FROM IMCAT

# IMpulse

THE PULSE OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS IN TEXAS # 3Q 2016

# Happy 25th Anniversary

#### **Your Time to Shine!**

#### at IMCAT's 25th Anniversary Annual Conference

It's "Your Time to Shine" as IMCAT celebrates its 25th Anniversary in style Dec. 4-7 at the Moody Gardens Hotel and Convention Center in Galveston.

And like a lot of folks who celebrate a 25th Anniversary, IMCAT will be taking a cruise. On Tuesday, Dec. 6, IMCAT registrants will board the beautiful



Colonel paddleboat for a scenic evening cruise around Galveston Island, including views of Moody Gardens's Festival of Lights.

The cruise departs after dinner, at 7:30 p.m. and returns at 10 p.m. Don't worry about the weather; the Colonel features indoor decks for fun with your fellow attendees. Tickets will be available for spouses or companions.

On the business side of the conference, I.M. Texas 2016 brings together all facets of the state's instructional materials community—instructional materials coordinators, curriculum specialists, school technology staff, business office personnel and

publishers traditional and electronic.

Online registration—with check, P.O. or credit card—is already available on the IMCAT website, www.

#### imcat.org.

Register by Nov. 21 to get a discounted early rate.

The Texas Education Agency



IMCAT will celebrate it's 25th Anniversary with a paddleboat cruise around Galveston Island at the Annual Conference Tuesday evening. Entry included with full conference registration; tickets will be available for purchase for spouses or companions.

CONTINUED PAGE 6 ► CONFERENCE

# Proclamation 2018 Delayed

Proclamation 2018, which was to have included English, Language Arts and Reading (ELAR) K-5, has officially been moved back a year, for the time being.

Although the State Board of Education has not taken any official action on the reconfiguration of the proclamation schedule, the T.E.A. website (http://tea.texas.gov/interiorpage.aspx?id=2147486662) now shows Proclamation 2018 is not being issued and that ELAR K-5 (along with Personal Financial Literacy) will be the subject in Proclamation 2019.

Secondary ELAR and Prekindergarten Systems are slated for Proclamation 2020.

**CONTINUED PAGE 9** ▶ **PROC 2018** 

# Preparing for the 2017 Legislature

After the November election, the Texas Legislature returns in January, and IMCAT is preparing to represent coordinators on a wide range of issues, most of them having to do with money.

At its September meeting, the State Board of Education approved a 3.7 percentage distribution rate from the Permanent School Fund for fiscal years 2018-2019.

Half of the \$2.466 billion that would generate over the next biennium goes into the Instructional Materials Fund for distribution to schools' as Instructional Materials Allotments (IMAs).

**CONTINUED PAGE 11 ▶ LEGISLATURE** 

#### **Letter from IMCAT President Abel Villarreal**

Greetings and salutations, I hope the start of this school year has been a pleasant one. I would like to thank all the IMCAT board members and IMCAT members who

presented at the Summer Institutes this past summer. A special thanks to the publishers who supported the Summer Institutes as we value your partnership.

IMCAT is turning 25! The IMCAT board and conference committee are planning a huge 25th anniversary celebration at the IMCAT conference December 4-7, 2016 at Moody Gardens, Galveston. Our conference committee chairperson Rosa Ojeda, from Waller ISD, has done an amazing job with the conference schedule. There is definitely something for everyone at this year's conference, from instructional materials coordinators who just got the job to curriculum

and instructional personnel who are trying to figure out the blended learning solution.

IMCAT is committed in developing 21st-century skill sets for all those who attend the IMCAT conference to influence and ensure all students become lifelong learners.

In closing, IMCAT is gearing up for the legislative session starting in January 2017. We have already given our goals and directives to Colby Nichols, attorney with Powell & Leon and IMCAT legislative counsel, to ensure IMCAT will continue to have a strong voice when it comes to equity in IMA funding for instructional materials, resources and technology. I hope to see you at this year's IMCAT Conference where we will continue to train instructional materials professionals so they can provide instructional materials to Texas school children, teachers and support staff.

