

Academic Planning and Policy E-News

Academic Quality and Workforce | College Readiness and Success
Innovation and Policy Development | Strategic Planning and Funding



Texas Higher Education
Coordinating Board

Office of Academic Planning and Policy, David W. Gardner, Deputy Commissioner

Volume 9, Number 1, January/February 2017

Chair of 60x30TX Committee Wins Award from Top Texas Higher Education Leaders



Left to Right – Richard Lange (President, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso), William Cunningham (former UT System Chancellor), Diana Natalicio (President, University of Texas at El Paso), Mr. Woody Hunt, William Serrata (President, El Paso Community College), Robert Duncan (Chancellor, Texas Tech University), William McRaven (Chancellor, University of Texas System), David Gardner (Deputy Commissioner Academic Planning and Policy, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board)

The [Texas Council of Public University Presidents and Chancellors](#), the [Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas](#), and the [Texas Association of Community Colleges](#) awarded [Woody Hunt](#) the Mirabeau B. Lamar Medal on Jan. 25 in Austin. Hunt, a resident of El Paso and chair of the board of directors for Hunt Companies, Inc., served as the chair of the [Higher Education Strategic Planning Committee](#) that developed the Texas higher education plan, *60x30TX*.

The Lamar Medal is awarded to individuals, foundations, and organizations that make extraordinary contributions to higher education in Texas. "Woody has been a tireless advocate for quality education as an essential ingredient for building prosperity and quality of life. He is truly dedicated to the importance and power of education," said [Dr. Diana Natalicio](#), president of The University of Texas at El Paso, during the medal ceremony.

Calendar

Next Board Meeting

April 20, 2017
8:30 a.m.

Upcoming Meetings

[Building/Construction Technology Programs of Study Subcommittee](#)
Feb. 10, 10 a.m.

[Engineering Field of Study Advisory Committee](#)
Feb. 17, 10 a.m.

[Health Science Program of Study Advisory Committee](#)
Feb. 21, 10 a.m.

[Financial Aid Advisory Committee](#)
Feb. 23, 9:30 a.m.

[Architecture and Construction Programs of Study Advisory Committee](#)
Feb. 24, 10 a.m.

[Graduate Education Advisory Committee \(GEAC\)](#)
Feb. 27, 10 a.m.

Hunt also serves as chair of the [Hunt Family Foundation](#), a private family foundation he and his wife established in 1987. Since 2004, the Hunt Family Foundation has granted, or committed, \$55 million toward higher education to numerous two- and four-year colleges and universities in Texas and neighboring New Mexico State University. In addition, Hunt has provided guidance to organizations, such as The University of Texas System Board of Regents, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), and the Texas Select Commission on Higher Education and Global Competitiveness. Currently, he serves on several boards, including the board of [Complete College America](#).

When Hunt accepted the award, he said, "If we are to remain globally competitive as a state and if we are to develop a sustainable economic future in Texas, we must have educational attainment levels that meet the needs of globally competitive jobs."

The Lamar Medal's past recipients include lieutenant governors, state senators, globally successful business leaders such as Hunt, Texas foundations with a national presence, and other state leaders.

In addition to Natalicio, Dr. Richard Lange, president of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso, and Dr. William Serrata, president of the El Paso County Community College District, helped present the award. Deputy Commissioner for Academic Planning and Policy at the THECB, Dr. David Gardner, who worked closely with Hunt and the [60x30TX](#) committee in 2015, also was on hand.

Ramona Reeves | Writer/Editor | Planning Academic and Policy

College for All Texans Foundation Awards \$651,248 in Texas Affordable Baccalaureate Expansion Grants

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Tarleton State University, South Texas College, and Texas A&M University-Commerce have been awarded \$651,248 in grants, as recipients of the [Texas Affordable Baccalaureate \(TAB\) statewide expansion](#). The funds awarded will support the planning, development, and implementation processes of the institutions' new affordable baccalaureate programs. The grants were made possible by multiple philanthropic organizations and were selected through a competitive application and review process.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi will use the funds to create an [affordable baccalaureate program in mechanical engineering technology](#) that will take three years to complete. The program will incorporate a competency-based curriculum to prepare workers with a skillset that is needed to work in the refinery and process industry, as projected by workforce needs. The program will also provide an opportunity for engineering technology associate degree holders to pursue opportunities and career paths as engineering technologists, helping to close the gap between the [Coastal Bend Workforce Development Area](#) and the rest of the country.

