



# THE *BILLET* STC NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER of the SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER of the HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY

Volume 35, Number 3 • Specialists in Radiation Safety • December 2014



## STC-HPS Member's Service Strong to HPS National

Thank you South Texas Chapter members who serve the national Health Physics Society.



## STC's Novel Coffee Mugs and Pint Glasses Sold at Texas Radiation Control Regulatory Conference

STC sold novel nuclide-inspired coffee mugs and periodic table-inspired pint glasses at the Texas Radiation Regulatory Conference in Austin, Texas.

## Special Topic Meeting: Radiological Incident/Emergency Preparedness & Response

The next STC-HPS meeting will be in Sugar Land, TX, Saturday January 17, 2015, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (830 to 1630)



## Highlights from the Successful 2014 Texas Radiation Regulatory Conference in Austin

More than 350 people attended the 2014 Texas Radiation Regulatory Conference held September 11-12, 2014 in Austin.

## STC Welcomes Our Newest Members

New members since March 2014

## STC Welcomes Our Newest Affiliates

Our Affiliates are important to the STC, and we are thankful for their generous contributions to the Chapter.

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[January 17—Special Topic Meeting: Radiological Incident/Emergency Preparedness & Response, Sugar Land](#)

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## Photos of the Activities During the 2014 Texas Radiation Regulatory Conference in Austin

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Presenters and vendors were among the 350 attendees



## STC-HPS Members' Service Strong to HPS National

**By: Janet M. Gutiérrez, DrPH, CHP, STC Chair, Public Relations Committee**

As of November 2014, we have two STC-HPS members running for offices with the Health Physics Society. Robert (Bob) Cherry is running for HPS President-Elect, and Scott (Nick) Nicholson is running for HPS Board. Both have put in many years of service for our chapter and the HPS national throughout the years. I wish them the best in their pursuits of their respective positions within the HPS national organization. Additionally, Ken Krieger is a current HPS Board member.



Robert N. Cherry, Jr., PhD, CHP,  
Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired)



Scott M. "Nick" Nicholson, CHP, CIH



Kenneth Krieger, MS, CHP,  
NRRPT

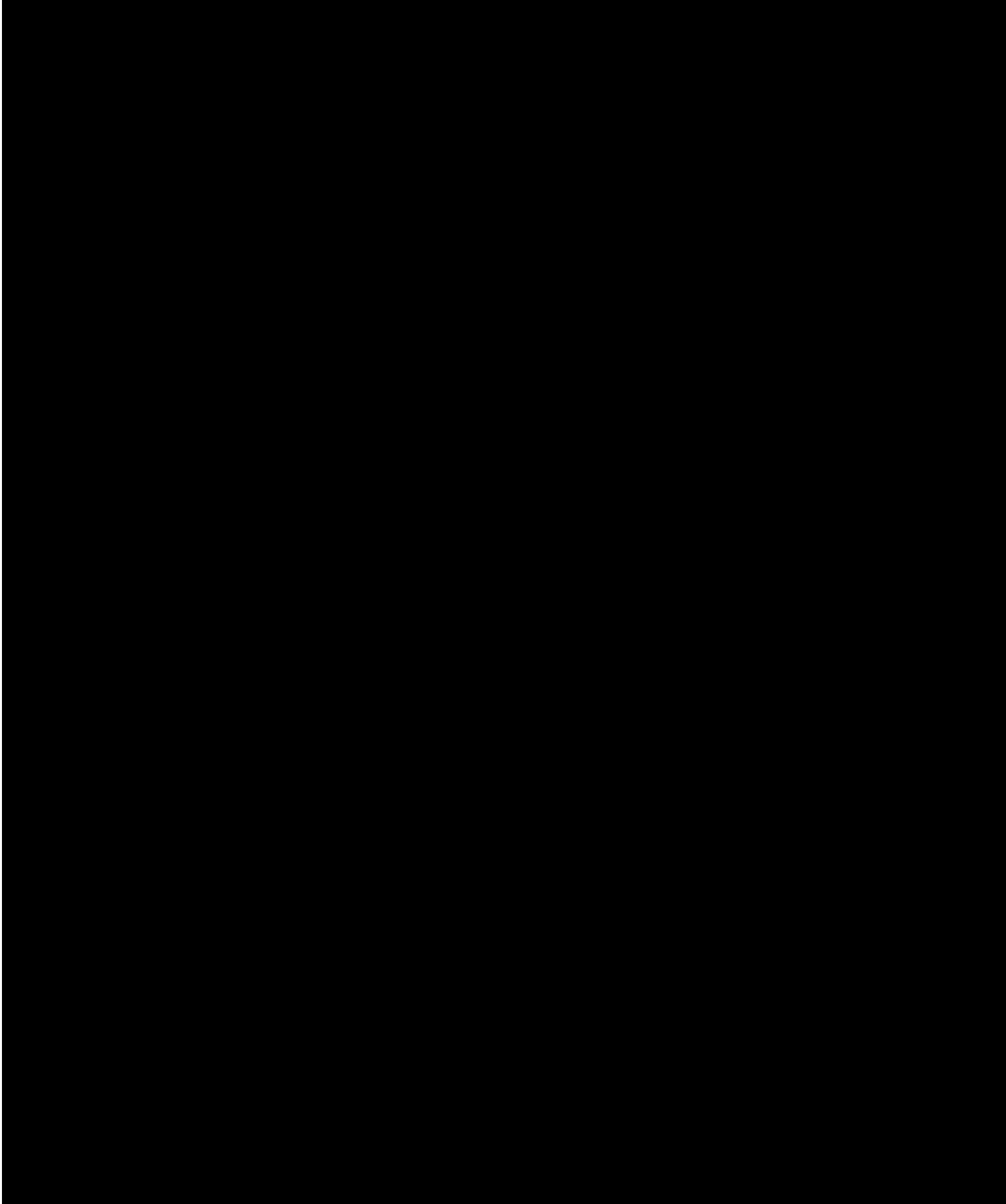
I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the current STC-HPS members who have served diligently in elected positions within the HPS national over the years. Please forgive me if I have left off any individuals, as I've based the list on my limited memory. Please join me in thanking the following individuals for their service to the HPS national and for all their work for and service to the South Texas Chapter of the HPS:

- Edgar Bailey
- Stewart Bushong
- Robert (Bob) Cherry, Jr.
- John Hageman
- Ruth McBurney
- Milton McClain, Jr.
- John W. Poston, Sr.
- Ali Simpkins

I encourage you to consider running for office or serving on committees for the STC-HPS in future to continue to keep our chapter vibrant and in support of not only current health physicists, but also future health physicists through our student meeting highlighting student projects, student scholarships and judging of Junior and Senior High School science projects.

**STC-HPS Links:** [STC-HPS Announcements](#) | [Executive Committee Meeting Minutes](#)







## STC's Novel Coffee Mugs and Pint Glasses Sold at Texas Radiation Control Regulatory Conference

By: Janet M. Gutiérrez, DrPH, CHP, STC Chair, Public Relations Committee

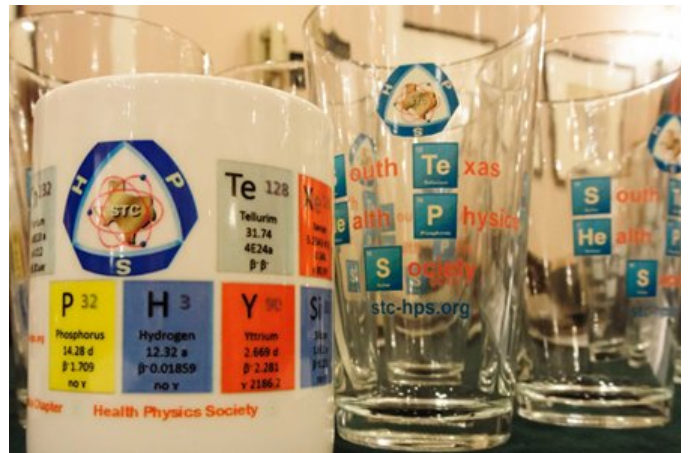
The South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society (STC-HPS) sold these novel nuclide-inspired coffee mugs and periodic table-inspired pint glasses at the September 2014 Texas Radiation Regulatory Conference in Austin, Texas.

The coffee mugs and pint glasses contain the South Texas Chapter logo and website ([www.stc-hps.org](http://www.stc-hps.org)) to encourage conference attendees to remember and get involved with the South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society. The products were available for sell at the conference. The coffee mugs spell South Texas Health Physics with the added bonus of nuclide information. The pint glass utilizes elements to spell South Texas Health Physics Society.

The coffee mugs were a huge success nearly selling out. The remaining inventory of the coffee mugs and the pint glasses will be available at the next scheduled technical meeting in January 2015. If you didn't get a chance to purchase the Regulatory Conference, look for these items at the January 2015 meeting.



