

Brazos Valley Teach: Annual Newsletter



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What is BVTeach?

The **Brazos Valley Teach (BVTeach) Program** is a pre-apprenticeship / education and training academy for high school students. Founded in 2020 and funded by the Greater Texas Foundation, high schoolers participate in career and technical education (CTE), specifically education and training classes with a dual credit option. Students who successfully complete the courses earn a public service endorsement and/or educational aide certificate, and participate in practicum-based teaching experiences.

As a grow-your-own teaching program, BVTeach provides the **guidance, resources, and support** that high school students need to start college and careers in education as teachers, coaches, and early childhood educators.

BVTeach Leadership



Grant Writer, Co-Executive Director, + Principal Investigator

Dr. Valerie Hill-Jackson

Assistant Professor -
Educational Administration and
Human Resources Development
Texas A&M University



Co-Executive Director

Mrs. Amy Jurica

Program Manager - Outreach
College of Education and
Human Development
Texas A&M University



Co-Executive Director

Dr. Janice Meyer

Director of Continuing and
Professional Education
Economic Development and
Community Impact
Texas A&M University

BVTeach Events & Activities

September 2023

Caldwell HS Recruitment Presentation: 9.7.23

BVTeach went to Caldwell High School and recruited 33 students into our program!

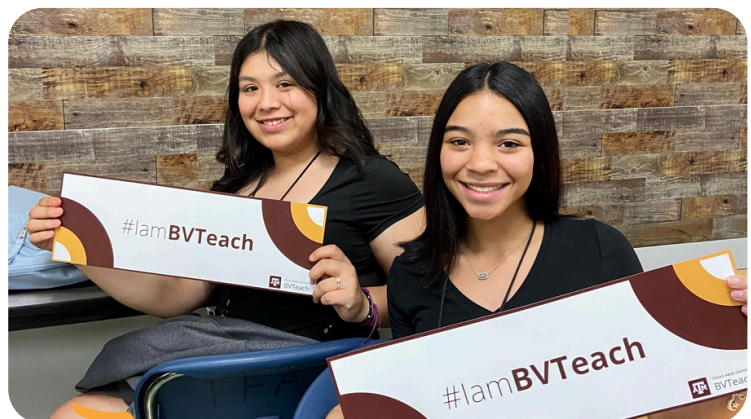


Bryan HS Recruitment Presentation: 9.8.23

BVTeach went to Bryan High School and recruited 36 students into our program!

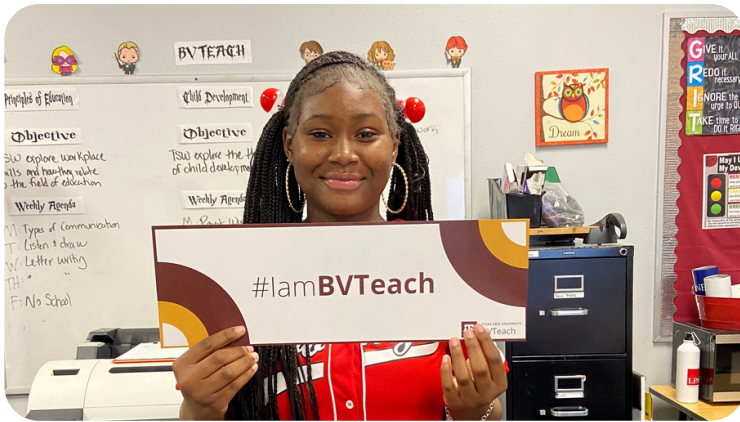
Rudder HS Recruitment Presentation: 9.8.23

BVTeach went to Rudder High School and recruited 23 students into our program!



BVTeach Events & Activities

September 2023 Continued...

