

Cynthia Walls

NCTA 2026 Board Nomination Application

Please describe your contributions to NCTA, including what positions and experiences you have had within NCTA and what you have accomplished through these opportunities?

In January 2025, the UTRGV P-16 Outreach and Testing Services Testing Center Edinburg was certified as an NCTA Certified Test Center. This was a challenging and rewarding process in which my entire team participated and took ownership. While obtaining this certification was rewarding, seeing how the team came together and contributed was the main accomplishment. It intensified the pride I felt when we received the plaque in the mail. In February 2025, I joined the NCTA Certification team, where I have served as an advisor and evaluator, guiding and reviewing documentation for other Testing Centers to become certified. This role has been gratifying. I remember how hard my team and I worked to achieve this goal, so I review as many applications as possible to assist our certification team.

Please describe any relevant positions and experiences you have had outside of NCTA, yet within the testing industry, and what you have accomplished through these opportunities.

I am currently the director of UTRGV P-16 Outreach and Testing Services, where I oversee testing services, educator outreach, and student outreach. The department has two testing centers, one of which is an NCTA Certified site. I have been in this position for about seven years. Before my time with UTRGV, I held positions as a Testing Coordinator and Testing Facilitator, where I collected, analyzed, and oversaw testing logistics for middle and high schools. I am familiar with both collegiate and public-school testing and protocols in Texas. Additionally, I was trained in public schools to administer Gifted and Talented placement exams, as well as other standardized tests.

Please describe any relevant service or professional contributions have you made outside of NCTA?

Other roles I have served are Data and Research Manager, Instructional Coach, Academic Advisor, and Teacher/Coordinator. These roles have allowed me to grow and learn about data collection, data analysis, teaching strategies, curriculum design, leadership skills, presentation skills, problem-solving, confidentiality, and security. While an AVID Coordinator at a Middle School and High School, I oversaw the AVID programs and led the site teams to receive the designation of National Demonstration School at both campuses. I was also part of the High School Team that led the data collection and site visit that received the College Board Inspirational Award. Currently, I am an Executive Board Member for RGV Lead, a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide Rio Grandy Valley

students with skills needed for 21st century success by providing services to foster a bridge between economic entities and school districts.

How do the experiences you discussed in the previous three questions qualify you to serve on the NCTA Governing Council?

My past work experiences and my doctorate in Learning and Organizational Change have instilled in me the desire to collaborate with others to create protocols and procedures that refine and sustain programming within organizations. My entire career has revolved around creating and organizing events, trainings, and programs, as well as maintaining security and confidentiality. I have also presented at local, state, and national conferences. My background in data collection and analysis could assist in forecasting new programming. The skills I have acquired will allow me to become an active and collaborative member of the NCTA Governing Council.

Explain why you are interested in serving on the Governing Council.

I have enjoyed assisting the NCTA certification team, not only do I feel as though I am giving back to the NCTA, but I am learning about other testing centers. Understanding others in our testing community is essential to finding out the different trends and issues we share. While I am going to continue serving in this committee, serving on the Governing Council will allow me to become more involved and assist NCTA.

Is there anything additional you would like to tell the NCTA membership?

I have thirty years of experience in public and higher education. Testing and post-secondary access have been a cornerstone of my career. Being part of the Governing Council would allow me to assist in the continued success of the organization.