Janet Gutiérrez, Sandra Jimenez and Jennifer Cerecero



Boris Tsenov and Janet Gutiérrez, both with The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Environmental Health & Safety department

**STC-HPS Links:** [STC-HPS Announcements](#) | [Executive Committee Meeting Minutes](#)

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## Special Topic Meeting: Radiological Incident/Emergency Preparedness & Response

**Meeting Date: January 17, 2015**

**Council Meeting January 16, 2015**

**Thermo Fisher Scientific Facility in Sugar Land, Texas**

**Pre-registration Deadline is December 31, 2014**

**T**he South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society (STC-HPS) will be hosting a technical meeting focusing on radiological incidents and emergency preparedness and response in Sugar Land, TX, on Saturday January 17, 2015, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (830 to 1630)

This meeting will bring health physicists together to discuss the associated risks leading to radiological incidents and preparedness for handling these emergencies. We have a great lineup of experts that will present techniques and insights in what to expect and defined courses of action. We hope reviewing these topics will strengthen your organizations' crisis response and consequence management capabilities for a radiological incident.

Interesting sights to see in Sugar Land, TX, include: Touring the Imperial Sugar Refinery, visiting the Houston Museum of Natural Science at Sugar Land, or dining and shopping at Sugar Land Town Square.

Hope to see you all there!  
Sandra Jimenez, President STC-HPS

**The Technical Meeting will be held at:**

**Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc.**  
1410 Gillingham Ln.  
Sugar Land, TX 77478

The meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (08:30-16:30 hours). On-site registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. in the hallway in front of the meeting room.

**Registration costs are:**

- \$45 for STC Members, registering in advance on the [stc-hps.org](http://stc-hps.org) website, before January 1, 2015
- \$10 for Students
- \$55 for registration made on or after January 1, 2015
- Non Members: \$20 extra, which includes the current calendar year's membership
- \$75 for at the door registration on day of the meeting, if room and lunch are available

**Registration includes:**

Breakfast: Breakfast Taco Cabana tacos, Fruit tray, Orange Juice, and Coffee

AND

Lunch: Pappasito's Cantina beef and chicken fajitas, guacamole, pico de gallo, sour cream, cheddar cheese, grilled onions, rice, frijoles a la charra, fresh flour tortillas, chips and salsa, and iced tea

Afternoon Break: Blue Bell Ice Cream & Drinks

**The hotel for this event is:**

Holiday Inn Express, Houston Southwest – Sugar Land  
14444 Southwest Freeway  
Sugar Land, TX 77478

Phone 281-565-6655

URL: <http://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/sugar-land/housl/hoteldetail>

There is a limited block of rooms reserved at the Holiday Inn Express for the evening of January 16, 2015. A discount rate of \$85/night, plus tax has been given to this block of rooms. To reserve a room under this block, please call the hotel at the number above and give the group code STCHPS. This block of discounted is available until sold out, or January 1st, 2015. So be sure to call and make your reservation as soon as possible!

**Parking for the Saturday Technical Meeting:**

Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc.

1410 Gillingham Ln

Sugar Land, TX 77478

The hyperlink to the map from Holiday Inn Express to the Thermo Fisher facility is <http://goo.gl/aih1m5>

***Parking is free***

Because it is the weekend, parking is free at the Thermo Fisher Facility. Upon turning into the facility, there is ample parking available both to the left and to the right side of the entrance.

**STC Executive Council Meeting, Friday, January 16**

The STC-HPS Executive Council will meet on January 16 from 6-8 p.m. (1800-2000) at the Holiday Inn Express Houston Southwest, Sugar Land. The address to this hotel is above.

All members are invited to attend the Executive Council meeting. Room location in the hotel is to be announced. Free parking is available in the hotel parking lot. If you will be attending the STC Executive Council Meeting, please contact Amanda Sullivan ([sullivana@uthscsa.edu](mailto:sullivana@uthscsa.edu)), before January 1, 2015.

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**STC-HPS Links:** [STC-HPS Announcements](#) | [Chapter Leadership](#) | [Meeting Registration](#)

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## Highlights from the Successful 2014 Texas Radiation Regulatory Conference in Austin

**By: Janet M. Gutiérrez, DrPH, CHP, STC Chair, Public Relations Committee**

**M**ore than 350 people attended the 2014 Texas Radiation Regulatory Conference held September 11-12, 2014 in Austin, Texas. The conference was sponsored and administered by members of the South Texas Chapter HPS. The technical programs were organized and provided by three Texas state agencies that regulate different uses of radiation in Texas: The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the Texas Railroad Commission (RRC). In addition to updates by the regulators, we had various presentations, such as safety culture, a continuous journey and a presentation by Dr. Doran Christensen with REACT/TS. We also had presentations from representatives from the National Nuclear Security Administration, the Conference on Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD), National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP), American College of Radiology (ACR), American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) and the Low Level Waste Forum. In addition there was public hearing for the Licensed Medical Physics Board to discuss medical physics activities in Texas.

