

# Scope for Paras, Custodial, Plant Ops., Bus Drivers and other Edu. Employees

## AFT PSRP Conference

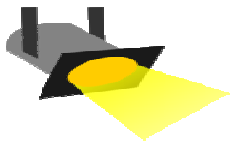
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The AFT Paraprofessionals and School-related Personnel Conference provides individuals with the opportunity to attend a variety of workshops and trainings including, but not limited to First-Aid Training, Worker Skills and Knowledge Training, Political Engagement, Member Engagement and Community Engagement meetings, and etc.



*A Union of Professionals*

The PSRP Conference encourages AFT's paraprofessional members to not only utilize their skills to their utmost potential, but to also inspire them to further their careers in the educational field by perhaps going back to school and giving back to themselves and the educational community by becoming educators.



## Texas AFT Paras Spotlited

Keep an eye out for the January-February 2012 edition of the *PSRP Reporter* (AFT's national publication for paraprofessionals and school-related personnel), which prominently features three Texas AFT paraprofessionals talking about their work with students with disabilities.

Texas AFT Paraprofessionals say there is an intense demand and low pay associated with this vital work.



- Susie Alfaro of the San Antonio Alliance of Teachers and Support Personnel, a special-ed paraprofessional in a San Antonio ISD high school, cites inadequate staffing levels and unmet needs for advanced training as major issues.
- Jack Crum, also a special-ed para in San Antonio, notes that even basic supplies are sometimes lacking, but he says a bigger issue is the need to include paras in individualized planning sessions (IEP meetings) for services students will require.

As Alfaro puts it, **“Give me the benefit of the doubt because I may know something. This is our job. These are our kids.”**



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