

FALLING INTO SUCCESS!

Ashley M Esparza
TABE BESO REP. - UTA

You are so close to the finish line and you are imagining all the magnificent things you will be able to make happen once you step into the classroom. BUT, that will only happen if you're able to graduate and get certified. There are so many things to get done and accomplished before you can even set foot into your very own classroom. Be prepared to nail that job interview in the spring and land your dream job!

First: TExES Exams

- As a recent graduate, I strongly advise, **DO NOT LEAVE IT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE!** The spring semester will already be hard with student teaching full time, lesson planning, and the last load of your coursework. Don't overwhelm yourself with trying to study and pass your exams. Give yourself the time to study efficiently without cramming; waiting until the last minute will only make things worse for you.

Second: Student Teaching

- Please enjoy and get the most out of your student teaching. Being in the classroom will never be the same. Truly take advantage of the mentors that you have and ask a million questions. Your mentors want to help you and are there to guide you. Do not be afraid to try and implement new things in the classroom and be open to criticism. That is how we all grow and become better teachers.

Third: Get Ready for Job Interviews

- The fall and student teaching are great times to make connections and make yourself stand out. Start working on your résumés and doing mock interviews. Principals are truly looking at their student teachers as candidates, they will love it if you ask them to come observe you and start giving them your portfolios. Whenever you go into an interview feel sure of yourself and don't let the nerves get the best of you.

Lastly: Graduate!!!

- There will be no greater feeling than the one where you feel like you have accomplished your greatest goal- **GRADUATING!** At the end of the day remember why you went into teaching. There will be hard days, but seeing the difference you make in children's lives makes you feel like a **SUPERHERO!**