers• By-Laws Review• Other New Business	Constellation Ballroom
	CONCLUSION and Closing Remarks	Constellation Ballroom
12:00 noon	Hotel Checkout HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME!	
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	New/Old Board Members Meeting	Constellation Ballroom