

POLICY SUMMIT 2018 RECAP



Brenda Mainwaring of Union Pacific introduced TBLC Chairman, Gay Gaddis of T3.



TBLC members, legislative staff, Texas business leaders and stakeholders filled the room for Policy Summit 2018.



TBLC Chairman Gay Gaddis kicked off Policy Summit 2018 and discussed her book, *Cowgirl Power*.



Stacy Hock of Texans for Education Opportunity during Q&A with Austin City Council Member Ellen Troxclair.



Gay Gaddis took a moment during one of the breaks to sign books for audience members.



TBLC members, lege staff, and stakeholders visited with Sen. Dawn Buckingham at the Policy Summit 2018 reception.



Thank you to our speakers, sponsors, and audience members for making PS18 a success.



Keynote lunch speaker Austin City Council Member Ellen Troxclair discussed recently passed local laws and how they effect Texas.



TBLC member and Economist Jason Schenker sat down with Comptroller Glenn Hegar to discuss the future of work in Texas.



Erik Nieves of PlusOne Robotics (left), Mario Lozoya of Toyota North America (middle), and Bob Doyle of the Association for Advancing Automation (right) explored how automation and robotics would effect the future of workforce development.



Dr. David Gardner of the TX Higher Ed Coordinating Board (left), Rex Gore of PelotonU (middle left), Dr. James Pennebaker of UT Austin (middle right) talked about how to better educate a 21st century workforce with moderator Jason Schenker (far right) of Prestige Economics.



TBLC members Randy Best, Mark Brooker, Renard Johnson, and guests applauding Troxclair.



Guests, speakers, TBLC members, and lege during the post PS18 reception.



Audience members engaging with speakers during Q&A.

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On Tuesday, February 27th the TBLC held its 3rd Annual Policy Summit at the Stephen F. Austin InterContinental Hotel in Austin, Texas. The summit's agenda explored how changing demographics, technologies, and policies are setting the Lone Star State up for economic success through growth in productivity and this productivity will come in the form of systems automation. In order for Texans to keep up, students of all ages will need to "robot-proof" themselves through continuing education and skills training.

Policy Summit 2018 kicked off with a lunch featuring special remarks from Chairman Gay Gaddis who is currently on tour with her new book *Cowgirl Power: How to Kick Ass in Business and Life*. She discussed Texas grit and determination, leveraging her strengths and minimizing her weaknesses, and her challenges navigating the business of book sales. Keynote remarks were given by Austin City Council Member Ellen Troxclair who discussed which governing entities are best for job growth – state or local. The Council Member shed light on how Austin and other major Texas cities are pushing anti-business policies aimed to disincentivize economic growth. Most recently, Austin created an ordinance which mandates that employers within the city limits must provide paid sick leave to its employees, raising again the issue of state vs. local control.

After a brief break the group reconvened for a panel discussion titled, "The Future of Work: Automating Prosperity" featuring Bob Doyle with the Association for Advancing Automation, Mario Lozoya with Toyota, and Erik Nieves with PlusOne Robotics. Moderated by TBLC President Justin Yancy, the group discussed the realities of robots in the workplace as tools to assist the workforce, the need for skilled labor to work with emerging technology, and the lack of school resources and curriculum to better train the workforce. Robots will not be taking jobs, in fact, quite the contrary; the lack of a properly trained workforce will stifle employment.

We were then joined by Comptroller Glenn Hegar who sat down with TBLC member and Economist Jason Schenker to discuss Texas' changing industry demographics. The Comptroller has been visiting manufacturers this past winter and shared that their industry is growing and that the federal tax cuts helped to expand their business here in Texas. The Comptroller and Schenker also discussed why the Texas GSP is increasing in manufacturing while the percentage of Texas jobs in decreasing – one could surmise capital improvements in automation might have something to do with it – as well as growing opportunities in the labor market, especially for those who are in business services and the medical field.