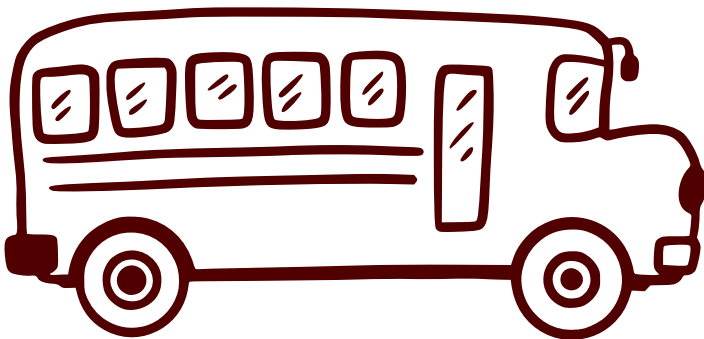


Hearne HS Recruitment Presentation: 9.14.23

BVTeach went to Hearne High School and recruited 12 students into our program!

Brenham HS Recruitment Presentation: 9.28.23

BVTeach went to Brenham High School and recruited 32 students into our program!



BVTeach Events & Activities

October 2023

Youth to Career Fair:

10.11.23

BVTeach's Graduate Assistant, Briana Cooper, connected with 8th graders in the Brazos Valley about joining our program in high school and becoming an educator!



BVTeach's table set-up at the Youth to Career Fair.

ATM | Brazos Valley Teach

College-Planning Night: 10.27.23

BVTeach partnered with GEAR UP to host our first College-Planning Night for high school students in the Brazos Valley! Students and families were able to walk away with dinner, door prizes, SWAG bags, and resources on how to plan for college. A special thank you to GEAR UP, Bryan ISD, the Texas A&M University and Blinn College advisors, and of course, our families for coming out to support our event!



BVTeach Events & Activities

November 2023

TAFE Area 5 Conference 11.13.23

BVTeach students from Brenham, Bryan, and Caldwell High Schools competed in the TAFE Area 5 Conference at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. Several BVTeach students placed, including 9 from Brenham High School, and 4 from Caldwell High School! WHOOP!



BVTeach Events & Activities

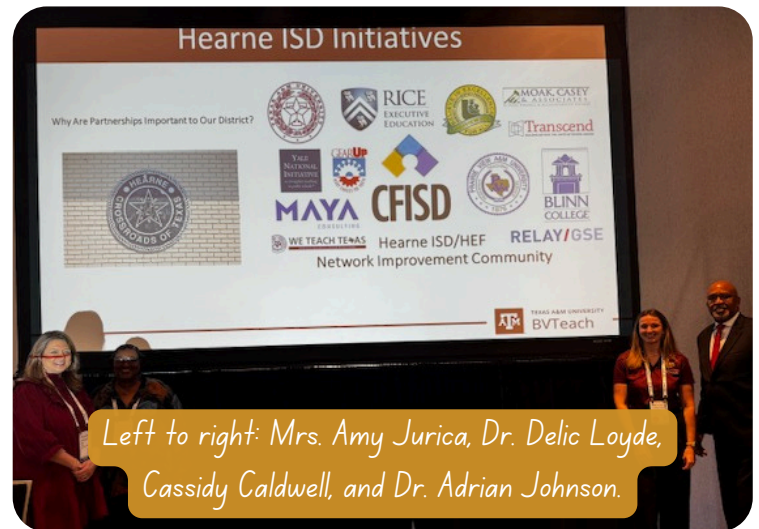
January 2024

Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) Midwinter Conference Presentation: 1.31.24

BVTeach partnered with Hearne ISD to present at the TASA Midwinter Conference in Austin, Texas. The presentation titled, *Growing Them Early: Brazos Valley Teach as a CTE-Connected / GYO Teaching and Training Pathway*, allowed attendees to (1) review teaching and training courses as a teacher career pathway, (2) examine Brazos Valley Teach's 8-component GYO high school academy model for developing an education and training career pathway, and (3) understand why developing long-term teacher recruitment strategies among school-university partnerships matter.



Dr. Matthew Etchells (left) with Program Aide, Cassidy Caldwell (right), at the TASA presentation.



