



**“Making the Most of Your Time in College to
Prepare for a Band Directing Career”**

**CLINICIAN:
Brian Merrill**

**Texas Bandmasters Association
2016 Convention/Clinic**

**JULY 21-24, 2016
HENRY B. GONZALEZ CONVENTION CENTER
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

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Band Directing Career”**

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Acknowledgements

**Sarah Allen, Lynne Jackson, Deborah Perkins, Julie Scott,
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The best prepared college students are recognized by certain traits:

1. *Strives to be a better musician.*
 - a. Excel at all things musical: theory, history, conducting, research, all genres
 - b. Know the literature.
 - c. Broaden your musical experiences.

2. *Strives to be an academic.*
 - a. Lifelong learner.
 - b. Learning for learning's sake. Curiosity.
 - c. Value assessment.
 - d. Evolve—be willing to change. “This is what I think today.”

3. *Thinks like a teacher.*
 - a. Student centered.
 - b. Value discipline.
 - c. A listener and observer of people.
 - d. Have a philosophy.

4. *Improves as a teacher.*
 - a. Pedagogy.
 - b. Classroom management
 - c. Musicianship.
 - d. Reading, writing, technology
 - e. Mentor

5. *Has professional habits*
 - a. Good communication skills.
 - b. Prompt.
 - c. Organized
 - d. Calm.
 - e. Active in professional organizations
 - f. Assumes leadership roles

The prepared college student is self-aware.

- Strengths and weaknesses.
- Emotional and physical effects.
- Success and failure.
- Perspective on the profession.