

# Academic Planning and Policy E-News

Academic Quality and Workforce | College Readiness and Success | Strategic Planning and Funding



Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

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

Volume 7, Number 9, October/November 2015

## Gov. Abbott Appoints Bobby Jenkins to Chair of THECB



Gov. Greg Abbott named Bobby Jenkins the chair of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in October. Jenkins, who is president of ABC Home & Commercial Services, previously served as the vice-chair and a member of the Coordinating Board after former Gov. Rick Perry appointed him for a six-year term in 2011.

Jenkins graduated in 1981 from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor's in Business Administration and serves on Texas A&M's College of Agricultural Development Council and Mays Business School Development Council. But Jenkins' commitment to all higher education institutions in the state is clear. "We have such a wide spectrum of opportunities all the way from private schools in the state to public and community colleges," he said in comments made to [The Eagle at Texas A&M](#). He added that while serving as chair of the Austin Chamber of Commerce, he noticed the difference degree-holding Texans could make on a local economy, and he reiterated the importance of the goals in *60x30TX*, the state's new higher education plan.

Jenkins' many nonprofit activities speak to his commitment not only to higher education but also to the communities higher education serves across the state. He holds, or has held key positions with the Better Business Bureau Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse, the Alzheimer's Association, the Austin American Heart Association, Austin Gives, Caritas of Austin, and United Way of Austin. He co-founded Recognize Good and is the past chair of the Austin Chamber of Commerce and past president of both the Texas and National Pest Management Associations. He is a past tri-chair for the bond oversight committee with the Austin Independent School District.

Ramona Reeves | Writer-Editor | Academic Planning and Policy

## R. Jerel Booker Named Assistant Commissioner of College Readiness and Success

R. "Jerel" Booker, formerly Deputy Assistant Commissioner for College Readiness, recently was named Assistant Commissioner of [College Readiness and Success](#) (CRS), effective Oct. 1. In his previous role, Booker oversaw the college readiness, access, student support, and outreach programs designed to increase the state's access to postsecondary credentials or degrees of value in the workplace.



Before joining the Coordinating Board staff, Booker served as the Executive Director of Stand for Children Texas, a national education advocacy nonprofit

## Calendar

### ***Next Board Meeting***

January 21, 2016  
8:30 a.m.

### ***Academic Course Guide Manual (AGCM) Fall Meeting***

Nov. 13, 8 a.m.

### ***Workforce Education Course Manual (WECM) Leadership Committee***

Nov. 17, 9 a.m.

### ***Community and Technical Colleges Formula Advisory Committee (CTCFAC) Meeting***

Dec. 1, 9 a.m.

### ***Health-Related Institutions Formula Advisory Committee (HRIFAC) Meeting***

Dec. 2, 10 a.m.

### ***Community and Technical College (CTC) Leadership Council***

Dec. 3, 10 a.m.

organization working to ensure that all children graduate from high school prepared for, and with access to, a college education. He also served as Associate Commissioner for Educator and Student Policy Initiatives for the Texas Education Agency and as Chair of the Commissioner's Task Force on Federal Stimulus and Stabilization where he developed policy and coordinated agency plans to allocate over \$6 billion in federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. Booker's professional career includes service as an Associate Vice President for External Affairs at Coppin State University, an education legislative/policy advisor to the Governor of Maryland, as well as the Director of Policy & Legislative Affairs for the Maryland Higher Education Commission. Earlier in his career, he worked as a teacher in the Baltimore City Public School System and taught undergraduate and graduate courses in political science and criminology.

Booker earned a B.A. in Journalism (Public Relations) from The University of Texas at Austin, an M.S. in Criminology from the University of Baltimore, and a J.D. from Howard University School of Law.

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

### Tarrant CCD, Austin CC, and San Jacinto CD Among Perkins Leadership Grantees

Texas Perkins State Leadership Grants focus on career and technical education improvement initiatives with a statewide impact. The latest trends in education, including competency-based education (CBE), prior learning assessment training, and curriculum alignment are part of the new 2015-2016 Perkins Leadership Grant projects. With an emphasis on career and technical education (CTE), these projects also include CTE advising support, best practices focusing on meeting Perkins core indicators, partnering with secondary agencies and institutions to highlight CTE educational opportunities, and enhancing workforce education courses.

Each year, eligible Texas community, technical, and two-year colleges are invited to submit conceptual pre-proposals for innovative projects focused on the improvement of CTE curricula, pedagogy, advising, and more. During spring 2015, 16 pre-proposals were reviewed, and institutions that submitted qualifying pre-proposals were invited to apply for project funding. Nine applications were considered, and eight (including a nontraditional-focused project) were awarded for the 2015-2016 year.

