

# TBA Academy

**Brian Merrill**

On Sunday afternoon at the convention—as directors listened to Honor Band recordings, attended clinics, and got reacquainted with colleagues from around the state—over 80 young teachers and directors new to Texas took part in the inaugural year of the TBA Academy.

The TBA Academy was an intensive, day-long session that “connects the dots” between university training and the expectations on the job. Topics included classroom management, discipline and motivation, legal issues facing band directors, communicating with administration, the role of TMEA, UIL and TEA, organizing the year, dealing with parents, booster clubs, proper money management, professionalism, and taking care of your personal health and finances.

Special thanks to the Academy’s “All-Star” faculty: Richard Floyd, Robert Floyd, Tom Waggoner, Rick Flores, Lynne Jackson, Charlotte Royall, Jim Rhodes, Holly Wardell, Barbara Lambrecht, Rick Ghinelli, Brad Kent, Jim McDaniel, Cody Myers, and Randy Vaughn. Additional thanks to Don Haynes, Paula Crider, Kenneth Griffin, Rick Yancey, Brian Merrill and Mike Brashear.

The TBA Academy will be back again for 2012. Everyone involved in the hiring of new teachers should encourage attendance to the Academy. Young directors who have been through this training are better prepared to assume the professional responsibilities of a music educator.

*“TBA Academy got me really pumped for the new school year. I loved listening to the advice of band directors who have been in the profession for many years. I could tell how much they truly love their jobs. One of the things that meant the most to me was a comment that was made several times throughout the academy. Directors expressed how much they wished that they were back in our shoes, just beginning a long but exciting and continuously rewarding journey as a band director. This made me realize that I should make the most of this time! TBA Academy reminded me how impactful it is to have mentors leading you in the right direction and how much I want to do this for my students.”*

—Anna Gulick, first year teacher, Richardson ISD

*“The TBA Academy is a great way to prepare young band directors. It provided me with wonderful resources including information on UIL rules and procedures, program budgeting, setting up an insurance policy, and understanding educational policies. I know that I started this year out right with the help of TBA’s Academy.”*

—Jana Donahoo, first year teacher, Sunnyvale ISD

## *Congratulations!*

### **TBA Honorees**

*The Texas Bandmasters Association Board of Directors recognized the following individuals for their commitment and dedication to music education at this year’s Convention/Clinic.*

Bandmaster of the Year - Vincent R. DiNino

Honorary Life Member - Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser

Meritorious Award - Kenneth Capshaw

Meritorious Award - Al Cortinas

Meritorious Award - Carol Nelson

Lifetime Administrator Achievement Award - Henry Schraub

Music Industry Award - Rick DeJonge

TBA Exemplary High School Bands:

Harlingen High School Band, Director Ronnie Rios

Grisham Middle School Band, Director Betty Bierschenk-Pierce