Left to right: Mrs. Amy Jurica, Dr. Delic Loyde, Cassidy Caldwell, and Dr. Adrian Johnson.

BVTeach Events & Activities

February 2024



Left to right: Graduate Assistant, Yetunde Fawehinmi, and BVT student workers, Alex Stevens and Paige Brown.

HYPE Event: 2.27.24

BVTeach attended the HYPE Event and connected with over 100 students across 11 districts about the BVTeach program!

TAFE Teach Tomorrow Summit: 2.28.24-3.1.24

BVTeach students from Brenham, Bryan, and Caldwell ISDs attended the TAFE State Competition at the Kalahari Resort in Round Rock, Texas! Bryan High School students, along with their teacher, Mrs. Maria Besa, volunteered to work at the competition, while two students, Alison Krueger and Kate Smith from Caldwell ISD, placed in the competition to go on to nationals!



Brenham High School



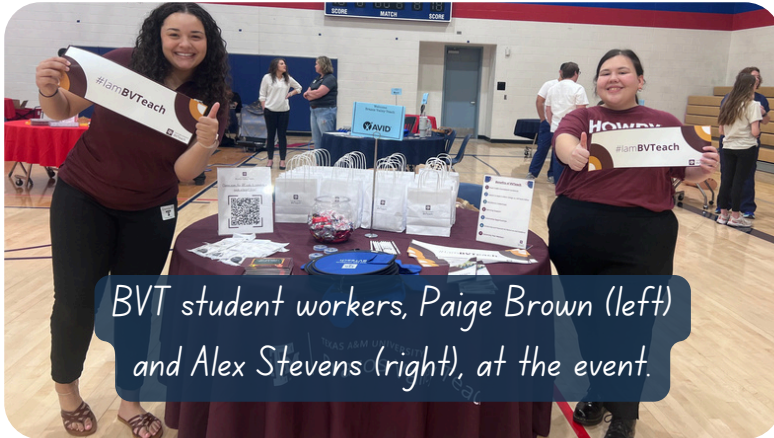
Bryan High School



Caldwell High School

BVTeach Events & Activities

March 2024



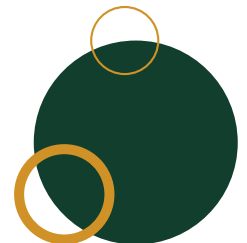
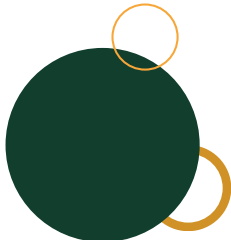
BVT student workers, Paige Brown (left) and Alex Stevens (right), at the event.

Davila Middle School
Avid Career Fair: 3.7.24

BVTeach attended the Davila Middle School Avid Career Fair and talked with 50-100 middle school students about joining the BVTeach program in high school!

BVTeach Student Campus Visit: 3.5.24

Brazos Valley Teach had a wonderful time hosting our second annual Campus Visit of high schools in the Brazos Valley to Texas A&M University! This year, we ramped up the experience with an even deeper dive into educational career paths, featuring presentations on coaching, early childhood education, educational research, and bilingual education. We also heard about more ways to be involved in the education pathway while in high school, such as by joining TAFE or by participating in summer externships provided by the BVTeach Program in partnership with Workforce Solutions! Exploring the campus, engaging with a panel of current education students, visiting education classrooms, and having lunch at Duncan Dining Hall was an unforgettable experience!



BVTeach Events & Activities

March 2024 Continued...

BVTeach Student Campus Visit: 3.5.24



BVTeach Events & Activities

May 2024

BVTeach Student Check-In Survey Giveaway: 5.1.24-5.17.24

Attention BVTeach Students, Here's Your Chance to Win a \$25 Chick-Fil-A Gift Card!

Got 5 minutes? Complete the BVTeach survey sent to your email by **May 15th** for your chance to win a **\$25 Chick-Fil-A** gift card! Your feedback will help us improve the program.