Tarleton State University will use its grant funds to evaluate and implement alternative-credit courses to reduce costs and time to degree for students in its [Bachelor of Science in applied science](#). By combining a hybrid-delivery model with an alternative credit model for general education courses, the program will provide a path to an affordable baccalaureate degree for nontraditional students who have completed technical or occupational

60x30TX in the News

[El Paso Times](#)

[El Paso Times](#)

[Odessa-American Online](#)

[PasodelNorte Magazine](#)

[Rio Grande Guardian](#)

[Texarkana Today](#)

[Texas Tech University website](#)

[The Advertiser](#)
(USA Today Network)

[The Alcade](#)
(UT-Austin Alumni news)

[The Monitor](#)

[The Shorthorn](#)
(UT Arlington news)

[Victoria Advocate](#)

[Woodland Hills Patch](#)

APP Resources

[Accountability System](#)

[Academic Quality and Workforce](#)

[College Readiness and Success](#)

[Compare College TX](#)

[Higher Education Almanac](#)

[Higher Ed Data](#)

[Higher Ed Strategic Plan](#)

[Overview of 60x30TX](#)

specializations from a community college or technical school, or during military training.

South Texas College will partner with Austin Community College (ACC) to create coursework, support services, and an articulation agreement for a 100 percent online, competency-based [Bachelor of Applied Technology](#) (BAT) degree in computer information technology (CIT). All of the existing competency-based courses in ACC's [Associate of Applied Science \(AAS\) in computer programming](#) will seamlessly transfer into South Texas College's newly developed, competency-based BAT in CIT, giving students an affordable, fast track to some of the most in-demand information technology occupations in Texas and beyond.

[Texas A&M University-Commerce](#) will develop a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice as a hybrid competency-based online program for certified first responders, military personnel, and adult learners with criminal justice employment experience. The proposed competency-based criminal justice degree is designed to assist this nontraditional professional population by providing a more affordable option for degree completion. Because employability of students is vitally important, the curriculum will be designed so that competencies and learning outcomes are tied to specific courses for lower-division courses. By providing a lower-cost, competency-based format, students can work at a pace that is most appropriate for their level of ability in a forum that allows for self-paced learning in an online learning platform.

The TAB grant program supports [60x30TX](#), the state's higher education goals for completion, marketable skills, managing student debt, and ensuring that at least 60 percent of Texans ages 25-34 will have a college degree or certificate by 2030. For more information, visit www.thecb.state.tx.us/tabgrant.

Jennifer Nailos | Program Director | Academic Quality and Workforce

Amarillo College Initiative Tackles Poverty and Garners Bellwether Award

Amarillo College's [No Excuses Poverty Initiative](#) received national recognition on Jan. 31, when the college was presented with a prestigious [Bellwether Award](#) at the [2017 National Policy Summit and Futures Assembly](#) in Orlando, Fla. The college was one of 3,000 applicants in the "Planning, Governance and Finance" category for programs or activities that have been designed and successfully implemented to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the community college. The Bellwether Awards' website states that the program is "designed to support students, boost graduation and transfer, and increase student persistence," clearly connecting it to the goals and targets of [60x30TX](#).

After conducting a study of its community and its students in 2010, Amarillo College recognized that their community and students were living in a growing poverty trend. As Amarillo's population grew, educational attainment was decreasing, and the number of individuals living in poverty was on the rise. The college answered the call to action to help their community and their students. Four years later, Amarillo College's No Excuses Poverty Initiative has developed from a single focus supported by grant funding to an institutionally supported systemic approach. The initiative includes social services, a food pantry, a mentoring program, and a career center, each providing direct services to students, and the initiative is technology and

The APP E-NEWS is written and produced by the staff of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). For newsletter questions or comments, contact Ramona Reeves, Editor, at ramona.reeves@theccb.state.tx.us or (512) 427-6434.

data-driven and designed to assist leadership, faculty, and staff with increasing student success.

"Our commitment to students, especially those living in the war zone of poverty, changes lives and our shared community," President Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart of Amarillo College said. "This award singles out the commitments of our faculty and staff as being among the best in the nation."