#### **IMCAT IMpulse**

Official Newsletter of the Instructional Materials Coordinators' Association of Texas

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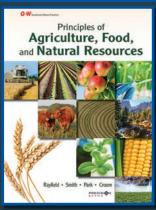
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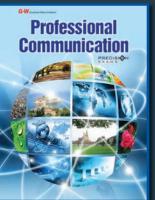


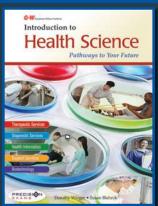
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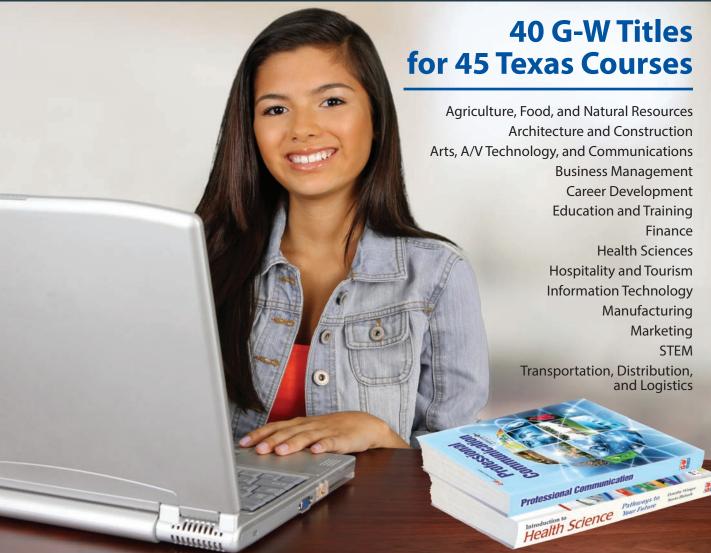


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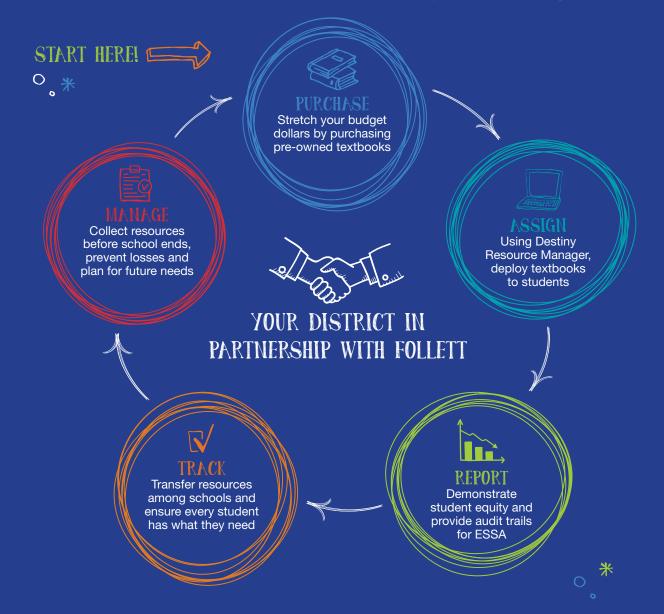
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#### IMCAT to Elect New Board Members at Annual Conference

IMCAT will elect a president-elect, secretary, members of the IMCAT Board of Directors and an alternate during its Annual Meeting at noon Tuesday, Dec. 6 at the 25th Annual Conference at the Moody Gardens Hotel and Convention Center in Galveston.

Candidates must have the support of their districts to attend, at district or personal expense, at least three quarterly meetings each year at various locations in the state and the Annual Conference during their term of office. Officers serve one-year terms, except for the secretary and treasurer, who serve two-years. Board members serve threevear terms.

