



**NOMINATION FOR
Regional Early Career Service Award
Epsilon Sigma Phi, Alpha Zeta Chapter – Texas**

Nominee's Name: Stacy D. Morris

Title: Extension Program Specialist II, V.G. Young Institute of Co. Government

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POSITION AND DATES OF EXTENSION EMPLOYMENT:

Extension Program Specialist II, V.G. Young Institute of County Government, September 2007-Present

Extension Program Specialist I, V.G. Young Institute of County Government, October 2003-August 2007

EDUCATION:

Master of Agriculture, Natural Resources Development, Texas A&M University, 2003

Bachelor of Science, Agricultural Development, Texas A&M University, 1999

OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Epsilon Sigma Phi State Early Career Award, 2007

Epsilon Sigma Phi, Alpha Zeta Chapter Director for Campus, 2007-2008

Texas Cooperative Extension Specialists Association, Chapter Director, 2006-Present

Texas Leadership Institute: Advisory Committee Member, 2002-Present

Society of Government Meeting Professionals (SGMP), Member, 2005-Present

Leadership Brazos: Class Member, 2006-2007

Certified Meeting Professional Designation

Texas County Treasurers Resource Guide, 2006

Articles included in the Texas County Progress magazine that has a circulation to 5,000 county officials

Duties of the Office of County Judge, 2004 and reprinted in 2007

Duties of the Office of County Commissioner, 2004 and reprinted in 2007

Duties of the Office of County Treasurer, 2004 and reprinted in 2007

Duties of the Office of District Clerk, 2004 and reprinted in 2007

Duties of the Office of County Clerk, 2004 and reprinted in 2007

Duties of the Office of Tax Assessor-Collector, 2004 and reprinted in 2007

OUTSTANDING PROGRAMMATIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The V.G. Young Institute of County Government offers continuing education programs for county judges and commissioners, county treasurers, county clerks and district clerks and county tax assessor-collectors. Each group of officeholders has their own specific educational needs; Stacy effectively tailors each program to fit the requirements of the specific audience. Held annually, these programs attract a large portion of county officials and are known for providing accurate, timely information from subject matter experts. Attendees earn accredited hours of continuing education that apply towards their mandated continuing education requirements. Stacy manages and organizes all details associated with developing and implementing these programs. Attendance at these seminars ranges from 260 to over 500 attendees.

Stacy serves as the lead faculty member in the development and delivery of all of the Institute's annual programs targeted to county officials. She is also responsible for the development and delivery of the New Treasurers' Orientation, held every four years. Stacy often represents the Institute at county officials' executive committee meetings, conferences and seminars. Since 2003, she has developed educational programs for over 8000 county officials resulting in the delivery of over 9300 CEUs.

Stacy's attentiveness to new legislation impacting county officials is a part of her job that she takes seriously. In 2006, new requirements for Open Government training were enacted for county officials. Stacy was quick to learn the rules for these requirements, secure subject matter experts and add the appropriate topics to our programs. Becky Groneman, Oldham County and District Clerk writes, "I have worked with Stacy, as Education Chair, for three years and feel I never have to worry if something new is happening with legislation, or major changes are taking place for clerks. At one planning meeting, Stacy told us about the Open Meetings, Public Hearing certifications that all elected officials needed to have. No one on the Education Committee, nor in our organization, knew about this certification. I was fortunate to take this information back to my county and share with all the elected officials."

Stacy's commitment to excellence is evident in the programmatic work she performs with the South Texas County Judges and Commissioners' Association. Stacy has worked with this group to streamline the planning and execution of their annual education conference. She worked with their officers to implement a request for proposal process for hotel bids, advises on contract negotiation, and assists with financial recordkeeping, a first for their organization. "Stacy's expertise and experience has resulted in some of the best evaluation remarks in recent memory, with 100% of those surveyed reporting they would recommend the conference to others. Stacy performs similar programmatic work for the West Texas County Judges and Commissioners' Association.

In 2005, Stacy worked with the Justice Court Judges Association (JCJA) to secure a \$200,000 grant to offer educational programs for justice court judges and clerks. The Institute served as the service provider for this grant. Working as the Project Director, Stacy was responsible for developing the grant budget, application, narrative and other exhibits. Stacy assisted the JCJA in structuring the 2005-2006 educational program agenda and was responsible for planning and delivery of the first training programs conducted with grant funds. Her expertise in county officials' educational needs proved resourceful as the Court of Criminal Appeals looked to Stacy for assistance in revising the Rules of Judicial Education for the State of Texas.

Stacy's knowledge and experience in leadership development has served her well in her position. In February 2007, she developed and facilitated orientation exercises at the New Treasurers' Orientation in College Station for approximately 70 new county treasurers. In March 2007 Stacy wrote and delivered a lecture on Transformational Leadership during a "Fridays Online" presentation to Extension faculty and staff. Content from her presentation has been utilized by training and development staff in Agriculture Program Human Resources to develop a supervisor training workshop. In April 2007, as a part of the Institute's most elite educational program, the Commissioners Court Leadership Academy, Stacy created and led a teambuilding exercise for Class II of the Academy. One Academy participant noted on his evaluation, "[the exercise] made us think and work together as a team."

As a fee-based program, the Institute relies heavily on seminar and conference residuals. Stacy's understanding of this factor is evident as she works to develop and implement cost saving strategies for the Institute. Through independent study, conferences and webinars, Stacy has enhanced her knowledge of vendor contracts and negotiation and is responsible for writing requests for proposals, collecting bids, and negotiating contracts for the Institute. Her abilities allow the Institute to gain complimentary amenities, avoid unfriendly clauses and save money. Stacy is also responsible for sponsorship recruitment for our annual seminars and conferences, averaging \$30,000 of in-kind or cash gifts annually.

SUPPORT STATEMENT:

Stacy's ability to relate to and work in tandem with a wide variety of personalities has built strong relationships for the Institute and Extension with an important clientele: Texas county officials. Her understanding of county government and adult education, coupled with her knowledge of the meeting planning industry and leadership development have made her an invaluable asset to our team. Her skill in organizing educational programs for the Institute's clientele is unmatched. Stacy is very deserving of the Epsilon Sigma Phi Early Career Service Award.