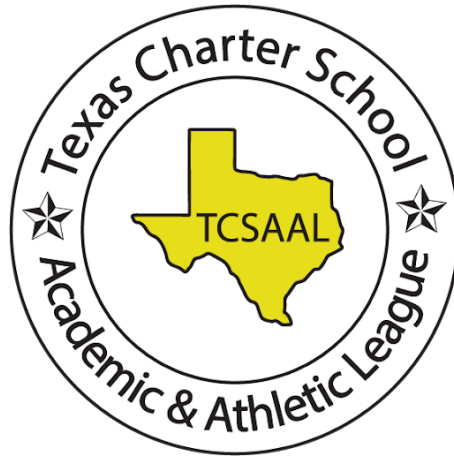




Texas Charter School Academic & Athletic League

15th Annual Coaches Conference

Texas State Capitol - Austin, TX

August 20 & 21, 2026

Conference Program



Conference Schedule

2026-2027 TCSAAL Coaches Conference Session Schedule

Thursday, August 20, 2026

5:30 PM	Conference Rooftop Reception	TTLA Building, 1220 Colorado St, Suite 500, Austin, TX 78701
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Friday, August 21, 2026

Time	Session	Location
8:00 AM	Check-In - All Attendees	Legislative Conference Center - Extension Building - E2.002
9:00 AM	Welcome from the President	Auditorium - Extension Building - E1.004
9:30 AM	New TCSAAL Website	Auditorium - Extension Building - E1.004
10:30 AM	Keynote Session: Tracie Brown & Denise "Coach T" Taylor	Auditorium - Extension Building - E1.004
11:10 AM	Handbook Overview	Auditorium - Extension Building - E1.004
11:40 AM	Keynote Session: Michelle Carter & Walter C. Powell IV	Auditorium - Extension Building - E1.004
12:20 PM	Lunch / TCSAAL Awards / Texas Cup Award Ceremony	Legislative Conference Center - Extension Building - E2.002
1:00 PM	Keynote Panel - Tracie Brown, Michelle Carter, Walter C. Powell IV, Denise "Coach T" Taylor	Auditorium - Extension Building - E1.004
1:45 PM	Regional Breakout Sessions	Auditorium / Legislative Conference Center / Committee Room
3:00 PM	TCSAAL Academic & Arts Competitions Overview	Auditorium - Extension Building - E1.004
3:00 PM	ESports - Play VS	Legislative Conference Center - Extension Building - E2.002
3:30 PM	Flag Football Rules Overview	Auditorium - Extension Building - E1.004
3:30 PM	A Path for Every Student! Beyond our Core Athletics: Overview of Cheer, Wrestling, Golf, Tennis and Swimming!	Legislative Conference Center - Extension Building - E2.002
4:00 PM	Concussion Training	Legislative Conference Center - Extension Building - E2.002

TRACIE BROWN



Collegiate All-American | Elite Eight Standout | Professional Basketball Veteran



CONFERENCE SPEAKER

Speaker Biography

Tracie Brown was born in Memphis, Tennessee, and attended Carver High School, where she excelled in both basketball and volleyball. During the 1986–1987 season, she led the nation in scoring and also earned all-district honors in volleyball.

As a senior, Brown received McDonald’s All-American recognition, was named the top basketball player in Memphis City Schools, earned All-American honors, was selected to Who’s Who Among American Athletes, and was named Tennessee Miss Basketball.

Brown began her collegiate career at Texas Southern University, where she was named SWAC Freshman of the Year and Newcomer of the Year, earned Collegiate All-American recognition, and received All-Conference honors. She later transferred to Lamar University, where she played from 1989 to 1993 and earned a bachelor’s degree in Mass Communications.

At Lamar, Brown earned tournament MVP honors and helped lead the women’s basketball program to its first NCAA Elite Eight appearance. She went on to play professionally from 1994 to 2000, including time with the Houston Flights, and received invitations to training camps with the WNBA’s Houston Comets, Phoenix Mercury, and Detroit Shock.

Brown also became the first MVP of the National Women’s Basketball League (NWBL). She retired from professional basketball in 2000 after a career marked by high-level achievement at the high school, collegiate, and professional levels.