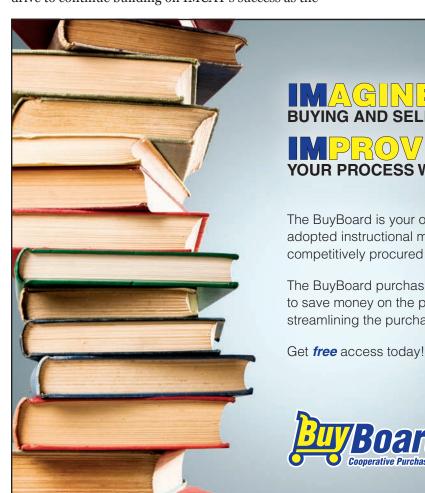
"We hope to attract experienced coordinators with the drive to continue building on IMCAT's success as the

premier source for knowledge on Texas instructional materials," said Pres. Abel Villarreal.

Candidates for officer—president-elect and secretary must be serving on the Board and have served on the Board for one year. Candidates must be the coordinator or designee for a district or open-enrollment charter school. Two employees of the same district or charter school may not serve on the Board at the same time.

For consideration as a candidate in the Nominations Committee report, a member should contact the IMCAT office at 512-251-8101 or by email: textbook@texas.net.

Nomination for the positions closes at the conclusion of regional meetings Monday morning, Dec. 5.



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**Conference** *from Page 1* 

has approved IMCAT registration fees for IMA reimbursements. Full registration (\$350/person, early rate) includes breakfasts Dec. 5-7, luncheons Dec. 7 and Dec. 8 and admission to the **Welcome Reception**, **sponsored by Follett**, which includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and beverages on the evening of Dec. 5.

New this year: IMCAT offers a \$50 discount for online group Full Registrations of three or more, so it makes sense to bring all the players from your school. Remember: It's only available online.

Another way to save money is to sign up for a Full Registration and opting out of breakfasts Dec. 5 and Dec. 6. That cuts \$25 off your registration fee.

To help guide you to the information you need, we've color-coded the breakout sessions for each interest area—Administrator, Curriculum, Technology, Purchasing/Finance and Warehousing. Check out the schedule in this newsletter.

The designations are a guide only; feel free to mix up your sessions when your get to the conference.

The conference is expected to draw more than 500 participants from across the nation and as many as 50 exhibit booths. Check in with the exhibitors in the exhibit hall for a sticker at each exhibitor booth, fill up your Exhibingo card and you're eligible in the drawing for an

amazing prize.

If you're involved in selecting, ordering, processing or distributing instructional materials to Texas school-children, this is the place to be.

A special Preconference Workshop from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4 offers "IM101" for beginners



IMCAT will sell raffle tickets during the conference to win this quilt, donated by IMCAT Board Member Misty Fisher. All proceeds will be donated to Shriners Hospitals for Children in Galveston.

and for veterans who need a refresher. The workshop is free to full attendees, but pre-registration is required, and space is limited.

Keep watching **www.imcat.org** for conference details. See you in Galveston!

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#### **Proc 2018**

#### from Page 1

Officials say the shift in ELAR materials was necessary because new Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills standards were delayed, and publishers would not be able to develop new materials in time to match the revised TEKS.

The two large ELAR adoptions occurring in a single legislative budget biennium may strain schools' Instructional Materials Allotments. Many schools may be able to set aside a good portion of their 2017-2018 biennium IMA, because Proclamation 2017 is comparatively inexpensive and there's no Proc 2018.

The T.E.A. document with the adoption cycle carries a "Draft" overprint. In an email, Kelly Callaway, director of the Instructional Materials and Education Technology Division, told IMCAT, "Documents should use that cycle for planning purposes, but the document is always in draft form because districts need to remember that it can change at any time."

#### **Register Today!**

I.M. Texas 2016

December 4-7, 2016

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We speak many languages!



**Legislature** from Page 1

That represents an increase of \$175 million—\$87.5 million a year or roughly \$17.50 a child per year—for the IM Fund over the previous two-year period. The SBOE will take a final vote on the distribution at the November meeting.

In spite of the increase, the Texas Education Agency's initial request for appropriations reduced the Instructional Materials Allotments four percent.

Reportedly, House Speaker Joe Straus's staff met with T.E.A. and told them that the IMA is set in statute and not subject to the agency's whims.

