FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Texas High School Coaches Association Announces Mentees for the 2025 R.O.C.K Coaches Mentoring Program

The mentoring program supports selected coaches who are in their 1st-5th year in the profession.

San Marcos, Texas (February 4, 2025) – The Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) and Texas A&M University Thornton-McFerrin Coaching Academy are proud to announce the 2025 mentees for the R.O.C.K. (Rare, Outstanding, Compelled & Knowledgeable) Coaches Mentoring Program. This initiative is designed to support and retain first through fifth-year high school coaches in Texas by providing mentorship, resources, and professional development.

A collaboration between the Texas High School Coaches Education Foundation and Texas A&M University Thornton-McFerrin Coaching Academy, the R.O.C.K. Coaches Mentoring Program was established in response to data showing a high attrition rate among early-career coaches and teachers. The program aims to cultivate and equip these coaches with the skills, knowledge, and support necessary to thrive as coaches, educators, and leaders in the ever-evolving world of high school athletics.

The 2025 R.O.C.K. mentees represent a diverse group of male and female coaches from all regions of Texas, encompassing every sport sanctioned under the University Interscholastic League (UIL). This broad representation ensures that coaches from various backgrounds and disciplines benefit from mentorship and professional growth opportunities tailored to their specific challenges and goals.

THSCA coaches and athletic directors may nominate coaches who meet the following criteria: they must be in their first through fifth year of coaching, actively employed by a UIL-sanctioned school, and committed to the two-year mentorship program. A selection committee of athletic

directors from across the state reviews nominations and selects mentees based on their potential to grow and contribute to the coaching profession.

Each R.O.C.K. mentee is paired with an experienced coach (R.O.C.K. mentor) who provides guidance, encouragement, and insights into the profession. The program officially kicks off with the 2025 R.O.C.K. Coaches Mentoring Program Symposium, held at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, TX. This two-day event includes workshops, keynote speakers, panel discussions, and networking opportunities designed to inspire and educate both mentees and mentors.

Following the Symposium, mentees and mentors engage in a year-long curriculum developed by the Texas A&M University Thornton-McFerrin Coaching Academy. This curriculum includes bi-monthly virtual learning modules featuring discussion prompts, situational challenges, and activities to foster meaningful mentor-mentee interactions. Additionally, in July, mentees will participate in exclusive program-specific sessions at the annual THSCA Coaching School.

Joe Martin, Executive Director of THSCA, emphasized the importance of the program, stating, "The R.O.C.K. Coaches Mentoring Program is a vital initiative to develop and retain the next generation of coaching leaders. The coaches selected for this program have been identified as having the potential to be future leaders in the profession, and we are excited to support their growth through mentorship and professional development."

The Texas High School Coaches Education Foundation and the R.O.C.K. Coaches Mentoring Program are made possible through the generous support of our official partners: Dell Children's Ascension, Texas Farm Bureau Insurance, and Hudl. Additional support is given through our supporting sponsors: 2Words Character Development, Dallas Cowboys, SkyCoach, and Waterboy/ Intel.

The 2025 R.O.C.K. Coaches Mentoring Program Class:

Josh Adkins, *Champion High School, Boerne ISD*
Sabrie Barnes, *Jersey Village, Cy-fair ISD*
Kristina Battle, *Alvin High School, Alvin ISD*
Shavodrick Beaver, *Legacy HS, Wichita Falls ISD*
Janae Bouston, *Brownfield High School, Brownfield ISD*
Felicia Boyefio, *Seagoville HS, Dallas ISD*
Malik Boynton, *Sam Houston High School, Arlington ISD*
Ben Brockman, *Wink High School, Wink Loving ISD*
David Burrell, *Wheatley High School, Houston ISD*
Alexis Bustamante, *O'Connor High School, Northside ISD*
Adrian Bustillos, *Muleshoe High School, Muleshoe ISD*
Brookelyn Casper, *Abilene Cooper High School, Abilene ISD*
TJ Cole, *Pleasant Grove HS, Pleasant Grove ISD*
Dodge DeLozier, *Brady HS, Brady ISD*
Nicholas Finger, *San Antonio Brennan, Northside ISD*
Rowdy Goff, *Alvarado High School, Alvarado ISD*
Matthew Gomez, *Canyon Ridge Middle School, Leander ISD*
Bernard Goodwater, *Coronado High School, Lubbock ISD*
Tyler Hall, *Eagle Mountain High School, Eagle Mountain Saginaw ISD*

Cameron Hatfield, *Buda Johnson High School, Hays CISD*
Conner Heath, *Dickinson HS, Dickinson ISD*
Ilianna Knowles, *Madison Middle School, Abilene ISD*
Mikal LaRicci, *Ridge Point HS, Fort Bend ISD*
Cire Luster, *Brazosport High, Brazosport ISD*
Marissa Martinez, *Harlingen High School South, Harlingen ISD*
Lisa Mihelich, *Lamar High School, Arlington ISD*
Zachary Nava, *Slaton JH/ HS, Slaton ISD*
Joshua Navarro, *Rhodes Middle School, San Antonio ISD*
DeAndre Neroes, *Emerson H.S., Frisco ISD*
Skyler Neu, *SF Austin Middle School, Bryan ISD*
Dyana Offutt, *Waco Midway High School, Midway ISD*
Analise Perez, *Northside Holmes High School, Northside ISD*
Estrella Porras, *Monahans High School, Monahans-Wickett-Pyote CISD*
Jacob Ramos, *Ronald Reagan High School, North East ISD*
Justin Ruiz, *Odem High School, Odem-Edroy ISD*
Nathan Sanchez, *Memorial High School, McAllen ISD*
Hannah Sargent, *Walnut Grove High School, Prosper ISD*
Nicole Shedd, *Davenport High School, Comal ISD*
Stan Simms, *MacArthur Middle School, El Paso ISD*
Diego Soriano-Estrada, *Strickland MS, Denton ISD*
Joan Torres, *La Vega High School, Waco La Vega ISD*
Liz Twiss, *Wellborn Middle School, College Station ISD*
Morgan Vance, *Judson Middle School, Longview ISD*
Jodie Vaughn, *Andrews HS, Andrews ISD*
Destiny Vega, *Corpus Christi King High School, Corpus Christi ISD*
Jayson Vigne, *Randle High School, Lamar CISD*
Hunter Walling, *McKinney High School, McKinney ISD*
Brylee Winfrey, *Frenship High School, Frenship ISD*
Skyler Womack, *Crandall High School, Crandall ISD*
Xander Yarberough, *Sotomayor High School, Northside ISD*

For more information on the R.O.C.K. Coaches Mentoring Program, visit our website: https://www.thsca.com/rock/ .

About the Texas High School Coaches Association

The Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) is the principal advocate and leadership organization for Texas high school coaches. The THSCA provides the highest quality representation, education, and services to Texas high school coaches and affiliate members by enhancing the professionalism of coaches and the schools they represent. The mission statement is simply this: To help and serve Texas high school coaches as they work to help and serve student-athletes. "HELPING COACHES HELP KIDS." For more information on THSCA, visit www.thsca.com

About Texas High School Coaches Education Foundation

The mission of the Texas High School Coaches Education Foundation is to develop funds from a broadrange of donors to provide professional education programs that will strengthen, reinforce, and

enhance professionalism in high school coaches throughout the state of Texas. These programs provide instructional material and training in character development to coaches in Texas at both the high school and middle school levels and can directly impact the lives of over 1.5 million student-athletes each year. The two established events are the Texas Coaches Leadership Summit and the R.O.C.K. Mentoring Workshop.

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