Finally, our last panel of the day titled, "Educating a 21st Century Workforce for the Jobs of Tomorrow" tied a bow on the day's proceedings with a hopeful message that education and skills development is the secret for long-term success. Panelists included Dr. David Gardner of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; TBLC Member and Co-founder of PelotonU, Rex Gore; and Dr. James Pennebaker of the University of Texas at Austin. Moderated by Jason Schenker, the group discussed innovations in learning and the teaching of college level courses. So much can be done online now that the college of the future may have more of an "on-demand" component rather than the regimental schedule students are accustomed to today. Lifelong learning was also emphasized to keep employees' skills sharp and dynamic.

Policy Summit 2018 closed with a reception attended by Texas State Senator Dawn Buckingham and Texas State Representative Paul Workman. The event had 110 attendees total and included just over one-third of the TBLC's members.

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Policy Summit 2017 kicked off with a legislative reception hosted by TBLC Chairman & T3 CEO, Gay Gaddis.



TBLC Member & Denim Group Principal, John Dickson briefs legislators, staff and TBLC members on cyber security.



Rep. Gonzales & Rep. Capriglione joined the briefing. Rep. Capriglione plans to file a cyber "omnibus" bill this session.



Rep. Bohac & Chairman Gaddis listen to thoughts from former Texas Chief Information Security Officer, Edward Block.



TBLC Chairman, Gay Gaddis, introduces keynote luncheon speakers Dr. Candace Kendle & Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick.



Dr. Candace Kendle, Founder of ReadAloud.org, speaking on the importance of early childhood literacy in the classroom.



TBLC members, legislators, legislative staff, Texas business leaders and stakeholders packed the room for Texas Lt. Governor Dan Patrick's Keynote on school choice.



Lt. Governor Dan Patrick engages the audience during his address.



Guests mingle during a break after lunch. Policy Summit 2017 sold out with 150 guests participating in two days worth of legislative briefings, keynotes, panels and receptions.



Capitol Press Corps wrapping up coverage of lunch.



Ed Choice panel intro by TBLC's Mayes Middleton.



Senate Education Committee Chairman, Larry Taylor discussing school choice tools.



Austin Chamber VP Dana Harris introduces House Economic & Small Business Committee Chairman, Angie Chen Button.



Catherine Morse of Samsung & Dale Craymer of TTARA discuss economic incentives and their role in Texas job creation.



Sen. Bob Hall addressing the panelists during the question and answer portion of the Economic Incentives Panel.



Texas Workforce Chairman Andres Alcantar & Superintendent HD Chambers of Alief ISD discuss skill attainment.



John Fitzpatrick of Educate Texas, speaking on preparing young Texans for life after the classroom.



TBLC Member Rich Gergasko, President & CEO of Texas Mutual Insurance, chats with guests at post event reception.



Policy Summit 2017 guests, sponsors, speakers, and TBLC members gather to socialize during one of the intermissions.



Rep. Ron Simmons stops to chat with TBLC Treasurer and General Counsel, Colleen McHugh.

Policy Summit 2017 was a smashing success and grew to include two additional events; a pre-summit reception on the evening of February 8th and a legislative briefing on cyber security over breakfast on the morning of February 9th. In Addition to increased programming, the event saw another sold out crowd with 150 TBLC members, stakeholders, reporters, legislators, and their staffs - a 17% increase in attendance over 2016.

TBLC Chairman Gay Gaddis with her husband Lee hosted several TBLC members and legislative members at their home, overlooking the Texas State Capitol, on the evening of February 8th, 2017. A quick walk from the west entrance of the Capitol, several legislative members stopped in to mingle with our TBLC members, including: Rep. Carol Alvarado, Chairman of the Urban Affairs Committee; Rep. Cecil Bell; Rep. Giovanni Capriglione; Rep. Travis Clardy; Rep. Craig Goldman; Rep. Jim Murphy, Special Purpose Districts Committee Chairman; Rep. Ron Simmons, Rep. Lynn Stucky, and Rep. Gary VanDeaver.