T.EA. is also requesting \$25 million to fund the governor's initiative for broader broadband access in schools.

Funding for instructional materials may enter the mix as the Legislature addresses complex issues of state funding. While the Texas Supreme Court has upheld the state's patchwork system of funding public schools, many lawmakers—encouraged by a range of constituents including fast-growth districts—are pressing for reform.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick's brand of reform includes the possibility of vouchers or "education savings accounts" to siphon public money from public schools to pay for private schools.

In preparation for the Legislature, the IMCAT Board of Directors over the summer developed and adopted goals directly related to instructional materials.

The goals include:

- Restoration of the Tech Allotment, separate from IMAs.
- Creation of a stakeholder commission to address and develop standards for electronic materials, including licenses, reporting and terms of use.
- More transparent calculation of IMAs and shifting purchase of AP books to T.E.A.
- Opposition to raiding the IM Fund to pay for broadband infrastructure.

For a more complete discussion of the goals, please see pages 11, 12 and 13.

#### Legislative Goal No. 1: Tech Allotment

 Support and encourage filing of legislation to restore additional funds for a Technology Allotment

<u>Background:</u> With the landmark Senate Bill 6 in 2011, the Legislature eliminated the \$30/student/year allotment to Texas schools to purchase technology, such as computer hardware and broadband wiring. The fund had been separate from the funding for instructional materials.

So, in spite of SB6's creation of the Instructional Materials Allotment for textbooks, instructional software and technology that supported instructional content, Texas schools "started out \$300 million in the hole," as one SBOE member observed. That hole has never been filled.

IMCAT supports a restoration of the Tech Allotment of \$30/student/ year, above and separate from the Instructional Materials Allotment.

Some have argued that, in their exercise of local control, school districts and open enrollment charter schools have not used all their Instructional Materials Allotment, so no further funding is necessary. This is as short-sighted as it is inaccurate. Many districts, especially smaller districts, have no IMA funds left for any materials, including technology.

The local decision to maintain an IMA surplus may have many roots.

- 1) <u>Timing.</u> Districts may be required to place their orders for instructional materials before the Legislature approves the 2017-2019 budget and before 2017-2018 funds become available Sept. 1, 2017. Even with delayed payment options, districts are limited to spending 80 percent of their IMA before Sept. 1 in anticipation of IMA funds arriving after that date. Some schools have determined to keep a surplus to pay for all or part of orders the place before the budget year starts.
- 2) <u>Advance Planning.</u> Texas schools face a huge English/Language Arts adoption soon. Some schools may be building up their surplus to make sure they have enough funds when those bills come in.
- 3) <u>Caution</u>. Even with the Texas Supreme Court's decision upholding the current method of school finance, the Legislature faces a tight budget, and there have been discussions of a raid on IMA funds to pay for high-tech initiatives unrelated to educational content. With such uncertainty, local districts may have banked their IMA funds to make sure they're there when they're needed.

**Legislature** from Page 11

#### Legislative Goal No. 2: Educational Software

Support legislation to establish a study for efficiency in electronic instructional materials

<u>Background:</u> With the encouragement of the Legislature, the Texas Education Agency and its own curriculum experts, Texas schools have pushed resolutely into blended learning—mixing hard-copy instructional materials with online offerings. Publishers, like the rest of society, have struggled to keep up with the technological changes and the implications, not only for pedagogy, but for the publishers' business models.

With constrictions on funding, it's absolutely necessary that local schools have the tools to monitor and improve the educational software in use in Texas classrooms.

IMCAT supports legislation requiring the Commissioner of Education to establish a panel of stakeholders to review and recommend policies and procedures to maximize the effectiveness of educational software. The task force will review and make recommendations on topics, including, but not limited to:

- 1) <u>Licensing</u>, including the timing of purchase, charging for unused accounts, and availability of login access during the term of the state contract.
- 2) <u>Usage reports</u> that detail when, where, and how much time students and teachers are spending in publisher learning platforms. Are they utilizing assessments, ebooks, or videos? These reports should be available to appropriate school officials and/or the Texas Education Agency.
- 3) <u>Term of use</u>, including whether schools that do not use purchased licenses must be afforded a refund or credit for purchases in subsequent school years.

