

# 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 8, Number 10, December 2016

## 85th Texas Legislature to Convene on Jan. 10

Beginning on Nov. 14, state legislators have been able to “pre-file” legislation for the upcoming legislative session. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s (THECB) External Relations staff will track and coordinate analysis of all introduced legislation that impacts higher education in Texas, as well as the agency directly. As of Dec. 1, the External Relations staff at the THECB is tracking 53 pre-filed bills, including:

- Three bills have been introduced to enact Coordinating Board legislative recommendations. Senate Bill (SB) 34 by Sen. Judith Zaffirini and House Bill (HB) 430 by Rep. Jarvis Johnson would enact the Graduation Bonus for public universities. SB 33 by Sen. Zaffirini would enact the Board’s recommended modifications to the TEXAS Grant program. External Relations staff is working with members, including the chairs of the Higher Education Committees, to have the remaining legislative recommendations introduced.
- Two bills have been filed regarding the ability of undocumented students to receive higher education benefits. SB 141 by Sen. Van Taylor would require that all TEXAS Grant recipients also be eligible for federal financial aid (undocumented students are barred from receiving federal aid). HB 393 by Rep. Jonathan Stickland would remove the current statutory provision that allows a student (regardless of immigration status) to qualify as a Texas resident for higher education purposes, as long as he or she attends a Texas high school for 36 months prior to graduation.
- Several bills have been introduced to regulate tuition. SB 250 by Sen. Charles Schwertner would limit the increase in tuition and fees at institutions to no more than the rate of inflation. HB 112 by Rep. Harold Dutton would require institutions to roll back their tuition charged to no more than 85 percent of what they charged in 2016-17.
- Additionally, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick has reserved a bill number (SB 19) for a tuition reform proposal. No details have been released regarding the legislation.
- Also, Lt. Gov. Patrick reserved SB 18 for legislation on tuition set-asides. The bill’s text has not yet been released.

John Wyatt | Director of External Relations

## Calendar

### Next Board Meeting

January 26, 2017  
8:30 a.m.

## Upcoming Meetings

Financial Literacy Advisory  
Committee Meeting  
**Jan. 3**

Nursing Innovation Grant  
Program Grantees’ Meeting  
**Jan. 11**

Perkins Leadership Meeting  
**Jan. 12**

## 60x30TX in the News

[Austin American-Statesman](#)

[Corridor News](#)

[Christi Caller-Times](#)

[Dallas News](#)

[Jacksonville Progress](#)

[Longview News-Journal](#)

[Nacogdoches ISD](#)

## In Brief



Chancellor Joe May of the Dallas County Community College District spoke to an audience on Dec. 1 at El Centro College as part of the Metroplex Regional 60x30TX Workshop in Dallas. More than 130 leaders from the region's two- and four-year colleges, ISDs, and businesses convened to discuss strategies for achieving the goals of 60x30TX. The meeting was made possible by grants from the College for All Texans Foundation and Lumina Foundation.

## 2017-2018 Nursing Innovation Grant Program Awards Announced

In May 2016, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) released a request for applications (RFA) under the Nursing Innovation Grant Program (NIGP) Building Simulation and Skills Lab Capacity. Managed by the Division of Academic Quality and Workforce at the THECB, NIGP is funded by the interest earnings from the permanent fund established in 1999, as a result of the State's Multi-State Tobacco Lawsuit Settlement. Under NIGP, grants are awarded to programs preparing students for the initial licensure as registered nurses at Texas public and independent institutions of higher education.

Consistent with the goals of 60x30TX, the purpose of the Building Simulation and Skills Lab Capacity RFA is to address the limited resources for clinical placement that often restrict enrollment capacity. The grants support nursing programs' efforts in shifting clinical hours from traditional patient care clinical situations to simulation activities, enhancing students' readiness for hands-on patient care, and increasing student enrollment and retention. The grants also support professional development to increase nursing program faculty's knowledge and use of simulation activities.

Through a competitive process, 17 of 34 applicants have been selected for NIGP awards. The grant period for the new awards is January 1, 2017, to December 31, 2018 (24 months). The list of 2017-2018 awards can be accessed via the NIGP website at <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/NIGPApp>.

