



Texas Beacons  
of Excellence

April, May & June 2024

### Upcoming Conferences

#### TX Parent-to-Parent

August 9-10

Click here for more  
information:

[txp2p.org/conference/](http://txp2p.org/conference/)

#### Texas Advocates

August 22-23

Click here for more  
information:

[texadvocates.org](http://texadvocates.org)

#### Texas APSE

October 20-23

Click here for more  
information: [txapse.org](http://txapse.org)

### Informative Links

#### Job Accommodation Network

[askjan.org](http://askjan.org)

### Community Engagement

Want to share your  
experience? Join our  
Advisory Board!

Contact Ryan Cole

[Ryan.Cole@unt.edu](mailto:Ryan.Cole@unt.edu)

Partnership Led by:



## Texas Beacons of Excellence in the Community

The TBE team is proud to continue our impactful work by fostering strong collaborations with our project partners and welcoming new participants into our programs. We are thrilled to support our participants on their journey toward competitive integrated employment.

### Amarillo ISD Collaboration: Expanding Resources and Opportunities

In Amarillo, our team has been actively engaging with participants in the community, assessing their strengths and areas for development. We have also been meeting with various stakeholders to strengthen our partnerships and create new opportunities and resources for our participants. TBE participants and their families have benefited from resources such as Social Security sessions and personalized one-on-one meetings. Additionally, the Panhandle Independent Living Center (PILC) has hosted YES! Camps, where participants explored topics ranging from college and employment to enhancing independent living skills.



*Jaxon taking a tour of Amarillo Iron Fist Studios with the studio director and the TBE/PILC team.*



**TBE Spotlight: Darius**

Darius, from U&I Spread the Light, celebrating after assisting the Marshall's Merchandise Coordinator break down and organize the day's shipment.



**TBE Spotlight: Francisco**

Francisco started his new role as a Shop Assistant at Joyce Flowers in Dallas, TX, on Friday, July 26th. In this position, he assists with receiving deliveries, stocking inventory, and preparing for special events in the event center.

**VCU Consultants Enhance Support for 14c Sites**

We are thrilled to announce that our consultants from Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) have made a productive visit to Texas. Their in-person technical assistance has been instrumental for our 14c sites, including U&I Spread the Light and Goodwill Dallas. Their expertise has been a valuable addition, offering additional staffing support to our Texas Beacons of Excellence (TBE) caseload.

**Goodwill Dallas Celebrates Community Employment Success**

We are proud to share that Goodwill Dallas has achieved significant milestones in community employment. Two individuals, Kevin Bush and Francisco Arias, have successfully transitioned from the sheltered workshop environment to community-based employment. They are currently receiving on-the-job support as they adjust to their new roles. Leadership at Goodwill Dallas is exceptionally pleased with their strong work ethic and positive contributions.

Stay tuned for more updates and success stories as we continue to make strides in our mission to provide exceptional support and create meaningful employment opportunities.



**TBE Spotlight: Kevin**

Kevin is a Store Associate at the Goodwill store located at West Moreland in Dallas. In this role, he is responsible for a variety of tasks, including assisting customers, managing inventory, restocking shelves, and maintaining store cleanliness.