The task force will be comprised of:

- 1) Two representatives of the Commissioner of Education;
- 2) Two representatives of the State Board of Education;
- 3) Two representatives of the publishers operating in the State;
- 4) Two representatives of schools' chief technology officers;
- 5) Two representatives of schools' instructional materials coordinators; and
- 6) Two representatives of school curriculum departments.

The Commissioner shall report the recommendations of the task force to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House of Representatives prior to the 86th Legislature.

IMCAT's 25th Annual Conference Register today at www.imcat.org!

**Legislature** from Page 12

#### **Legislative Goal No. 3: IMA Transparency**

Propose and support legislation to clarify calculation of Instructional Materials Allotments

Background: House Bill 5, passed in 2013, required Texas school districts to partner with institutions of higher learning to provide Advanced Placement courses for high school students to earn college credit. In a classic "unfunded mandate," Section 28.014 of the Education Code requires each school district "in consultation with each institution of higher education with which the district partners, shall develop or purchase instructional materials for a course developed under this section consistent with Chapter 31. The instructional materials must include technology resources that enhance the effectiveness of the course and draw on established best practices."

Of course, college instructional materials expenses are routinely more expensive than public school materials, and districts are depleting their IMA funds to pay for the high-priced materials.

In spite of the statewide requirement, the Texas Education Agency does not include AP books in its calculation of the percapita Instructional Materials Allotment.

IMCAT seeks introduction of legislation to specify the calculation of costs for future proclamations and require the Commissioner of Education to post the formulae and other methodology used in determining the Instructional Materials Allotment on the Texas Education Agency website, prior to the T.E.A. notification of districts of their allotments.

IMCAT also supports legislation requiring the State to pay for AP books as it does for Accessible Materials.

#### Legislative Goal No. 4: No IMA Raiding

 Oppose legislation to raid the Instructional Material Fund to pay for broadband access

Background: Governor Abbott has identified the need for broadband access for public schools. He and his staff have worked with a firm called EducationSuperHighway. In partnership with the Governor's Office, the Texas Education Agency, Education Service Centers, the service provider community, and schools across the state, EducationSuperHighway "will create an action plan that ensures scalable, robust, and affordable access to high-speed broadband for all Texas school districts. At the same time, EducationSuperHighway network experts will begin working with the nearly 1,000 schools that currently lack access to high-speed fiber to help them attain fiber connections that are scalable and affordable," according to a release from the Governor's office.

While broadband access through fiber optics is, of course, laudable, the question is whether the Instructional Material Fund should be used for infrastructure rather than instructional materials.

IMCAT encourages lawmakers to look for other sources of funding (i.e. the National Telecommunications and Information Administration) instead of the already limited Instructional Materials Fund.

#### Stay connected with IMCAT!

Stay up-to-date with the latest legislative information!

Join the IMCAT **Google Group** and follow us on **Facebook**.

Links are available at **www.imcat.org**.

#### **IMCAT Thanks Our Generous 25th Annual Conference Sponsors**

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# IMTexas 2016 Instructional Materials Coordinators' Association of Texas



#### 25th Annual Conference

Dec. 4-7, 2016 • Moody Gardens • Galveston, Texas Copy form as needed • One form per participant, please

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I have been involved with Texas instructional materials:	What concerns would you lik	e to see addressed	at the conference?	
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☐ 1-5 YEARS				
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☐ I have special dietary needs.	Specify:			
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**IMpulse** | 3Q 2016 15

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#### **IM** Texas 2016 Tentative Schedule

*Please Note:* Agenda is subject to change.

Check **www.imcat.org** for the most up-to-date schedule and consult the Conference Program when you reach Galveston. Color of circles next to a listing suggest interest area for that session (see circle key at right).

A ---- Administration

Curriculum

P ····· Purchasing/Finance

Technology

Warehousing

#### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4**

1-5 pm Exhibitor Move-In 1-6:30 pm Registration

2-5 pm **IM101**: Overview of instructional

materials information.