The 4 winners will be announced on Instagram by 5 pm on May 17th!

Congratulations!

TO THE CHICK-FIL-A GIFT CARD GIVEAWAY WINNERS

BRENHAM ISD: ZOE Z.

BRYAN ISD: DAVID W.

CALDWELL ISD: KATE S.

HEARNE ISD: FERNANDA G.

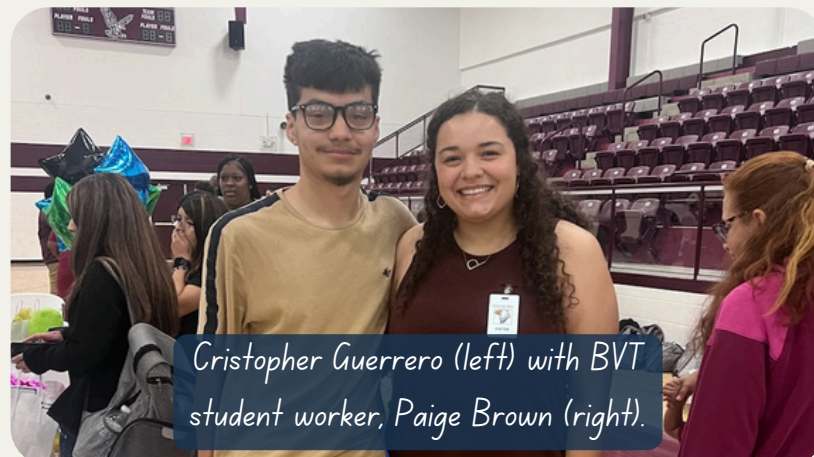
THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE SPRING 2024 BVTEACH STUDENT CHECK-IN SURVEY.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
BVTeach

BVT students were given a survey on how to improve our program. Once completed, they were entered in a drawing for a gift card, courtesy of BVT. Congratulations to our 4 winners!

Hearne High School Senior Decision Day: 5.8.24

BVTeach was honored to sponsor Hearne ISD senior, Cristopher Guerrero, during the Hearne High School Senior Decision Day. To support him as he embarks on his academic journey to Kettering University in Michigan, our team prepared a special gift basket for his college dorm. Congratulations, Cristopher! BVT extends its best wishes for your continued success in all your future endeavors.




Cristopher Guerrero (left) with BVT student worker, Paige Brown (right).

BVTeach Events & Activities


May 2024 Continued...

BVTeach Textbook 'Merit' Scholarship

Through the generous support of Mrs. Nelda Calhoun, a retired teacher from Hearne ISD, BVTeach was able to support graduating participants with a \$250 textbook scholarship again this year!




BVTeach Textbook 'Merit' Scholarship Recipients: Caldwell ISD




| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Keavy Hardy | Sierra Phillips | Holdyn Novosad | Emily Garza |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|

5.6.24




BVTeach Textbook 'Merit' Scholarship Recipients: Brenham ISD




| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Blake Robinson | Lizbeth Castellanos Solorio |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|

5.13.24





BVTeach Textbook 'Merit' Scholarship Recipient: Bryan ISD- Rudder HS




Valerie Ramos

5.20.24

BVTeach Textbook 'Merit' Scholarship Recipient: Hearne ISD Alumni- Now TAMU Student



Denice Esqueda Acero

5.23.24

BVTeach Events & Activities

July 2024

TAFE Teacher Leader Workshop: 7.15.24-7.16.24

BVTeach’s Program Coordinator, Layla Rushing, as well as BVT Teacher Leader, Mrs. Maria Besa, attended the 2024 TAFE Teacher Leader Workshop in Dallas, TX! At the workshop, BVTeach gave out a Teacher Leader Survey and once completed, teachers were able to customize their own SWAG bags! BVTeach is a proud supporter of TAFE, and honored to be partnered with the TAFE program.



Texas Association of Future Educators (TAFE)

Fall 2023 - Spring 2024

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
BVTeach**

Congrats!