Fu-An Lin | Program Director | Academic Quality and Workforce

[TexVet.org](http://TexVet.org)

[The Coastal Bend Chronicle](#)

[The Daily Texan](#)

[Tyler Morning Telegraph](#)

## APP Links

[Academic Quality and Workforce](#)

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[Compare College TX](#)

[Higher Education Strategic Plan](#)

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[Texas Higher Education Data](#)



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@thecb.state.tx.us](mailto:ramona.reeves@thecb.state.tx.us) or (512) 427-6434.

## Community College Annual Reporting and Analysis Tool Open for FY 2016 Input of Annual Financial Information

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) hosts the Community College Annual Reporting and Analysis Tool (CARAT). The purpose of CARAT is to provide community college chief financial officers, chief executive officers, other community college management staff, and THECB staff with the ability to perform analysis and prepare reports based on the community college Annual Financial Reports and Annual Investment Reports.

The collection of data for FY 2016 is now open for each institution to complete. Access to CARAT is through CBPass. Community college officers or staff can apply for the CARAT application using the current CBID. If an officer or staff member does not have a CBID, they can obtain one at <https://www1.theccb.state.tx.us/cbid/>.

CARAT is completely web-based and is available at the following webpage: <https://www1.theccb.state.tx.us/apps/CARAT>. For direct questions or requests for password resets, contact Roland Gilmore at 512-427-6243 or [Roland.Gilmore@theccb.state.tx.us](mailto:Roland.Gilmore@theccb.state.tx.us).

Surveys must be completed no later than January 31, 2017.

**Roland Gilmore | Program Director | Strategic Planning and Funding**

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## Statewide Meeting on Integrated Reading and Writing Held in Austin

Over 130 faculty members, administrators, and other staff members from higher education institutions participated in the Statewide Meeting on Integrated Reading and Writing (IRW) held Dec. 2 in Austin. Sponsored by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and facilitated by Austin Community College (ACC), the event was designed to help participants learn about IRW research and outcomes from national experts, identify and access ongoing training opportunities, and share teaching and learning best practices.

Dr. Suzanne Morales-Vale, Director of Developmental and Adult Education at the THECB, opened the meeting with updates on IRW resources and support from THECB. A panel of experts followed with a discussion of best practices for overcoming common obstacles faced by institutions when implementing IRW courses before they answered questions from participants. The panel included Dr. Susan Bickerstaff of Columbia University, Dr. Jeanine Latoya Williams of the Community College of Baltimore County, Dr. D. Patrick Saxon of Sam Houston State University, and Dr. David C. Caverly of Texas State University.

Participants also learned about designing IRW training modules for their institutions, ACC's online training program, and Texas State University's degree programs. The meeting concluded with a question and answer session and an opportunity for attendees to identify the specific areas where they need support. Resources and a recording of the meeting are available at ACC's [Integrated Reading and Writing](#) page.

The THECB, in coordination with the Texas Success Initiative Professional Development Program at Texas State University, is making plans to hold another professional development opportunity in the spring. The Acceleration Institute will be held April 6-7 at Texas State University-Round Rock. Faculty, support staff, and administrators will learn how to effectively scale, enhance, and evaluate acceleration strategies, such as mainstreaming/co-requisites, non-course competency-based options (NCBOs), and IRW models, at their institutions. Information on registration for the institute will be available in late January.

Additionally, the THECB offers email updates on the Texas Success Initiative and developmental education. Subscribers can learn about rule changes, professional development opportunities, and other resources by signing up at [www.thecb.state.tx.us/tsi](http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/tsi).

**Kathy Zarate | Program Specialist IV | College Readiness and Success**

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## **GenTX Month and the #IApplied Campaign Reach New Heights**

November was GenTX Month for schools across Texas. More than 400 K-12 schools and districts and more than 94,000 Texas high school seniors accepted the #IApplied Challenge to submit the FAFSA or TASFA and an application (ApplyTexas) to at least one institution of higher education. During GenTX Month, schools shared their college application events, provided financial aid workshops, and celebrated Texas seniors who took the next step toward pursuing higher education.