Pre-registration required.

Offered Sunday only.

6:30-9:30 pm Bingo

### A P P Fast Growth P 1295 Ethics

Exhibitors Forum

Noon-2 pm President's Luncheon

TICKET REQUIRED

2-2:15 pm Visit Exhibits/Door Prizes/ Refreshment Break

#### Breakout Session 3 » 2:15-3:15 pm

♠ AEM (Braille/VI)

Curriculum and IMA

A How to Manage Continuing Adoptions

A P Proc 2017

W Best Warehouse in Texas

A T Office 365

A T Google Forms

Exhibitors Forum

3:15-3:30 pm Visit Exhibits/Door Prizes/

Refreshment Break

#### Breakout Session 4 » 3:30-4:30 pm

A P Disbursements and Requisitions

A Student Information System – Tracking Online Licenses

Navigating Useful Websites

A P W IMA Basics

**A** Out of Adoption

A Google Classroom

Open Educational Resources/
Technology Standards

Exhibitors Forum

5-5:30 pm IMCAT Board Meeting 6:30-9:30 pm Welcome Reception

Sponsored by Follett

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

7 am-5 pm Registration

7:30-8:30 am Breakfast - TICKET REQUIRED

8:30-9 am General Session: Welcome

9-9:20 am Regional Meetings

9:30 am Deadline for nominations for the

**IMCAT Board** 

#### Breakout Session 1 » 9:30-10:30 am

A Proc 2017 Schedule and Beyond

A O P Small District Challenges

A Policy and Procedure Manual

A O P W EMAT - Beginners

A Google Drive

P Purchasing Bid Quote Process 410

Open Educational Resources/ Technology Standards

• Exhibitors Forum

10:30-11 am Exhibit Hall Grand Opening/

Door Prizes

#### **Breakout Session 2 » 11 am-Noon**

A 🔾 🕕 New Processing Bundles

W Audits and Inventories

Ordering eBooks vs Print Materials

A W Tracking Inventory Instructional Materials

A T Gaga for Google Docs

#### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6**

7 am-5 pm Registration

7:30-8:30 am **Breakfast - TICKET REQUIRED** 

8 am-5 pm Visit Exhibits

8:30-9:30 am **GENERAL SESSION** Visit Exhibits/Door Prizes/ 9:30-9:45 am

Refreshment Break

#### Breakout Session 5 » 9:45-10:45 am

A O New Processing Bundles

A Google Drive

A Out of Adoption

W Best Warehouse in Texas

A P Fast Growth

A How to Manage Continuing Adoptions

A Proc 2017

· Exhibitors Forum

10:45-11 am Visit Exhibits/Door Prizes/

Refreshment Break

#### Breakout Session 6 » 11 am-Noon

(Braille/VI)

Dual Credit, AP and Early College

M Audits and Inventories

A CTE Adoption

P EDGAR

A P Small District Challenges

A T Student Information System – Tracking **Online Licenses** 

· Exhibitors Forum

Noon-2 pm President's Luncheon

TICKET REQUIRED

12:30-1:15 pm Legislative Update with

Colby Nichols, Powell & Leon

2-2:15 pm Visit Exhibits/Door Prizes/

Refreshment Break

#### Breakout Session 7 » 2:15-3:15 pm

A P Disbursements and Reimbursements

A Policy and Procedure Manual

A CTE Adoption

Navigating Useful Websites

A Gaga for Google Docs

Purchasing Bid Quote Process 410

P 1295 Ethics

Exhibitors Forum

3:15-3:30 pm Visit Exhibits/Door Prizes/

Refreshment Break

#### Breakout Session 8 » 3:30-4:30 pm

A Proc 2017 Schedule and Beyond

A P Small District Challenges

Ordering eBooks vs Print Materials

A P T W EMAT - Beginners

A W Tracking Inventory Instructional **Materials** 

A P P W IMA Basics

A T Office 365

Exhibitors Forum

5-5:30 pm **IMCAT Board Meeting** 

Toy Collection for Shriners 6:30-8:30 pm

Hospitals for Children

Colonel Paddleboat Cruise 7:30-10:30 pm

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

7-8:30 am Breakfast 7 am-Noon Registration 8:30-11:15 am General Session 11-11:15 am Grand Prize Drawing/Quilt Raffle