The Bellwether Awards were established in 1995 by the Community College Futures Assembly and annually recognize three categories of outstanding and innovative programs and practices that are successfully leading community colleges into the future. In 2015 and 2016, Alamo Colleges won Bellwether Awards in the "Workforce Development" category for its [I-Best program](#) and for its [program to boost the school-to-careers pipeline](#), programs certain to impact the goals of *60x30TX*.

Terri Daniels | Assistant Director, College Completion
| College Readiness and Success

Engineering Summer Program Notice of Intent Due April 7

Board members at the January board meeting of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved issuing a Request for Application (RFA) for the Engineering Summer Program (ESP). The RFA will be sent to institutions and posted online at www.thecb.state.tx.us/ESP by the end of February.

Awards provide support for institutions to offer one-week summer engineering programs with instruction in math, science, and engineering concepts. The ESP provides middle and high school students with an early opportunity to explore engineering as a potential career and helps students prepare for the academic rigors of engineering coursework. All Texas public universities and independent institutions of higher education that offer engineering degree programs are eligible to apply to receive funding.

For summer 2017, ESP has \$250,000 available to support institutional efforts. The actual award amount will depend on the number of applications received. The maximum award amount will be emailed to applicants after notices of intent to apply (NOI) are received. The NOI is due April 7, 2017, and applications are due May 5, 2017. Awards will be announced in May 2017 and grant terms begin June 1.

For additional information, visit the website at www.thecb.state.tx.us/ESP or contact Jessica Acton, Program Director, at 512-427-6214 or Jessica.Acton@thecb.state.tx.us.

Jessica Acton | Program Director | Academic Quality and Workforce

Proposed Rule Change on Delegation of Authority for Approval of Energy Savings Performance Contracts

[Texas Education Code \(TEC\), Section 51.927](#), requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to have an approval process for Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPC). To increase efficiency and reduce administrative burden while also satisfying the conditions of the TEC,

the THECB is proposing a rule change that provides for a delegation of authority for ESPC approval. Specifically, this proposed change will establish a methodology that stratifies projects based on two factors: project cost and term of the contract. Any project that is not approved by a delegated party will be immediately referred to the next higher-level approval authority.

The text contained in the proposed change to Chapter 17, Subchapter B, Section 17.12 of the board rules was posted to the [Texas Register](#) Feb. 10 and reflects the matrix shown.

		Payback Period		
		10 years or less	Greater than 10 to 15 years	Greater than 15 to 20 years ¹
Cost	\$10 million or less	Asst. Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Funding	Asst. Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Funding	Committee on Affordability, Accountability and Planning
	Greater than \$10 million to \$20 million	Asst. Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Funding	Committee on Affordability, Accountability and Planning	Committee on Affordability, Accountability and Planning
	Greater than \$20 million	Committee on Affordability, Accountability and Planning	Committee on Affordability, Accountability and Planning	Board of the THECB

Delegation Matrix for Energy Savings Performance Contracts (Note 1: ESPC may not exceed 20 years - TEC 51.927.)

All members of the disbanded 2014 Negotiated Rulemaking Committee (NRC) on Capital Projects (and those who have replaced initial members, to represent their institutions) have been contacted for feedback. To date, THECB staff has received no negative responses, and a majority of NRC members have responded favorably to the proposal.

Comments on the proposed rule may be submitted to Dr. Julie Eklund, Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Funding, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, 1200 East Anderson Lane, Austin, TX, 78752, or sent to julie.eklund@thech.state.tx.us. Comments are being accepted for 30 days following the proposal's publication in the *Texas Register*.

Mary Smith | Assistant Deputy Commissioner/ADR Coordinator
| Academic Planning and Policy

Meeting of Literacy and Adult Education Association Highlights Academic and Workforce Training Programs

Community college-based adult, developmental, and workforce education partners from around the state presented during the annual meeting of the [Texas Association of Literacy and Adult Education](#) (TALAE) in San Antonio, Feb. 2-4. Among the topics were funding strategies for building integrated career pathways/Accelerate TX programs, moderated by Juan Carlos Aguirre, Dean of Continuing Education at South Texas College; [Intensive College Readiness bridge programs](#) for underprepared students, moderated by Dr. Kal Kallison, Consultant, Education and Evaluation; and community college strategies for developmental and adult education alignment, moderated by

Dr. Suzanne Morales-Vale, Director of Adult and Developmental Education at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB).