First thing Thursday morning, February 9th, TBLC Cyber Security Task Force Chairman John Dickson hosted a roundtable legislative briefing to discuss the TBLC's cyber security recommendations. Released just prior to the opening of the 85th Legislative Session, the recommendations include common sense, no-cost, and low-cost measures aimed to keep Texan's private data safe. Rep. Giovanni Capriglione, Rep. Larry Gonzales, and Rep. Dwayne Bohac helped the group gain a better understanding of the timeline for filing the legislation and the specific educational efforts that are needed to shore up support.

After a break, we transitioned to the main event featuring Texas Lt. Governor Dan Patrick with special guest Dr. Candace Kendle of the *Read Aloud 15 Minutes* campaign. Dr. Kendle discussed early childhood learning as well as the importance and advantages of reading aloud to our kids. Lt. Governor Patrick discussed increasing educational opportunities for young Texans. The Texas Tribune produced an article on his speech that ultimately generated a buzz on Twitter for the event. In total, four reporters covered the event for the Texas Tribune, Quorum Report, and *The Business Journals*. Lt. Governor Patrick also recorded a short video praising the TBLC's work on school choice. The clip is featured on the Texas Lt. Governor's official state YouTube channel. Legislators in the audience included Sen. Bob Hall and Rep. Gary VanDeaver.

Following lunch, guests broke into panel discussions beginning with "Educational Choice: A Critical Component to Success." The panel, moderated by TBLC's Mayes Middleton, featured Sen. Larry Taylor, Chairman of the Senate Education Committee; Rep. Ron Simmons; and Adam Peshek, policy director at ExcelinEd. The panel discussed Education Savings Accounts - particularly how the program will help those with special needs - and the feasibility for more school choice in Texas.

Our next panel, "Economic Incentives: Has Texas Seen a Return on Investment?" focused on the issue of economic development and generated some lively Q&A. Moderated by Dana Harris of the Austin Chamber of Commerce, the panel discussed the merits of having a statewide incentive program, explained why incentives are necessary when competing with other states, and shared site selection figures which have been including Texas cities less frequently. The panel featured Rep. Angie Chen Button, Chairman of the Economic and Small Business Development Committee; as well as Dale Craymer, President of Texas Taxpayers and Research Association; and Catherine Morse, General Counsel and Senior Director for Public Affairs at Samsung Austin Semiconductor.

Our final panel of the day, "Work in Texas: From Classroom to Career" discussed educational attainment and workforce issues facing the Lone Star State. Featuring Chairman of the Texas Workforce Commission Andres Alcantar, Alief ISD Superintendent HD Chambers, and John Fitzpatrick, Executive Director of Educate Texas, the panel discussed what needs to be done to put our young Texans on par with their student peers in other states and countries. Woody Hunt, Chairman of the TBLC's Education Task Force moderated the panel.

As our day came to a close, we capped the evening off with a post-event reception, thanking our sponsors, TBLC members, and stakeholders for their support on the issues that keep Texas globally competitive.



Breakfast with TEA Commissioner Morath.



Senator Royce West (center) was just one of many state officials in attendance.



Dr. James Lanich discussing ERP and K-12 education.



TBLC member, Joel Allison during Q&A.



Welcome to Policy Summit 2016!



John Dickson (center right) kicked off the first panel discussion on cybersecurity featuring guest speakers, Rep. Larry Gonzales (left), Mike Wyatt of Deloitte (center left), and Jesse Rivera from TCPA (right).



Ross Ramsey (center) moderated as seasoned campaign veterans Ted Delisi (right) and Harold Cook (left) discussed their predictions for the outcome of the primary election.



Higher Ed panelists Dr. William Serrata (left), Bobby Jenkins (center left) and Rep. John Zerwas (center right) with Woody Hunt (right) as moderator, on how Texas can obtain greater post-secondary attainment.



The ESA panel closed the day with Randan Steinhauser (center left) moderating as Fred Klipsch (left), Stacy Hock (center right), and Jennifer Allmon (right) discussed educational funding.



Senator Paul Workman with TBLC President, Justin Yancy.



TBLC Treasurer Colleen McHugh talks with TBLC Member Al Jones.



Rep. Tony Dale (center) discussing policy with guests before lunch.



TBLC Chairman Gay Gaddis during Q&A.



