

# TAER Conference April 12-14, 2018



Marriott Fort Worth  
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Phone: (817) 961-0800



Mention TAER  
Wed-Friday Nights Available

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## Preconference

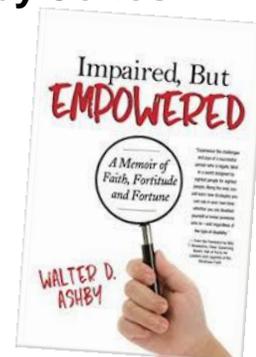
Session #1 - Division 3 Active Learning Make-n-Take

Session #2 – Eye Candy is an edible and interactive presentation that uses candy to represent the various structures of the human eye.

Participants will learn simple, easy ways to explain various eye diseases to students, staff or parents. We will raise your understanding of low vision and your sugar levels at the same time!

## Keynote Speaker: Walter Ashby and Beth Ashby Jones

**Walter Ashby** is the author of *Impaired, But Empowered: A Memoir of Faith, Fortitude and Fortune*, <http://www.walterashby.com>. In this compelling book, Walter details how he was able to build a highly successful, happy life for himself despite growing up legally blind in a tiny North Texas town during the 50s and 60s, isolated from his peers and written off by many adults as someone who would never amount to much of anything given his disability.



Walter proved all of the naysayers wrong through a combination of grit, perseverance, hard work, an absolute refusal to let others define him, as well as the support of a handful of adults, including his father and a high school teacher. Among things for example, Walter earned a Master degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Texas A&M University and as well as a MBA from the University of Texas Permian Basin. In addition, Walter worked as a Senior City Planner for the City of Midland, as an Assistant Vice President of Marketing Research for the First National Bank of Midland and as a Bank Liquidation Specialist for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). While there, he received the “Presidential Award for Most Outstanding Federal Employee with a Disability.” Walter currently enjoys a highly successful career as a licensed financial advisor with Edward Jones in McKinney.

Walter is also a professional speaker who uses his personal story to inspire audiences to “shoot for the stars,” overcome obstacles and setbacks, and never lose sight of their goals. He also provides the parents of visually impaired young people and their teachers with practical advice about how to encourage those children to think big and not allow their impairments to get in the way of their dreams.

**Beth Ashby Jones** earned her doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in special education from Louisiana State University. She also holds a Master of Education in Educational Psychology, with specializations in special education and school counseling, as well as a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies (graduated Cum Laude) with a concentration in special education. She received both degrees from Texas A&M University.

Beth is an Associate Professor and Graduate Program Coordinator at Texas A&M University-Commerce. Her research focuses on parent-school collaboration, assistive technology, and co-morbid visual impairments and learning disabilities. Beth serves on the editorial board for *Intervention in School and Clinic*, is co-editor of the *Journal of Special Education Apprenticeship*, served as President of the Texas Council for Learning Disabilities (2016-2017), and is a current TAPVI board member. Her practical teaching experience included working as a public school teacher for seven years, in a grades 5-6 resource math classroom and then in a grades K-6 resource reading language arts/math classroom for three years. During five of those years, Beth served as the lead special education teacher for her respective campuses.