To the TAFE students who competed and placed in the Area, State, and National competition!

EDUCATORS RISING
serving our community

National: **Alison Krueger & Kate Smith**
Caldwell High School

TEACH TOMORROW SUMMIT

State:

- Brenham HS: Kaylin Bogan, Rosa Jimenez, Magali Silva, Natalie Montes, Isabella Clover, Brianna Cooper, Lizbeth Castellanos Solorio, Emily Fonseca, Lizzyanna Pham
- Caldwell HS: Alison Krueger, Kate Smith, Holdyn Novosad, Keavy Hardy

**The Hope for Tomorrow
TAFE**

Area:

- Brenham HS: Lillie Lehrmann, Kaylin Bogan, Rosa Jimenez, Magali Silva, Natalie Montes, Isabella Clover, Lilly Baker, Leondro Mari Hernandez, Brianna Cooper, Lizbeth Castellanos Solorio, Emily Fonseca, Lizzyanna Pham
- Caldwell HS: Alison Kruger, Sofia Alcocer, Kimberly Vargas, Isabel Lazo, Kate Smith, Kamryn Gomez, Kaylee McAllister-Crump, Aaron Orona-Valle, Jade Dodson, Holdyn Novosad, Keavy Hardy
- Bryan HS: Zaveriana Peterson and l'Derianna Wallace

TAFE is a state-wide student organization that is affiliated with the national organization, Educators Rising. 13 BVTeach students participated in the regional and state competitions this past year and received awards. Two students from Caldwell ISD have been selected to go to the national competition by Educators Rising in Washington D.C. (June 28 – July 1, 2024).

Texas Association of Future Educators (TAFE)

Fall 2024-Spring 2025

*If a Teacher Leader wants to attend any upcoming events,
BVT is happy to provide support!*

HERE ARE SOME UPCOMING TAFE WORKSHOP DATES FOR 2024-2025:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|--|
| 7.15 - 7.16.24 | TAFE Teacher Leader Workshop - Hilton Anatole, Dallas. | 1.20.25 | Registering for Competitive Events Times Open. |
| 8.31.24 | Deadline to pay TAFE State Chapter Affiliation Fee. | 1.24.25 | Registering for Competitive Events Times Closes at 5:00 PM CST. |
| 9.30.24 | Registration for Area Conferences and Competitions Opens. | Late Jan. | Capitol Leadership- Austin, TX. |
| 10.14.24 | Registration for Area Conferences and Competitions Closes @ 5:00 PM CST. | 1.31.25 | Teach Tomorrow Summit Early Bird Registration Fees Due. |
| 11.1.24 | Deadline to pay TAFE Member Affiliation Fees. | 2.17 - 2.19.25 | TAFE Teach Tomorrow Summit. |
| Nov-Dec. | Area Conferences | 4.1.25 | Educators Rising Competition Application and Early Bird Registration Closes. |
| 12.9.24 | Teach Tomorrow Summit registration opens. | 5.1.25 | 2025 - 2026 Chapter Affiliation Opens |
| 1.13.25 | Applications to run for State Officer and Board of Directors posted by 5:00 PM CST. | May TBD | Local, Area, and State Officer Training Workshop - Highland Lakes Camp and Conference Center |
| 1.17.25 | Deadline for registering for TAFE Teach Tomorrow Summit & Deadline for uploading lesson plans, position papers, and video links for competitive events by 5:00 PM CST. | 6.26 - 6.29.25 | Educators Rising National Conference - Rosen Shingle Creek, Orlando, FL |

Rudder High School Spotlight

Fall 2023-Spring 2024



SkillsUSA

BVTeach student, Abigail Castillo (center), along with her teammates, competed in the SkillsUSA district competition in the fall of 2023 and placed 2nd with their Community Service Project!



Left to right: Asael Paniagua, Abigail Castillo, and Jeffrey Jones, with their 2nd place medals for their SkillsUSA Community Service Project.