The following projects are among [this year's Perkins Leadership Grant awards](#):

- Tarrant County College District's "Career and Technical Education Advising Support through Best Practices" will develop a manual and training materials for best-practice advising methodologies for career and technical advisors. These items will be distributed statewide for use by all community colleges, and training webinars will be broadcast.
- Austin Community College's "Fast-Track to Success – Competency-Based Education in Information Technology" will establish a network of postsecondary IT faculty (ITN) designed to build statewide relationships, enhance competency-based education in IT programs, and provide leadership to the rest of the state. The project also will connect with national CBE efforts and subject-matter experts to fast track IT CBE in Texas and will establish consistent methods of assessment and transferability of credit among ITN institutions.
- San Jacinto College District's "Workforce Education Course Manual Maintenance" will partner with community and technical colleges to review and align Workforce Education Course Manual (WECM) courses with the Guidelines for Instructional Programs in Workforce

## 60x30TX in the News

[E3 Alliance](#)

[Inside Higher Ed](#)

[Lubbock Avalanche-Journal](#)

[Odessa American](#)

[The Texas Tribune](#)

[U.S. News](#)

## APP Links

[Higher Ed Data](#)

[Higher Ed Strategic Plan](#)

[Higher Education Almanac](#)

[Accountability System](#)

[College Readiness and Success](#)

[Academic Quality and  
Workforce](#)

[Compare College TX](#)

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

Education (GIPWE), ensuring that courses support federally required Programs of Study (POS).

Other grantees for 2015-2016 are Temple College, Dallas County Community College District, Texas State Technical College System, Victoria College, and Amarillo College.

More information and details about this year's and previously funded Perkins Leadership Grant projects can be found at [www.thecb.state.tx.us/perkins](http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/perkins).

Elizabeth Steele | Program Director | Academic Quality and Workforce

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## Sam Houston State University and Odessa College Programs Honored at Oct. Board Meeting

University Business magazine's "[Models of Excellence](#)" is a national recognition program honoring colleges and universities that have implemented innovative, effective inter-departmental initiatives to bolster student success. The magazine selected Sam Houston State University and Odessa College as Models of Excellence 2015 Summer Honorees for innovative student success programs.

Sam Houston State University's [Establishing Leadership In and Through Education](#) (ELITE) program is designed to promote the retention and graduation of African American and Hispanic male students. Through ELITE, the university engages at-risk students as soon as they are on campus. The program requires a full-year commitment by the students and provides increased academic support, peer mentoring, and advising resources.

The spring 2015 ELITE freshmen cohort had statistically significant higher completions of semester credit hours, completion rates, and GPAs than other minority, male, and first-time freshmen groups. The program has been primarily funded by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) since its inception in fall 2010. ELITE also was recognized as a 2013 THECB Star Award Finalist.

Odessa College's [Drop Rate Improvement Program](#) (DRIP) was created in spring 2011 and was officially launched in the Arts and Sciences division of Odessa College in fall 2011. The intended goal was to improve student persistence, measured by increasing the percentage of students who, during any given semester and including both online and face-to-face classes, completed the course or courses they were taking. DRIP and the process it uses to impact student persistence are based on original research at Odessa College that provides data-driven suggestions to faculty for improving faculty-student engagement.

Since 2012, class dropouts have fallen to historic lows, and the course completion rate throughout the college is now over 90 percent, including that of first-time-in-college students. Not only has student persistence measurably increased for all students, but student success rates (the percentage of students who get a "C" or better grade during any given semester) have also increased for all students regardless of gender, ethnicity, or economic status (e.g., Pell grant recipients). These rates are now greater than 70 percent for first-time-in-college-students. DRIP was a 2014 THECB Star Award Finalist.

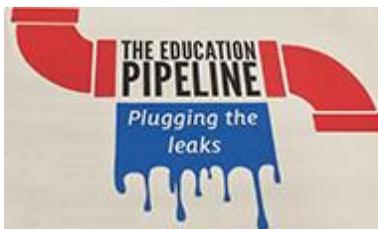
Both programs were recognized for excellence at the THECB's October board meeting. Representatives from Sam Houston State University and Odessa College made presentations and answered questions.

Matt Lashlee | Program Director | College Readiness and Success

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## UH Faculty Senate Hosts Education Pipeline Conference

The University of Houston Faculty Senate hosted its 16th [Scholarship and Community Conference](#) on Oct. 23 at the University of Houston Student Center. Titled "The Education Pipeline: Plugging the Leaks," the event was co-sponsored by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and brought together experts and key stakeholders from pre-K through college and career.



Dr. Renu Khator, Chancellor of the University of Houston System and President of the University of Houston, welcomed attendees. Morning presentations concentrated on raising the quality of education and on proven practices for infants through prekindergarten, as well as on research for improving talent development in secondary education. Dr. Cesar Maldonado, Chancellor of the Houston Community College System, addressed the importance of educational attainment and its vital connection to workforce readiness for the Gulf Coast region and the state.