11:15 am Conference Adjourns 11:30 am-12:30 pm IMCAT Board Meeting

Check www.imcat.org for the latest conference schedule and news

There's still time to become an I.M. Texas 2016 sponsor! Contact Tracy Wagner at tbwagner@texas.net or 512-251-8101

#### How to Apply for the Russell Owen Memorial Scholarship

October 31 is the deadline to apply for a Russell Owen Memorial Scholarship to allow you or one of your staff to attend I.M. Texas 2016.

The IMCAT Russell Owen Memorial Scholarship honors instructional material coordinators who plan to pursue professional development, and commemorates the achievements of an individual whose passion was public education and the students he served.

Russell Owen, a founder of IMCAT, served more than 30 years as an administrator for the Dallas Independent School District. His dedication to his students and his loyalty to IMCAT serve as an example to his colleagues today and to those who will follow in his footsteps.

One recipient from the Texas instructional materials community will be eligible for a scholarship award to IMCAT's 25th Annual Conference, Dec. 4-7, Moody Gardens Hotel and Convention Center in Galveston. Along with conference registration, the scholarship will include conference meals, three-nights hotel accommodations during the Conference and up to \$100 reimbursement for approved travel expenses.

To be considered for the IMCAT Russell Owen Memorial Scholarship, an applicant must:

 Be the instructional materials coordinator or directly involved in acquisition of instructional materials.

- Declare intent to attend the entire IMCAT conference in December.
- Have never attended an IMCAT conference before and wishes to continue professional development.
- Provide a letter from superintendent or director why applicant is being nominated to attend conference.

The following should be submitted in one envelope:

A copy of the application form and a letter of support from superintendent or director.

A copy of the application form is available on the IMCAT website, **www.imcat.org**.

The packet postmarked on or before Oct. 31, 2016 and be sent to:

Russell Owen Memorial Scholarship Committee
Instructional Materials Coordinators' Association of Texas
Attention: Cliff Avery
PO Box 676
Pflugerville, TX 78691-0676

Your application will be reviewed and voted on by an IMCAT committee. If you have additional questions, contact IMCAT at 512-251-8101 or at **textbook@texas.net**.

#### **IMCAT's Lunchtime Learning Webcast**

Thursday, October 20 12:30 pm-1:30 pm (Central Time)



Join IMCAT and staff from the Texas Education Agency's Division of Instructional Materials for a webcast to include information for new instructional materials coordinators, important dates and an update on accessible instructional materials. On the day of the webcast, you'll be sent a link so you can click to the webcast from your computer or other electronic device.

Best of all, it's FREE.

Register online at www.imcat.org

Brought to you by IMCAT with support from Follett.



# INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS COORDINATORS' ASSOCIATION of TEXAS



#### RUSSELL OWEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Return by Oct. 31, 2016 to Russell Owen Scholarship, C/O IMCAT, PO Box 676, Pflugerville, TX 78691

ne of Applicant:	Date:		
ool District:	Position:		
ress:	Email address:		
ce Phone #:	Fax #:	Cell #:	
artment:	#of yrs./ months:		
erintendent: ne	Phone:Email address:		
ector: ne	Phone:Email address:		
y does applicant deserve schol as Annual Conference?	larship to Instruction	nal Material Coordinators' Association of	
s applicant have the support/	approval of Director	: & Superintendent to attend? Yes or No	
es applicant plan on attending o please explain:		•	
es applicant plan on attending	the entire conference		



**Instructional Materials Coordinators' Association of Texas** 

P.O. Box 676 Pflugerville, TX 78691 (p) 512-251-8101 (f) 512-251-8152

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# Registration is now open for IMCAT's 25th Annual Conference WWW.IMCAT.ORG

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- ☑ Issue distribution receipts, issue and manage obligations, and print lost item letters

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