Left to right: Abigail Castillo, Valerie Ramos, and Sarita Rios Osornio with their 1st place certificates from the Business Proposal Competition.

Business Proposal Competition

BVTeach students, Abigail Castillo, Valerie Ramos, and Sarita Rios Osornio, competed in the Business Proposal Competition in the spring of 2023 at Texas A&M Mays Business School and won first place with their SAV Mobile Tutoring App!

Student Helper

During this past year, BVTeach student, Jose Fuentes, worked as a student helper at Mitchell Elementary School during his Instructional Practices course. Fuentes went above and beyond and wrote a book with the names of his students, and read it to them afterward!



Jose Fuentes, reading the book he created with his students' names, at Mitchell Elementary School.

Peer Mentor Visits

Spring 2024

In the spring of 2024, BVTeach hired two student workers, Paige Brown and Alex Stevens, to work as peer mentors for their assigned BVT campuses. The goal of these mentorships was to provide support to both their teachers and students, particularly seniors. With the help of these peer mentors, BVTeach was able to work one-on-one with seniors to get them college ready by helping them complete necessary applications, and career ready by working with them to receive their workforce credentials earned through their education and training coursework.

Brenham HS

At Brenham HS, Paige Brown assisted her senior BVT students by helping them complete their FAFSA, fill out college applications, and obtain their workforce credentials. Brown also helped her BVTeacher, Mrs. Kaldis, by creating Instructional Practices lesson plans, and grading them as well.



Paige Brown (center), with her BVTeach students and BVTeacher, Mrs. Kaldis, at Brenham HS.



BVTeach students with program coordinator, Layla Rushing, and peer mentor, Alex Stevens, at Bryan HS.

Bryan HS

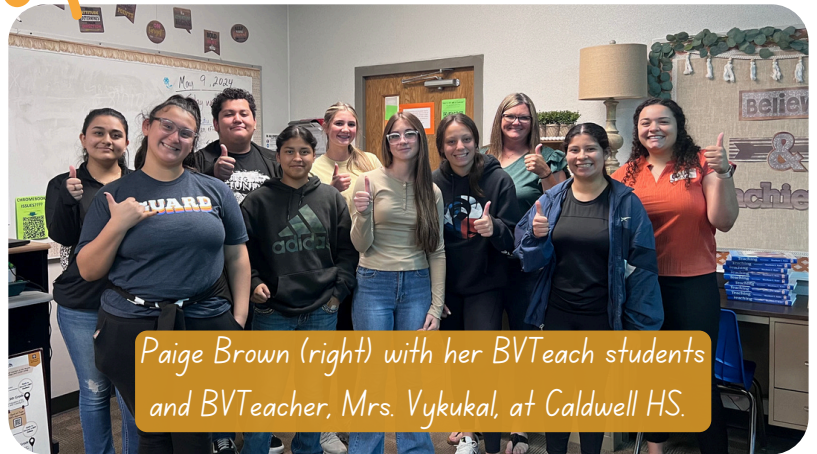
At Bryan HS, Alex Stevens assisted BVTeach seniors by meeting one-on-one with them to answer their questions about college life, while also prepping them to receive their workforce credentials. Stevens also helped her BVTeacher, Mrs. Besa, by aiding her during her education and training classes.

Peer Mentor Visits Continued...

