

Academic Planning and Policy

APP E-NEWS

P-16 Initiatives | Planning and Accountability | Workforce, Academic Affairs and Research
Office of Academic Planning and Policy | David W. Gardner, Deputy Commissioner

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The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is guided by the state's higher education plan, *Closing the Gaps by 2015*, to close the educational gaps in student participation, student success, institutional excellence, and research.

Nominations Still Needed for Higher Education Strategic Planning Committee

On December 9, invitations were sent to chancellors and presidents of Texas higher education institutions inviting them to nominate via email by January 10, 2014, individuals to serve on the Higher Education Strategic Planning Committee, the advisory committee that will provide to the THECB advice and recommendations regarding the Board's development of the next long-term strategic plan for Texas higher education. From chancellors and presidents, nominations are being sought for (1) former members of boards of regents and trustees, or (2) former presidents and chancellors of higher education institutions who would be willing and able to contribute meaningfully to the work of the committee. The first meeting of Higher Education Strategic Planning Committee will be held in late February 2014 at the THECB Offices in Austin. Subsequently, the committee will meet on a monthly basis. Special meetings may be called as deemed appropriate by the committee's presiding officer. Meetings will be open to the public and broadcast via the web. Institutions will have input through subcommittees and during comment periods.

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

Coordinating Board Engages in Negotiated Rulemaking

Senate Bill 215, 83rd Texas Legislature, Regular Session, requires the Coordinating Board to engage in negotiated rulemaking with institutions of higher education in accordance with the Negotiated Rulemaking Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 2008, when adopting policies, procedures, or rules relating to certain matters, specifically those relating to the following areas:

- Common admission application
- Uniform admission policy
- Graduate and professional admissions
- Transfer of credit
- Allocation or distribution of funds, including financial aid or other trusted funds
- Re-evaluation of data requests
- Compliance monitoring function
- Capital projects standards

At their October 2013 meeting, and after a 30-day comment period with the Texas Register, the Coordinating Board adopted new rules concerning Negotiated Rulemaking. These new rules are available at: www.theccb.state.tx.us/apps/Laws/default.cfm (Chapter 1, Agency Administration, Subchapter A, Section 1.14 of Board rules).

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

Upcoming Meetings

Next Quarterly Board Meeting:
Thursday, January 23, 2014
8:30 a.m.

See all upcoming meetings:
[THECB Events](#)

Links to Useful Sites

[2013 Higher Education Almanac](#)

[Compare College TX](#)

[2013 State of Higher Ed Address](#)

[Accountability System](#)

[Higher Education Data](#)

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Three Exemplary Programs Win Higher Education Star Awards

Three exemplary higher education programs received the Texas Higher Education Star Award from the Coordinating Board on Friday, November 22 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 over the State of Texas have been recognized for their efforts to develop and implement the state's most successful programs, projects, and activities. The 2013 Star Award winners are:

- Brookhaven College–Brookhaven College Counseling Center SkillsShops
- Lamar University–Students Advancing Through Involvement in Research Student Talent Expansion Program (STAIRSTEP)
- Temple College–Texas Bioscience Institute

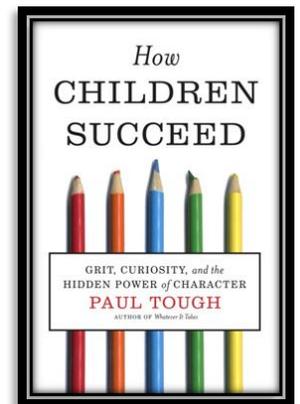


Information about these programs is available at: www.theccb.state.tx.us/starawards.

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

2013 Texas Higher Education Leadership Conference Provides Insights and Information for New Governing Board Members and Other Higher Education Leaders

The Coordinating Board's 2013 Texas Higher Education Leadership Conference for regents, trustees, chancellors, presidents, and other education leaders was held on November 21-22 at the DoubleTree Austin Hotel. The focus of this year's conference was on Closing the Gaps by 2015 and Beyond. Keynote speakers from outside Texas included Paul Tough, author of *How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity, and the Hidden Power of Character*, and Jeff Strohl, Director of Research at the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. Mr. Tough's remarks focused on how non-cognitive skills—character strengths like curiosity, conscientiousness, optimism, self-control, and grit—may be more significant indicators of children's (and college students') long-term success than is cognitive intelligence as measured by test scores. Dr. Strohl's remarks focused on the relationship between postsecondary education and opportunity, specifically the importance of postsecondary competencies and awards as the threshold requirement for middle-class earnings and status today.



The conference began on Thursday morning, November 21, with orientation sessions for new governing board members and other interested education leaders. The orientation was followed by a reception and dinner featuring a special recognition of "Texas Tuners"—those faculty members from across the state who contributed their time and expertise as members of the Texas Tuning Oversight Councils. At the dinner, The Honorable Kel Seliger, Texas Senate, Senate District 31, and The Honorable Judith Zaffirini, Texas Senate, Senate District 21, considered the importance of higher education for Texas and some of the key higher education legislation passed by the 83rd Texas Legislature and signed into law by Governor Rick Perry. Conference sessions on Friday morning, November 22 included facilitated roundtable discussions of the potential goals and the prospective measurable targets that are being considered for the next long-range plan for higher education in Texas. The conference concluded with the Annual State of Higher Education Luncheon and Star Awards Ceremony. The luncheon featured our 2013 Star Award finalists and a keynote address by Dr. Raymund Paredes, Commissioner of Higher Education. A 2013 Leadership Conference Summary with audio presentations and handouts will be forthcoming online at www.theccb.state.tx.us/2013LeadershipConference.