STC President Sandra Jimenez began the meeting by welcoming all attendees and introducing the events of the day. Karen Blanchard coordinated with the different organizations for speakers throughout the regulatory conference. Many thanks go to all the STC members, regulators, affiliates, and members from many different organizations who helped make the entire conference a success. The dinner banquet on Thursday evening featured a special guest speaker Dr. Doran Christensen from REACT/TS who educated the audience in a thought provoking way on the acute health effects of radiation providing multiple case scenarios. Dr. Christensen received a standing ovation at the conclusion of his presentation. Breaks throughout the conference featured time to meet with affiliates and professional networking.

Select presentations from the Texas Radiation Control Conference have been posted at the Texas Department of State Health Services Radiation Control website (<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/radiation/publications.shtm#2014>) and the South Texas Chapter –HPS website (<http://www.stc-hps.org/pastpresent.htm>). The conference started with presentations by representatives of Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Railroad Commission, Texas Radiation Advisory Board, Texas Low Level Radioactive Waste Compact and Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors. Then presentations were given on safety culture and NVLAP's ionizing radiation dosimetry accreditation.

On Thursday afternoon, the conference program separated into two tracks, one for radioactive materials and one for radiation producing devices. These included rulemaking initiatives, registries, incident trends and different organization activities. Time was given during the conference to ask the regulator questions and receive their feedback. This feature is certainly appreciated by the regulated community. The conference concluded with industrial radiography topics on Friday afternoon.

Pictures were taken by Stan Bravenec and include snapshots from the meeting. Overall the conference was very successful and covered timely topics. I look forward to another successful regulatory conference in a few years.

**STC-HPS Links:** [STC-HPS Announcements](#) | [Executive Committee Meeting Minutes](#)

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## Welcome New Members!

**T**he South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society gladly welcomes our newest members:

- **Luka Banic** – Suntrac
- **Manit Shah** – Texas A&M University
- **Rafaek de la Flor-Speck** – UH Downtown
- **Bernaby Garcia** – TSTC
- **Allan Gonzalez** – Berkeley Nucleonics Corp.
- **Rusty McLin** – UTHSCSA
- **Elizabeth Tindle** – Texas A&M University
- **Angela McCartney** – TSTC
- **Russ Meyer** – CRCPD
- **Adrian Sosa**
- **Andrea Sowitch** – Sectra
- **Peggy Hoosier** – Advanced Health Ed. Center
- **Frank Starkey** – Texcom Environmental Sol.
- **John LeJeune** – Canberra
- **Imaging Solutions of America**

STC-HPS Links: [STC-HPS Announcements](#) | [Executive Committee Meeting Minutes](#)

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## The STC Welcomes Our Five New Affiliates!

By: Jennifer A. Cerecero, STC Chair, Affiliates Committee

**T**he South Texas Chapter (STC) of the Health Physics Society gladly welcomes our newest Affiliates

Seven New Affiliates since March 2014

- Advanced Health Education Center
- Berkeley
- Canberra
- CRCPD
- Imaging Solutions of America
- Sectra
- TexCom Environmental Services, LLC

All of the STC Affiliates are listed on the STC website at <http://stc-hps.org/affiliates.htm>

Please look to the STC Affiliates first for the products or services that you may need.

**STC-HPS Links:** [STC-HPS Announcements](#) | [Executive Committee Meeting Minutes](#)





## Photos of the Activities During the 2014 Texas Radiation Regulatory Conference in Austin



Chris Myers



Dana Leaman, NIST



Diana Cody



Dru Carson



Ed Bailey, Linda Morris, Janet Gutierrez, Betty Hail



Gentry Ham



Janet Gutierrez & Betty Hail



Janet Gutierrez & Len Denny



John Hageman, Linda Morris, Ruth McBurney, Alisha Stallard



Karen Blanchard & Doran Christensen



Ken Kreiger, John Hageman, Stan Bravenec, Ruth McBurney, Alisha Stallard



Lisa Bruedigan



Lisa Bruedigan & Jennifer Cerecero



Monica Perez, DSHS





Nick Teske, NNSA



Otu Inyang &



Ruth McBurney, Alisha Stallard, Linda Morris, John Hageman



Sandra Jimenez



Stan Bravenec, Doran Christensen

### Affiliates & Exhibitors



Canberra



Energy Laboratories



Imaging Solutions of America



Advanced Health Education Center



Owens Scientific, Inc.



PTW



Quantum Technical Services, LLC



Radiation Technology, Inc.



Source Collection and Threat Reduction Program (SCATR)



TexCom Environmental Services, LLC



Thermo Scientific



TSTC



Representative from Berkeley Nucleonics Corporation (BNC)

**STC-HPS Links:**

[STC-HPS Membership Info](#) • [STC-HPS Announcements](#) • [Student Assistance](#)