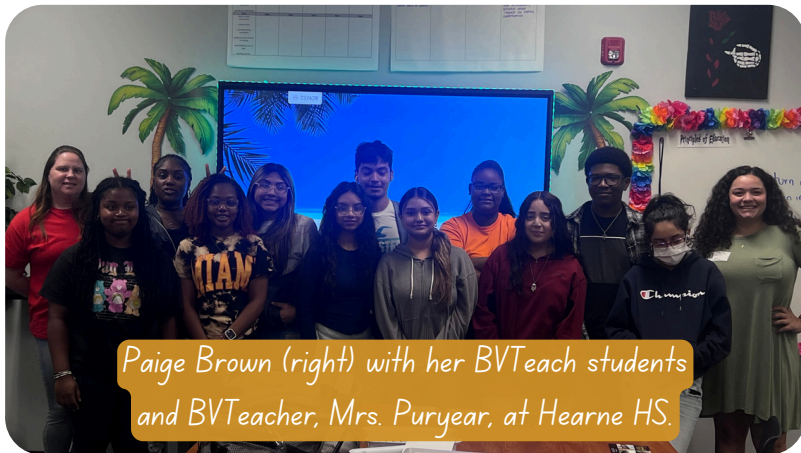
Spring 2024

Caldwell HS

At Caldwell HS, Paige Brown assisted her senior BVT students by aiding them in completing their FAFSA applications, answering their college questions, and helping her BVTeacher, Mrs. Vykukal, create lesson plans.



Paige Brown (right) with her BVTeach students and BVTeacher, Mrs. Vykukal, at Caldwell HS.



Paige Brown (right) with her BVTeach students and BVTeacher, Mrs. Puryear, at Hearne HS.

Hearne HS

At Hearne HS, Paige Brown assisted her senior BVT students by helping them in completing their FAFSA and college applications, making gift registries, and providing her BVTeacher, Mrs. Puryear, with lesson plans for her education and training courses.

Rudder HS

At Rudder HS, Alex Stevens assisted BVTeach seniors by meeting one-on-one with them to answer their questions about college life, while also prepping them to receive their workforce credentials. Stevens also helped her BVTeacher, Mrs. Hendrix, by aiding her during her education and training classes.



Layla Rushing (center), with BVTeach students at Rudder High School.

Workforce Credentials

Spring/Summer 2024

Public Service Endorsement & Educational Aide I Certification:

During the spring and summer of 2024, BVTeach was able to support the process of obtaining workforce credentials for 13 of it's BVT students and counting! These workforce credentials look great on a resume, helping our BVTeach students in their aspiring careers!

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS: EARN A WORKFORCE CREDENTIAL WITH THE PUBLIC SERVICE ENDORSEMENT!

Have you:

- > Taken two or more CTE teaching/education and training classes at your high school?
- > Passed the classes with at least a 70?

If the answer is YES to both questions, you might qualify to add the **Public Service Endorsement** to your high school transcript! Talk to your counselor to learn more.

Scan me to learn more!

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS: EARN A WORKFORCE CREDENTIAL WITH THE EDUCATIONAL AIDE I CERTIFICATION!

Are you:

- > Working with or have experience working with children?
- > 18 years or older?
- > A graduating senior?
- > Finished the required teaching/education and training courses in good standing?

If you answered YES to all these questions, you might qualify to receive the **Educational Aide I Certification!** Talk to your counselor to learn more.

Scan me to learn more!

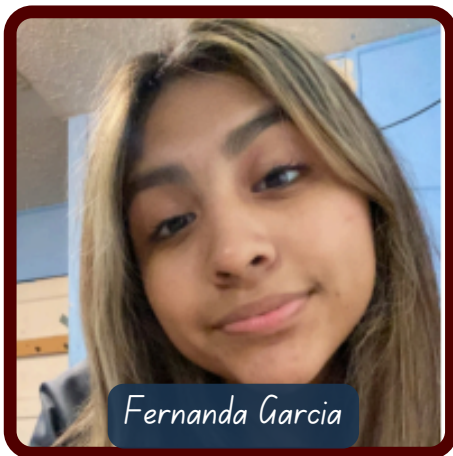


Externships

Summer 2024



Hearne ISD, one of BVTeach's partner school districts, created a Nurturing Educators for Student Triumph (N.E.S.T.) Program, in which their vision is to provide a career path for Hearne ISD students to become Hearne ISD teachers. One element of this program is externships, where two of our BVTeach students, Fernanda Garcia and Kiyana Cooks, were able to intern at Hearne Elementary for three to four weeks this past summer and engage in various projects relevant to their fields of study. The following quotes come from the students' externship projects detailing their roles, responsibilities, and key learnings from their respective externships.