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

Texas College and Career Readiness Profile Planning Guide

Now in the third year of partnership, Austin Community College and the Region XIII Education Service Center continue to support school districts and secondary educators across the state in comprehensive college and career readiness planning through use of the Texas College and Career Readiness Profile Planning Guide (CCR PPG). The CCR PPG was developed, in part, with grant support from the THECB, and is six-step, process-driven tool that supports school districts and can:

- Assist with implementation of House Bill 5
- Create a campus improvement plan
- Prepare teachers and students for the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness and end-of-course exams
- Bring focus and build upon existing current college and career readiness efforts
- Provide tools and resources to develop a college and career readiness culture

Training is being offered during the current academic year at each of the 20 educational service centers across Texas to support increased implementation of the CCR PPG and campus improvement planning. During these training sessions, secondary education stakeholders are also being reintroduced to the newly released College Readiness Assignments (<http://craftx.org/>), which can be used as valuable resources. For more information, please visit: <http://txccrsc.org/>.

Matt Lashlee | Program Director, Success Initiatives | P-16 Initiatives

Texas Tuning Project and the Development of Voluntary Statewide Transfer Compacts Wrapping Up

Tuning in Texas now includes Tuning work and voluntary statewide articulation agreements (transfer compacts) in 12 disciplines in the fields of engineering, science, mathematics, and business. With grant support from Lumina Foundation, Texas has been using the Tuning and Fine-Tuning processes to help promote transparency and student success in postsecondary education. Tuning activities have facilitated communication among academics, employers, students, and policy makers, resulting in policy changes, curricular revisions, and greater institutional efficiencies for credit transfer. The Coordinating Board especially appreciates the hard work of the faculty members on the 2010, 2011, and 2012 Tuning Oversight Councils, particularly the energy and enthusiasm faculty members brought to their tasks.

Distributed by regular mail to all presidents and chancellors of Texas public higher education institutions on Thursday, December 12 were: (1) a Tuning and Fine-Tuning brochure that was developed for the Tuners Recognition Dinner held November 21, 2013; (2) an explanatory memo; (3) Memorandums of Understanding Regarding the Voluntary Course Transfer Agreements Pertaining to Baccalaureate Degrees in (a) Biomedical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Industrial Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering; (b) Biology, Chemistry, and Mathematics; and (c) Business, Computer Information Systems and Sciences, and Management Information Systems; (4) flash drives with the 12 Tuning and Fine-Tuning packages; and (5) a self-addressed return envelope for the return of signed MOUs. Tuning packages and transfer agreements also be accessed online at: www.theccb.state.tx.us/TuningTexas.

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

ApplyTexas Advisory Committee Hears SPEEDE Server Update

The ApplyTexas Advisory Committee is charged with overseeing the ApplyTexas website, which houses the state's online common college application. At its November 4 meeting, the committee was provided an update by David Landry, Director of Data Exchange and Transcript Services from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC), about the successful transition of the Standardized Postsecondary Education Data Exchange (SPEEDE) server, the hosting platform for ApplyTexas, from The University of Texas at Austin (UT-Austin) to the NSC. UT-Austin hosted the SPEEDE server from 1995 until the transition to NSC in 2012. The NSC has committed to providing free access to SPEEDE's institutional clients and to maintaining encryption standards recommended by the Postsecondary Electronics Standards Council.

Also during the November meeting, the committee discussed the possibility of developing a common nursing program application, the feasibility of requiring social security numbers on applications, ways to accommodate early college high school applicants, and other potential changes to the ApplyTexas application. The next ApplyTexas Advisory Committee meeting will be held on January 28, 2014. For more information, please visit: www.theccb.state.tx.us/applytexas.

Jose Rios | Assistant Director, Community and Technical Colleges | Workforce, Academic Affairs and Research

Generation TX Week 2013 Helps to Create a Statewide College-Going Culture

In celebration of the statewide 2013 Generation TX Week (November 18-22), all Texas high school students were invited to join the first-ever GenTX social video contest with the theme: *Take the Challenge!* Ninth through 12th graders were asked to create a two-minute original video demonstrating how they're challenging themselves in high school with at least one of these things to prepare for college and career:

1. Enrolling in a rigorous academic plan in school
2. Involving parents and family
3. Preparing to fill out a college application through ApplyTexas

After a competitive day of social media online voting, Hannah Martinez, a Byron Nelson High School senior from Fort Worth, emerged as the video contest winner and recipient of the \$1,500 *Take the Challenge!* college scholarship. Learn more about Hannah at <http://gentx.org/takethechallenge/and-the-winner-is/>. Additionally, James Pace High School in Brownsville received the first ever "GenTX Week Star Award," an honor given to the high school with the most ApplyTexas college applications during GenTX Week. Also, as part of the Take the Challenge video contest, 10 Most Inspirational Teacher Awards were announced based on nominations received through the video submission process. The winning teachers are:

Kristin Billo (English), Victoria
Rene Carrillo (French), Laredo
Griselda Dozal (College Prep), Laredo
Jessica Escamilla (Math), Laredo
Gina Garcia (French), Austin

Tricia Goodman (AP Calculus), Round Rock
Amber James (Media), Tyler
Drew Klaus (World History), Fort Worth
Lisa Lobb (Audio Visual), Irving
Connie Ramos (AVID Program), San Antonio

Congratulations to all 2013 GenTX Week *Take the Challenge!* winners. For more information, please visit: <http://gentx.org/>.

Priscilla Martinez | Program Director, Success Unit | P-16 Initiatives