Dr. Raymund Paredes, Commissioner of Higher Education, provided the keynote address, presenting *60x30TX*, the 2015-2030 higher education strategic plan for Texas. Following his keynote, attendees participated in breakout panel sessions focusing on early childhood education, school-to-work transition, educational policy and House Bill 5 implementation, and embedding information technology into curricula.

Prior to the conference, secondary and postsecondary counselors attended training and sessions covering the financial aid process; college application procedures; college and career advising; and updates related to the Joint Admissions Medical Program (JAMP), House Bill 5 (83rd Legislature), and House Bill 18 (84th Legislature).

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

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## Funds Available for New Pathways Partnerships

Changes in assessment, P-16 curricula, and the growing economic challenges facing today's students require innovative approaches to improving student success. The Pathways Program seeks to boost student success through innovative and collaborative efforts between school districts and higher education partners within different regions of Texas. Within the existing Pathways Partnerships, each partner appoints faculty to collaborate in subject-area teams. Team efforts focus on using aggregate student data to help identify curricular and other areas for improving alignment between colleges and high schools. Teams also develop educational and other support interventions to ease student transitions from high school to and through college.

The 84th Texas Legislature provided funds to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for expanding the Pathways Program to new areas of the state. Designated for use during the FY 2016-2017 biennium, the funds are earmarked for starting and implementing five new Pathways Partnerships. Grants of approximately \$30,000 each, with a maximum of \$40,000, will be awarded to five, public two- or four-year college grantees. Each selected institution will take the lead role in planning and implementing a new Pathways Partnership in their area.

Currently, five regional Pathways Partnerships are led by El Paso Community College District, Alamo Community College District, Houston Community College System, San Jacinto College District, and The University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley (formerly UT-Pan American). These partnerships were

provided startup and/or additional funding assistance when funds were previously available and are not eligible for these new funds.

To find out more about Pathways Program opportunities and available start-up funds, email [Pathways@theccb.state.tx.us](mailto:Pathways@theccb.state.tx.us) by November 18, 2015 for earliest consideration. The email should include the following:

- Name and title of contact person, including phone number and email address
- A list of school districts and higher education institutions in your region that may be interested in partnering (not necessary to confirm)
- A list of other projects in which your institution has collaborated with area school districts and institutions on P-16 (high school through college) initiatives

**Donn Godin | Senior Research Specialist | Strategic Planning and Funding**

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### **The THECB Awards 41 Work-Study Mentorship Grants**

Work-Study Mentorship Grants help Texas institutions provide work-study funds to college students employed on a part-time basis in Work-Study Mentorship Programs. The goal of the [Work-Study Mentorship Program](#) administered by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) is to assist in generating a college-going culture among high school students and to provide college students with the financial support they need to be successful in postsecondary education.

Eligible college students work at participating institutions to mentor high school students and also may provide mentoring and/or tutoring services to other college students on their campuses. As mentors and tutors graduate from higher education, they will contribute to the 60x30 and completion goals included in the *60x30TX* plan for higher education in Texas.

Recently, the two-year grants were awarded for Sept. 1, 2015 through Aug. 31, 2017. The following colleges received a Work-Study Mentorship Grant, with special consideration given to institutions that successfully participated in previous THECB mentoring or tutoring programs:

Amarillo College, Austin Community College District, Brazosport College, Cedar Valley College, Central Texas College, Coastal Bend College, Del Mar College, Eastfield College, El Paso Community College, Houston Community College, Huston-Tillotson University, Laredo Community College, Mountain View College, North Lake College, Northeast Texas Community College, Odessa College, South Texas College, St. Edward's University, Tarleton State University, Tarrant County College District, Texas A&M International University, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Texas Christian University, Texas Southern University, Texas State Technical College, Texas State University, Texas Wesleyan University, Texas Woman's University, The University of Texas at Arlington, The University of Texas at Dallas, The University of Texas at El Paso, The University of Texas at San Antonio, The University of Texas at Tyler, The University of Texas of the Permian Basin, The University of Texas-Pan American, University of Houston-Downtown, University of North Texas, University of North Texas at Dallas, and West Texas A&M University.

**Natalie Coffey | Director of Recruitment and Retention | College Readiness and Success**

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### **Students Prepare for GenTX College Application Week**

One goal of Generation Texas (GenTX) is to promote a college-going culture and help high school students, especially first-generation students, navigate their way to and through higher education. When GenTX students graduate

from higher education, they will contribute to the 60x30 and completion goals included in the *60x30TX* plan for higher education in Texas.

The [GenTX](#) initiative will continue through the new plan and remain a portal for college-going information, advice, and resources.



During the GenTX Application Campaign, Nov. 16-21, students at participating high schools are assisted in completing college applications during the school day. The goal is for participating students to submit at least one college application to any of the 148 public and independent institutions of higher education in Texas, or to any institution of higher education they choose. Texas students will be prepped in advance to complete their college applications and will be able to complete their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at the same time.