TBLC Member Rex Gore conversing with guest during a break in the program.



TBLC Vice Chair Charlie Amato with some of his SWBC staff.



The Hon. Kent Grusendorf (left) with Dr. Vance Ginn (center left), Evan Bæhr (center), and Stacy Hock (right).

On February 29, 2016 the Texas Business Leadership Council hosted its annual conference, *Policy Summit 2016* at the Four Seasons Hotel in Austin, Texas. This year, *Policy Summit* took on a slightly different agenda and diversified its program to focus on a wide array of issues including K-12 education and school choice, cybersecurity, the Texas primary election, and higher education. The event sold out at 124 attendees which included TBLC Members, issue stakeholders, legislative staff, and several legislators including Senator Royce West, Representative Tony Dale, Representative Paul Workman, Representative Larry Gonzales, Representative Justin Rodriguez, and Representative John Zerwas.

After brief welcome remarks by TBLC Chairman Gay Gaddis, John Fitzpatrick of Educate Texas introduced our breakfast keynote Mike Morath, Commissioner of the Texas Education Agency. Commissioner Morath was appointed by Governor Greg Abbott to manage the agency and oversee its \$25 billion dollar budget, 5.23 million students, 342,000 teachers, and 1,219 independent school districts and charters. Commissioner Morath, who is a Dallas tech entrepreneur and former DISD school board chairman, is hoping to inject that entrepreneurial spirit he was known for in the private sector and at DISD into the TEA to create a more fruitful and cost effective learning experience for our young Texans.

Following breakfast, TBLC Member John Dickson of Denim Group hosted our first panel on Cybersecurity - *Is the State Ready for the Inevitable Attack?* Panelists included Texas State Representative Larry Gonzales; Jesse Rivera, Chief Information Security Officer for the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts; and Mike Wyatt, Cyber Risk Services Leader for State Government at Deloitte. The panel discussed the eminent threats to the public, if Texas is safe, and what we can do to further secure our public sector networks. It was an eye-opening reality check for most everyone in the room, including our guests from the legislature.

As we moved into lunch, Chairman Gaddis called the meeting to order and introduced our panel of Texas political pundits to present our next panel, *Super Tuesday in Texas*. Ross Ramsey of the Texas Tribune moderated the discussion between seasoned campaign veterans Ted Delisi of Delisi Communications and Harold Cook of Harold Cook and Associates as they walked the audience through their predictions for how the primary election in Texas might shake out - from the White House to the State House. The event was covered by Austin's local ABC affiliate, KVUE and featured on the evening news.

Our afternoon discussions began with TBLC Member Woody Hunt of Hunt Companies moderating the panel *Can We Reach 60% by '30?* A discussion about Texas' new higher education plan. The panel discussed the barriers to higher education and what can be done to break those down without affecting the quality of a post-secondary degree. Panelists included El Paso Community College President, Dr. William Serrata; Chairman of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and fellow TBLC Member, Bobby Jenkins; and Representative John Zerwas, Chairman of the House Higher Education Committee.

A briefing by Dr. James Lanich from Education Results Partnership followed the higher education panel. Dr. Lanich and his company have the largest, longitudinally connected education database in the country and are working with states to identify exceptional public schools in the hopes of inspiring low performing schools to do better. Dr. Lanich began his work in California and saw positive results, he now hopes to help Texas schools do the same.

Wrapping up the day, we closed with a panel on educational savings accounts - *Investing in Success*. This panel discussed the possibility of tying school funding to the child - rather than the child's closest school - so that educational choices were with left to the student and parents who can choose where to spend the state funds on the educational curriculum best suited for the child. Moderated by Randan Steinhauser of the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, other panelists included Stacy Hock of the Joel and Stacy Hock Charitable Fund, Indiana businessman and education activist Fred Klipsch of Klipsch LLP, and Jennifer Carr Allmon of the Texas Catholic Conference. As a result of this panel, news on Texas' looming fight for education reform appeared online in the Quorum Report and *Houston Chronicle*.

A reception capped off the day as TBLC Members mingled with legislative staff, speakers, stakeholders, and each other.