Representatives from [Jobs for the Future \(JFF\)](#) presented on the [Accelerate TX Toolkit](#), and a team from the [Public Policy Research Institute \(PPRI\) at Texas A&M University](#) conducted a workshop on effective strategies for communicating evaluation outcomes, as well as a session on the [THECB Accelerate TX evaluation findings](#).

Across the state, colleges are working to integrate adult education and literacy (AEL) students into academic and workforce training programs. The colleges working under THECB funding to scale Accelerate TX-Integrated Career pathways include Amarillo College, Brazosport College, Clarendon College, College of the Mainland, Dallas County Community College, Del Mar College, Frank Phillips College, Galveston College, Hill College, Houston Community College, Laredo Community College, Lee College, Lone Star College System, McLennan Community College, South Texas College, Tarrant County College, Texas Southmost College, and Victoria College. Representatives from many of these colleges also presented at TALAE.

Linda Muñoz | Director of Adult Education | College Readiness and Success

Opening Date for ApplyTexas Moves to July 1



As a result of the earlier opening date for the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#), participating Texas institutions of higher education in November decided to move the [ApplyTexas](#) annual application

opening date from August 1 to July 1, starting in summer 2017. This will apply to applications for summer 2018, fall 2018, and spring 2019. As in the past, each institution will have the option to open applications on this date or later.

ApplyTexas is the application system for students applying for admission to Texas public colleges and universities. ApplyTexas was created through a collaborative effort between the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the colleges and universities represented on the site. ApplyTexas offers a centralized means for both Texas and non-Texas students to apply to the many postsecondary institutions available in the state.

Matt Lashlee | Program Director | College Readiness and Success

Children's Learning Institute Recognized for Excellence at January Board Meeting

The [Children's Learning Institute \(CLI\)](#), a part of the McGovern Medical School at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, was recognized for excellence by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) at its quarterly meeting in January. Board members of the THECB highlighted the CLI as an exemplary resource for learning solutions that produces tested, proven, and effective results through scientific research and evidence-based interventions. "We have the pleasure of recognizing the Children's Learning Institute," said [Bobby Jenkins](#), board chair. "This recognition showcases models of excellence within the education community

and emphasizes the outstanding work of our education faculty and administrators, and the outstanding institutional programs around our state.”

Under the direction of nationally recognized early childhood expert, [Dr. Susan H. Landry](#), the CLI combines data and studies to provide learning solutions derived from and supported by documented research. While several programs came together to form the Children's Learning Institute in 2003, CLI's research represents work that started in the 1980s. Today, the team includes more than 200 experts in the fields of child development, education, medicine, neurodevelopment, research analysis, and other areas of inquiry.

From before birth through young adulthood, CLI's programs and services impact children across Texas and the nation. Services include clinical assessment; diagnosis and treatment of learning disorders; cutting-edge research on techniques to enhance a child's home and learning environments; and the development of teaching, learning, and coaching platforms for educators and administrators. Within Texas, CLI has managed the development and ongoing enhancement of the [Texas School Ready Project](#), a comprehensive, research-based professional development program for early education teachers that ensures at-risk children receive targeted instruction in critical school readiness skills. Since its inception in 2003, CLI has impacted more than 550,000 children across the state through this program. Such efforts will be contribute to reaching the goals of [60x30TX](#).

The Children's Learning Institute's research and programs are supported by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Department of Education, the Institute of Educational Science, the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Workforce Commission, private foundations, and individual donors. Additional information about the Children's Learning Institute can be found at <https://www.childrenslearninginstitute.org/>.

Mary Smith | Assistant Deputy Commissioner/ADR Coordinator
| Academic Planning and Policy

Focus on 60x30TX

By 2030, all graduates from Texas public institutions of higher education will have completed programs with identified marketable skills.

This third goal in [60x30TX](#) challenges institutions to think more explicitly about the programs they offer and the job skills that students learn within those programs. Identifying marketable skills for each program may seem daunting but speaks to why most students pursue higher education. Since 2012, in an [annual UCLA study](#), over 85 percent of surveyed students identified getting a better job as the motivation for going to college. The plan defines marketable skills as “those skills valued by employers that can be applied in a variety of work settings, including interpersonal, cognitive, and applied skill areas. These skills can be either primary or complementary to a major and are acquired by students through education, including curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular activities.”