"I feel that the school system makes most kids think that they need to only be at schools to learn and pass their classes, but it is so much more than that. Once I had gotten closer to each child that I was helping, they really liked talking with me. They wouldn't feel ashamed or embarrassed to tell me their stories. I was glad that I made them feel safe enough to confide in me."



"I love helping the teachers, even if it's just a little bit, I enjoy every bit of it. Helping the teachers gave me a sense of comfort knowing that that can be me in the future just in case nursing does not work out for me. It's fun being a teacher helper."

BVTeach Awards

Jane Stallings Student Service Award: 5.3.24

BVTeach’s program coordinator, Layla Rushing, received the Jane Stallings Student Service Award in the Spring of 2024 after being nominated by Dr. Hill-Jackson, grant writer and co-executive director of BVTeach, and Cassidy Caldwell, BVTeach’s Program Aide. The award recognizes outstanding senior education undergraduate students who have demonstrated exceptional service and commitment to the teaching profession.



Dr. Michael De Miranda, Dean of the College of Education and Human Development, presenting the award to Layla Rushing.



Layla Rushing (left) with award nominator and BVTeach Program Aide, Cassidy Caldwell (right).



Careers in Teaching and Training

2-year Degree

- *Paraprofessional*
- *Teaching Assistant*

4-year Degree

- *Early Childhood Educator*
- *Pre-K Teacher*
- *K-12 Teacher*
- *Coach*

5+ year Degree

- *Counselor*
- *Principal*
- *Speech Pathologist*
- *Audiologist*



goTeach: BVTeach's Podcast Series



Podcast Episodes

Episode 1: Andrew Peters
Former Caldwell ISD Superintendent

Hosted by Dr. Val Hill-Jackson, BVTeach PI & Co-Executive Director

School-University Partnerships and the Impact on the Teaching Profession

Episode 2: Amy Jones
Blinn Early Childhood Education Coordinator

Hosted by Dr. Val Hill-Jackson, BVTeach PI & Co-Executive Director

Community College— The Bridge to Higher Education

Episode 3: Ashley Zboril & Sheila Homeyer,
Caldwell High School and Bryan Collegiate Counselors

Hosted by Dr. Janice Meyer, BVTeach Co-Executive Director

Guiding High School Students in a Teaching Career

Episode 4: Eric Watson
Associate Director of Recruitment

Hosted by Dr. Val Hill-Jackson, BVTeach PI & Co-Executive Director

Starting Your College Application Journey

Episode 5: Deann Lee
Regional Advocacy Director - East Texas

Hosted by Dr. Val Hill-Jackson, BVTeach PI & Co-Executive Director

The Importance of Hearing, and Empowering Teachers

Episode 6: Adriana Gasca & Emely Rivera
Texas A&M Student and Caldwell Student

Hosted by Amy Jurica, BVTeach Co-Executive Director

How the Brazos Valley Communities Can Grow Their Own Teachers

Episode 7: Monica Oliver
TAFE State Program Director

Hosted by Dr. Val Hill-Jackson, BVTeach PI & Co-Executive Director

Investing in Future Educators

Contact Us!



joinbvt.org



info@joinbvt.org



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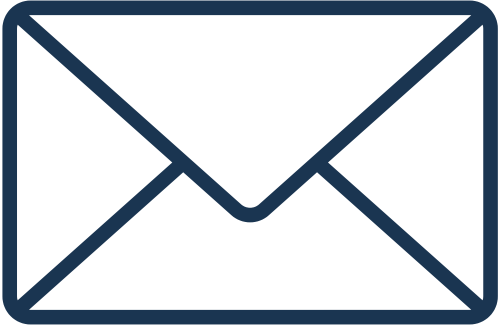


TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

BVTeach

***"The College and Career
Destination for Teaching
and Training."***

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