MICHELLE CARTER



Olympic Gold Medalist | Entrepreneur | Confidence Coach | Motivational Speaker



CONFERENCE SPEAKER

Speaker Biography

Michelle Carter is more than an Olympic Gold Medalist; she is a trailblazer, entrepreneur, confidence coach, motivational speaker, and beauty professional dedicated to helping others live life one step above the rest. Known as The Shot Diva, Michelle made history in 2016 as the first American woman to win Olympic gold in the shot put, and she has used that platform to inspire people worldwide to embrace confidence, resilience, and God-given purpose.

As the founder of You Throw Girl Sports Confidence Camp, Michelle empowers young female athletes to develop leadership, self-esteem, and strength both on and off the field. Through her nonprofit, One Golden Shot, she provides opportunities and mentorship to underserved youth.

Her entrepreneurial ventures include The Shot Diva Store, home to her brands Podium Cosmetics, Steady Glow Candles, the I Can Jewelry Collection, and the Everyday Champion apparel line—all designed to help people look good, feel good, and do good.

Michelle also brings her story to stages nationwide, delivering powerful keynotes on confidence, perseverance, and living with a Champion's Mindset. Whether speaking to corporations, schools, or women's groups, she weaves her personal journey with practical tools that leave audiences empowered to step boldly into their own greatness.

Now stepping into the world of beauty, Michelle is pursuing her cosmetology license, offering hair, makeup, facials, and nail services. Her journey from Olympic champion to beauty entrepreneur shows that confidence is not just something you speak—it is something you live.

WALTER C. POWELL IV



Entrepreneur | Corporate Trainer | Speaker | Team Builder



CONFERENCE SPEAKER

Speaker Biography

Walter C. Powell IV is originally from New Orleans, Louisiana. He has been married for more than 32 years to his high school sweetheart. Together, they have five sons, one daughter, and five grandchildren.

Walter's diverse entrepreneurial background includes real estate and direct sales. In the early 2000s, while living in Atlanta, he founded Powell Investment Group, the parent company of Powell House Realty, where he served as the company's broker. A key driver of his success was his focus on a unique selling proposition built around a modern approach to communication and personal interaction.

In 2006, Walter began pursuing residual income as a means of creating long-term security for his family and discovered the power of direct sales. In 2015, he embarked on a new journey with the goal of accelerating generational wealth for others as well as his own family. After relocating to Houston, Texas, in 2017, he continued building on that vision.

Walter grew a team of more than 4,000 representatives in just a few years, guided by the African proverb: "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, bring a team."

His current accolades include Founding 4-Star Director, Ruby Ring recognition for \$250,000-\$499,000 in annual residual income, Corporate Trainer, Speaker, two-time Team MVP within a 20,000-representative organization, and the development of multiple six-figure earners within his organization.

DENISE “COACH T” TAYLOR



Hall of Famer | Original WNBA Head Coach | Leadership Speaker | Educator



CONFERENCE SPEAKER

Speaker Biography

Denise “Coach T” Taylor is a Hall of Fame coach, educator, leadership speaker, and mentor whose life’s work has been dedicated to developing champions on the court and leaders in life.

A member of the Texas Southern University Hall of Fame, Coach Taylor made history as one of the Original Eight Head Coaches selected for the inaugural WNBA season, serving as head coach of the Utah Starzz (now the Las Vegas Aces). She was also one of only two African American head coaches in the league’s historic inaugural season, alongside Cheryl Miller, helping pave the way for future generations of women in professional sports.

During more than 25 years of collegiate and professional coaching, Taylor built championship programs, captured five conference championships, earned multiple Coach of the Year honors, and led teams to NCAA postseason competition. Her greatest victories, however, are found in the lives of the hundreds of student-athletes she has mentored—many of whom have become physicians, educators, business leaders, parents, and community leaders.

Today, Coach T continues her passion for developing young people as an educator, youth mentor, and inspirational speaker. Drawing from her experiences in athletics, education, healthcare leadership, and community service, she equips audiences with practical strategies for building winning cultures, leading with purpose, developing resilience, and creating lasting impact.

Raised in the Mississippi Delta by her mother and grandmother, Coach Taylor understands firsthand the transformational power of one caring coach. Her signature message, “The Coach Never Leaves the Game,” reminds audiences that leadership is measured not by titles or trophies, but by the lives we influence.

“Great coaches don’t just win games—they change lives.”