

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

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2014 Leadership Conference Features Potential Goals for Next Higher Education Plan in Texas

The Coordinating Board's 2014 Texas Higher Education Leadership Conference, Planning Educationally for a Competitive Global Economy, brought leading experts together from higher education and the workforce to discuss the potential goals* of the 2016-2030 Texas Higher Education Plan. Members of the recently formed Texas Higher Education Strategic Planning Committee (TxHESPC), the advisory committee charged with providing advice and recommendations to the Coordinating Board for the new plan, served as small-group facilitators. Interaction among higher education stakeholders allowed TxHESPC members to receive feedback on the potential goals and metrics being considered for the new plan before continuing their monthly deliberations and making a focused recommendation to the Coordinating Board in July 2015.

The conference began on Thursday morning, November 20, with orientation sessions for new governing board members and other interested education leaders. A reception and dinner followed and featured special recognition of The Honorable Dan Branch, Texas House of Representatives, District 108, for his years of public service and his legislative efforts in support of Texas higher education. At the dinner, The Honorable Kirk Watson, Texas Senate, District 14, and The Honorable Donna Howard, Texas House of Representatives, District 48, provided their insights regarding the work related to higher education anticipated by the 84th Texas Legislature.

Conference sessions on Friday morning, November 21, included presentations and discussions of the potential goals and the prospective targets and strategies being considered for the new plan. The conference concluded with the Annual State of Higher Education Luncheon and Star Awards Ceremony. The luncheon featured the Coordinating Board's 2014 Star Award finalists and a keynote address by Dr. Raymund Paredes, Commissioner of Higher Education.

The 2014 Leadership Conference Summary with audio presentations and handouts will be forthcoming at <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/2014LeadershipConference>. The conference was held at the DoubleTree Austin Hotel. This annual event brings together regents, trustees, chancellors, presidents, and other higher education leaders to discuss critical higher education issues.

*As of November 13, 2014, the potential goals being considered for the next long-range Texas Higher Education Plan are:

- Potential Educational Attainment Goal: By 2030, at least 60 percent of Texans aged 25-34 will have a postsecondary credential or degree.
- Potential Completion Goal: By 2030, at least 550,000 students in that year will complete a certificate or an associate, bachelor's, or master's degree from a Texas public, independent, or for-profit college or university.

Calendar

Next Texas Higher Education Strategic Planning Meeting

January 14, 2015

Next Board Meeting

January 22, 2015

APP Links

[Higher Ed Data](#)

[Higher Ed Strategic Plan](#)

[Higher Education Almanac](#)

[Accountability System](#)

[College Readiness and Success](#)

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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 or (512) 427-6434.

- Potential Marketable Skills Goal: By 2030, all graduates from Texas public institutions of higher education will have completed programs with identified marketable skills.
- Potential Student Debt Goal: By 2030, undergraduate student loan debt will not exceed 60 percent of first-year wage for graduates of Texas public institutions.

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

Workshop Explores Appreciative Approach to College and Career Readiness

Appreciative Advising is a theory-to-practice framework for building relationships with students that can positively impact student success. Under the sponsorship of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and as a Gulf Coast Region College Readiness partner, the University of Houston hosted a professional development workshop to explore "An Appreciative Approach to College and Career Readiness." The event was held on November 18, 2014, at the University of Houston Hilton.

Participants experienced an interactive workshop and learned more about the six phases of Appreciative Advising (disarm, discover, dream, design, deliver, and don't settle) and how to use this framework to optimize their interactions with students from middle school to college. In more than one practical exercise, participants experienced that, in only two minutes, they could learn much about a student in a meaningful and helpful way. The Appreciative Approach is not only applicable for academic advisors and counselors but also may enrich anyone who has a service mindset and is interested in improving the student experience in and out of the classroom.

The workshop was facilitated by [Dr. Jenny Bloom](#), who serves as Director of the Office of Appreciative Education and Director of the Higher Education and Student Affairs Master's Degree Program at University of South Carolina. She is also the co-author of [Increasing Persistence: Research-Based Strategies for College Student Success](#).



The workshop drew over 80 attendees with a balanced mix of K-12 and higher education staff, faculty, and executive administrators, along with other higher education stakeholders from the Gulf Coast region. Afterward, many participants commented that they felt affirmed and inspired in their work pertaining to the success of their students.

The next summer [Appreciative Advising Institute](#) will be held in San Antonio in 2015. Attendees will have access to hands-on workshops and advising expertise to further develop their skills and share this approach with their colleagues who are interested in implementing the Appreciative Advising framework at their institutions.

Heidi Kennedy, Ph.D. | Assistant Dean, Undergraduate Academic Affairs | University of Houston and Matt Lashlee | Program Director, Success Initiatives | College Readiness and Success

Four Exemplary Programs Win Higher Education Star Awards

Four exemplary higher education programs received the Texas Higher Education Star Award from the Coordinating Board on Friday, November 21 at the annual State of Higher Education Luncheon and Star Awards Ceremony. The Star Award was established in 2001 to recognize exceptional contributions toward one or more of the goals of the Texas higher education plan, *Closing the Gaps by 2015*. Representatives of institutions, organizations, and groups from all across Texas have been recognized for their efforts to develop and implement the state's most successful programs, projects, and activities. The 2014 Star Award winners are as follows:

- Lee College and Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District – Gulf Coast Partners Achieving Student Success
- San Antonio College Services for Women & Non-Traditional Students and San Antonio Independent School District – San Antonio College GED-to-College Transition Program
- Texas A&M University and Blinn College – Texas A&M - Blinn TEAM Program
- The University of Texas at El Paso – Developmental Math Program

Information about these programs is available at www.theccb.state.tx.us/starawards.





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



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