GenTX representatives also participated in the Texas Counseling Association's 60th annual Professional Growth Conference, sharing college access resources with hundreds of counselors and signing up high schools to join GenTX Month.

While this year surpassed previous marks for the numbers of high schools and seniors involved in campaign activities, GenTX organizers say a Texas-sized effort is still needed to reach the statewide *60x30TX* goals. They also stress that it is not too late for schools to accept the #IApplied challenge.

To help Texas reach its GenTX Month goals next year – to have 1,000 Texas high schools join GenTX Month and support seniors aspiring to higher education – GenTX organizers are asking two- and four-year colleges and other higher education stakeholders to share [www.gentx.org](http://www.gentx.org) with local high schools and to encourage school leadership to [sign-up to take the challenge](#). High schools that join the challenge will receive free #IApplied stickers for all seniors, a free data tool to set campus goals, and other helpful resources to ensure all seniors can proudly say #IApplied.

Generation Texas (GenTX) promotes a college-going culture and helps high school students, especially first-generation students, navigate their way to and through higher education. This initiative also is connected to regional efforts and the goals of the [60x30TX Texas Challenge to Reach Higher](#), an initiative to increase college applications, FAFSA completions, and college readiness across Texas.

**Matt Lashlee | Program Director | College Readiness and Success**

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## Focus on 60x30TX

***For this year's last Focus on 60x30TX column, Commissioner of Higher Education Raymund Paredes offers his thoughts on helping Texas to achieve the goals of 60x30TX.***

**RP:** Over the past year, readers of this column have learned about many individual perspectives of how Texas will achieve our 60x30TX goals for higher education. We cannot get there doing business as usual. We are going to have to innovate, using the “can do” and entrepreneurial spirit of Texas to develop creative ideas about how to address our needs. We must all work together for success.

This is an important moment in Texas higher education as we get deeply underway with the launch of 60x30TX. We are one year into the plan and are now about to enter the first Texas Legislative session under it. Each of the Coordinating Board’s [legislative recommendations](#) are intended to help Texas achieve our 60x30TX goals. This past spring, Gov. Greg Abbott gave the Coordinating Board, the Texas Education Agency, and the Texas Workforce Commission a set of charges to integrate education and workforce for greater Texas prosperity. The [tri-agency report](#) lays out four prime recommendations that closely align with 60x30TX.

In my recent [State of Higher Education](#) address, I discussed 10 recommendations that I believe we need to accomplish if we are going to reach our goals. They are listed here, but I encourage you to read the full address to gain context about the work that lies ahead for achievement of our 60x30TX goals.

### Recommendations

1. Fix developmental education
  - a. Combine reading and writing
  - b. Use co-requisite approaches
  - c. Supplemental instruction
2. Facilitate Transfer
  - a. Fields of study
  - b. Regional articulation
  - c. 2+2 initiatives
3. Reinvent Financial Aid
  - a. Accelerate time to degree
  - b. Paid internships
  - c. Corporate-sponsored work study
4. Innovations in Affordability
  - a. Expand dual credit carefully and maintain rigor
  - b. 30 semester credit hours/year
  - c. Reduce excess attempted hours
  - d. Expand competency-based education and the Texas Affordable Baccalaureate initiative
  - e. Remember cost efficiency report (2009)
5. Prioritize teaching training programs and expand teaching professional development efforts
6. Expand collaboration among P-12 education, higher education, and workforce development

- a. P-16 councils
  - b. Work with State Board of Education
  - c. Re-examine current College and Career Readiness standards
7. Focus on faculty training and professional development.
    - a. Training in cognitive development and teaching/learning sciences
  8. Embrace technology
    - a. At least catch up with students
    - b. MOOCs
    - c. Data and predictive analytics
    - d. Measure student learning
  9. Increase and expand advising not only to focus on academic issues but financial issues as well
  10. Be student-focused
    - a. Student success is our most important goal

If we make progress on all these fronts, I think that *60x30TX* will be achievable. I look forward to working with each of you. I believe we will be able to look back and say we did some extraordinary things for the young people and future of Texas.



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