The goals of the application campaign are straightforward:

- Share information and build awareness
- Provide individualized advising
- Assist with application completion
- Engage parents and community
- Make decisions and plan ahead

In 2014, 3,446 students completed 8,731 applications at 91 participating high schools during GenTX College Application Week. GenTX has several key initiatives planned for 2015–16.

**Natalie Coffey | Director of Recruitment and Retention | College Readiness and Success**

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## College Readiness and Success Participates in HOT College Night

The Coordinating Board's Division of College Readiness and Success (CRS) offered information on the Texas Success Initiative at the annual [Heart of Texas \(HOT\) College Night](#) at the Waco Convention Center on Oct. 20. More than 100 colleges from across the nation attended the event, which was free and open to 7th- through 12th-grade students and their parents. The event provided an opportunity for participants to visit with college representatives and representatives from other organizations to learn more about college. Additionally, a pre-event session provided tips to parents on how to help transition students from high school to postsecondary education. Additional workshops addressed financial aid and scholarship information.

CRS provided information to participants, estimated at approximately 1,000, and encouraged them to find opportunities to become college ready while still in high school. CRS also encouraged students to identify a postsecondary area of study prior to high school completion to make it easier to enroll directly in college-level pathways and to avoid being sidetracked by costly and time-consuming remediation.

Baylor University, Region 12 Education Service Center, McLennan Community College, Texas State Technical College, Midway ISD, Waco ISD, and Vanguard College Preparatory sponsored the event.

**Suzanne Morales-Vale | Director of Developmental and Adult Education | College Readiness and Success**

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## Negotiated Rulemaking Committee on Block Scheduling

## Proposes Rules

Through the negotiated rulemaking process, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) worked with public community colleges to develop THECB rules for administering block schedule programs, as required by House Bill (HB) 1583, 84th Texas Legislature, Regular Session. HB 1583 directs public community colleges to establish associate degree-level or certificate-level block schedule programs from the fields of allied health, nursing, or career and technology for at least five programs not previously offered as block schedule programs. The intent of the newly proposed rules associated with HB 1583 is to support scheduling courses so that full- and part-time students can manage their classes more easily around work and family commitments. The proposed rules are designed to be flexible enough to work within different sizes of institutions and programs.

The [Negotiated Rulemaking Committee \(NRMC\) on Block Scheduling](#) came to consensus on the proposed new rules during their initial meeting on Oct. 13. The proposed rules have been posted to the *Texas Register* for a 30-day comment period. If comments are received, THECB staff will draft recommendations for the comments, and these will be emailed to the NRMC on Block Scheduling for consensus decision-making. The Coordinating Board will consider adopting the proposed rules, as modified by the NRMC, at the Board's Jan. 22 meeting.

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

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## Focus on 60x30TX

Beginning this month, each APP newsletter will include a *60x30TX* Q&A with an APP staff member at the Coordinating Board. This month we're speaking with **Ginger Gossman, Senior Director of Innovation and Policy Development**, and focusing on these paragraphs from the plan, under the subheading "Re-Imagining College":

*Building on Closing the Gaps, Texas must continue to re-imagine "college" and "college-going" to meet the state's workforce needs.*

*For some students, college will mean earning a certificate in a yearlong program. For other students, college will mean earning an associate or bachelor's degree by attending traditional classes or by participating in competency-based programs. For still others, college will mean earning associate degrees through dual credit or early college high school programs.*

*College may take place on a brick-and-mortar campus or on a device in a student's living room.*

### **What innovations do think might play a key role? Or how do you interpret these examples?**

**GG:** The narrative speaks to the four goals and targets for each goal. We are trying to figure out how to lead students to their end goals and learn which student decisions are most important for reaching those goals. Innovations that compress time to degree, such as competency-based education, will play a part, as will tools that help students know how much they are borrowing to pay for school – as they borrow. Sometimes innovation is not a big change, but a small adjustment. I think of the marketable skills goal as an innovation, although [that goal] actually takes something that already exists and codifies it. Obviously, technology can affect all of these things, but technology must be targeted, useful, and substantially meaningful. Many pieces must fit together. *60x30TX* is like the cover of a puzzle box; we know what it should

look like when we're done, but how it all comes together will take orchestrated work.

***Based on the selected paragraphs, how do you see things evolving over the next 5, 10, or 15 years?***

**GG:** I can see growth in "boutique" credentials, e.g., programming boot camps, but I don't see traditional education going away. Employers value potential employees with a well-rounded education, and while a single skillset may meet workforce demand, it probably won't spur workforce growth. We may see growth in the personalization of higher education, where students design their own majors. I can see the trend continuing of technology disrupting the cost of higher education, e.g., students accessing free materials online.



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