

**Director-at-Large- position 3:**

**Benjamin Shurr** received his BA in Theatre from The Ohio State University in 2001. He worked as local roadie for Proton Productions in Columbus, OH (Venues: Polaris Amphitheatre and Nationwide Arena) working over 100 concerts as a deck hand and/or spot light operator for 3 years. Upon moving to Texas he received his teaching certificate and began teaching at Lancaster High School in 2003 and joined the Frisco High School faculty in 2005, teaching Technical Theatre I-IV and Theatre Arts I. Since his tenure at FHS he has Technically Directed over 50 shows and events, Directed 6 main stage productions, gone to State with the UIL OAP once and had at least one State Qualifier in the UIL Technical Design competition between '11-'15. He sponsored the FHS student chapter of USITT, established during the '08-'09 school year, he has watched the program grow from initially 12 students to nearly 30 in the '14-'15 school year. In January 2010, Frisco High School was honored with the privilege of hosting SW USITT Winter Symposium. That same year he was the co-recipient, along with his wife, of the Mildred and Glenn Martin, Jr. Service Award, in recognition of their service to the South West Chapter of USITT. In 2012, Frisco High School received the award for Excellence in Collaboration at the SW USITT student design competition in Stillwater, OK. In 2014 the student chapter was again honored at the National level, as they were asked to speak at the National USITT Symposium in Ft. Worth, TX. This was the first time in the history of USITT that a high school was asked to speak. In the fall of 2015 he helped open Reedy High School as the head director and technical director of the theatre department. That same year he also established a student USITT Chapter at RHS. They have been active participants in the school, community and SW USITT symposiums. In 2018 his UIL State Qualifying marketing technician placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at the State level. He has served on the SW USITT Board of Directors since 2011.