



**Curriculum Vita
August 2025**

Instructor: Dr. Kristen Ophelia Bennett, Adjunct Faculty

Academic Department: College of Innovation and Design

University Email Address: Kristen.Bennett@etamu.edu

East Texas A&M University Addresses:

Main Campus: PO Box 3011, Commerce, TX 75429-3011

Dallas Site: 8750 North Central Expressway, Suite 1900, Box 30, Dallas, TX 76231

College of Innovation and Design Office Phone: 214.954.3615 & 903.886.5878

EDUCATION

Doctor of Educational Leadership & Policy Studies
Eastern Kentucky University, 2019

Masters in Business Administration (MBA)
Midway University, 2012

Bachelors in Communication & Information Studies
University of Kentucky, 2005

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

September 2020-Present, Adjunct Faculty, East Texas A&M University /College of Innovation & Design

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Chief Development Officer

Texas A&M University Foundation | College Station, TX Oct 2024-present

- Report directly to CEO and Board of Directors
- Responsible for managing \$3.5B endowment with TAMF team in partnership with the Texas A&M University.

Vice President of Development

Help Heal Veterans | Winchester, CA (Remote) May 2023-May 2025

- Report directly to CEO and Board of Directors
- Develop and execute Help Heal Veterans fundraising strategy focused on diversifying revenue streams that represents over \$12 million annually.

Executive Vice President of Advancement

Tarrant Community College District | Fort Worth, TX Nov 2020-Feb 2022

- Reported directly to the Chancellor and member of the TCCD Cabinet.
- Responsible for Alumni, Development, MarCom, Community and Student Relations departments and the TCCD Foundation and board for TCC District.
- Led major T3 promise program campaign that yielded \$7.4MM in major gifts.
- Directed a team of 7 that controlled \$384MM college, \$34MM endowment, and \$1.2MM operational foundation budgets across the system of colleges.
- Led student retention efforts that increased 21.7% from 61% up to 82.7% in enrollment of the Foundations Eliminating Barriers award recipients for Fall 2020.
- Co-developed the everyday entrepreneur venture fund program within the Corporate Solutions and Economic Development center and through fundraising, secured \$900K and contributed to nine alumni and community members reaching profitable MBE / WBE small business success the Everyday Entrepreneur Venture Fund (EEVF), NACCE.

Vice President of Advancement & Executive Director of the TVCC Foundation

Trinity Valley Community College | Athens, TX Nov 2015-Nov 2020

- Reported directly to the President of TVCC and served on 5-person cabinet.
- Directed and oversaw a team of 11 with organizational budget of \$51MM budget & \$7MM endowment.
- As VP & ED responsible for: Marketing & Communications, Sports Information, Media Services, Alumni Relations, Corporate and Community Relations, Grants, Fundraising, Scholarships, Advancement Services, including board development and training.
- Raised \$5MM in major & planned gifts for endowment campaign as sole fundraiser.
- Introduced tvcclegacy.com platform for planned-giving strategies-achieved 103% growth.
- Drove strategic initiatives, growth plans and profitability goals that yielded over 19,173.47% increase in less than 5 years (\$15,223 in FY15 to \$2.934 FY19)

- With a focus on federal, state, and private grants, procured \$1.12MM in support.

Other Related EXPERIENCE (1998-2015)

Dr. Ophelia Consulting (Nov 2020- May 2023)

Unstoppable Foundation

House of Shine

Entre Institute

St. Catharine College, Vice President of Revenue & Finance (College Closed by Dept of Ed)

Eastern Kentucky University, Director of Development

Habitat of Humanity, Director of Development/Grant Writer

Frontier Nursing University, Development Officer (Office Closed FNS to FNU)

Christian Appalachian Project, Planned/Major Gifts Officer

Communication- Speaker Presentations

Extreme Ownership Leadership

Major & Planned Gifts with Faculty

Positive Organizational Scholarship & Mindfulness for Nonprofit Leaders

Maximizing Success Now, During & After the Transfer of Wealth

Creating a Culture of Philanthropy

Memberships/Associations

Council for Support and Advancement of Education (CASE)

Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP)

Texas Association of Community Colleges (Foundations) (TACCF)

Certifications

Certified Fund-Raising Executive (CFRE)

CFRE International (Recert. Sep 2028)

Certified Nonprofit Leadership Executive (CNLE)

IUPUI- Lily School of Philanthropy, 2005

Certified Fund-Raising Manager (CFRM)

IUPUI-Lily School of Philanthropy, 2008

Volunteer Leadership

Volunteer-Habitat for Humanity

Board Member-Treasurer- CASE District IV

Board Member- VP- Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC) Foundations
CASE District III and District IV Judge Co-Chair
CASE Federal Funding Task Force
Board Member & Ambassador- Athens Chamber of Commerce
CASE International Community College Conference Chair (2019-2020)
Member- Kiwanis International
Member- Rotary of Fort Worth
Leadership Institute Graduate- Athens Chamber of Commerce

Recent Awards

2025 CASE District IV Cabinet Member
2024 CASE Laureate -Lifetime Designation [case.org/laureates](https://www.case.org/laureates)
2020 CASE Educational Fundraising Award Winner
<https://www.case.org/awards/educational-fundraising-awards>
2019 CASE Star Faculty Winner <https://www.case.org/districts/district-faculty-stars/district-iv-faculty-stars/2019-district-iv-faculty-stars>

Core Ophelia Insights

First Generation & Appalachian Success Story
Strengths: Positivity, Developer, Includer, Belief and Arranger
Enneagram: Helper/Achiever/Learner