The marketable skills goal connects to the 60x30 goal by aligning higher education with workforce needs. It connects to the completion goal by providing students with a clearer picture of how courses relate to jobs. It connects to the student debt goal by providing students with the language to secure employment so graduates can pay down their debt.

SHARING THE GOAL WITH STAKEHOLDERS

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) hosted a series of [regional meetings](#), with support from the College for All Texans Foundation and Lumina Foundation, to learn what strategies local stakeholders could contribute to *60x30TX*. Many strategies that emerged regionally were similar to strategies proposed in *60x30TX*, but new and innovative ideas also emerged. The suggested strategies focused on four agents of change: faculty, students, administrators, and the THECB. A singular, common theme was that stakeholders unilaterally requested a more formal, operational definition of “marketable skills.”

The THECB also has made efforts to reach out to career services professionals. The marketable skills goal provides an excellent opportunity for the agency directly to engage this community, which historically has not been done in the agency’s 50-year history.

CURRENT EFFORTS TO MEET THIS GOAL

On April 12-13, 2016, the THECB hosted the [Marketable Skills Conference](#) at the AT&T Conference Center in Austin. Institutions were encouraged to send a variety of staff, including provosts, deans, career services administrators, student services administrators, chief academic/instructional officers, and faculty senate presidents. Attendees topped 350. Two- and four-year colleges and universities each made up about half of the registrants. During the conference, higher education institutions shared ideas, policies, and practices on how to achieve the marketable skills goal. All of the presentations and related materials are posted [online](#). One of the intentions of this conference was to help participants connect the marketable skills goal to existing resources. A synopsis of this conference is available in the [April 2016 APP Newsletter](#).

Two coordinated statewide efforts to implement the marketable skills goal are institution-led. One of these efforts is led by Texas Council of Chief Academic Officers (TCCAO). TCCAO plans to convene university faculty from similar disciplines to create a resource list of marketable skills. These lists will be shared with all universities in the state, for them to tailor as they see fit. TCCAO selected Communication and Journalism as its pilot project. The other effort is led by [Texas Council of Chief Student Affairs Officers](#) (TCCSAO). TCCSAO has developed a common framework and definitions of marketable skills for its members by creating a crosswalk between the core objectives already assessed in the [Texas Core Curriculum](#) and the in-demand skills sought by employers – established by the National Association of Colleges and Employers ([NACE](#)). TCCSAO is now finalizing a set of rubrics that can be used to consistently measure the development of these skills in many contexts.

FUTURE EFFORTS TO MEET THIS GOAL

Future efforts will likely include additional convenings and institutional collaboration. Part of the THECB’s effort will include monitoring progress towards the marketable skills goal. The scope of that monitoring mechanism is to be determined. To stay informed about activities related to the marketable skills goal, sign up for the THECB’s email list on this topic: (1) go to [eUpdates](#), (2) create an account, (3) select “Expand for all topics,” and (4) check the “Marketable Skills” topic under *60x30TX*. Selecting “*60x30TX*” will provide updates on all four goals.

Also, THECB staff is available to present *60x30TX* in your community or to discuss the marketable skills goal specifically. Please contact Kelly Polden Carper at kelly.polden@thecb.state.tx.us for more information.

Ginger Gossman | Senior Director | Innovation and Policy Development

New Employees in Academic Planning and Policy

Heather Marsh (Senior Director of Development, Academic Planning and Policy) – Heather joins the staff of the THECB after 10 years at Mountain View College in Dallas. After earning her B.F.A. from Texas State University and her M.B.A. from the University of Dallas, she led a nonprofit organization in Dallas County before becoming the Vice President of Development for Texans Can, a statewide charter school organization. Since 2007, Heather has served as the Dean of Resource Development at Mountain View College where she led the college’s advancement initiatives, including federal grants, corporate partnerships, and general fundraising for program development.



Questions? [Contact us](#)

How are we doing? [Customer Satisfaction Survey](#)

GET UPDATES:



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:

[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Subscriber Help](#) |