



Academic Planning and Policy E-NEWS

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

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

Coordinating Board Executive Staff Changes

Dr. MacGregor Stephenson has resigned from the staff of the Coordinating Board to accept the position of Deputy Chief of Staff for the Office of Governor Rick Perry. Dr. Stephenson joined the staff of the Coordinating Board in fall 2008 as Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Research (now Workforce, Academic Affairs and Research or WAAR). He came to the Coordinating Board from The Texas A&M University System where he served as Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and as interim director of the Tarleton State University System Center-Central Texas in Killeen. Prior to joining The Texas A&M University System, Dr. Stephenson was Governor Perry's higher education advisor. We wish him every success in his new position in the Governor's Office and have no doubt that he will continue to play a key role in the future success of higher education in Texas and elsewhere, given his high-quality executive leadership.

While we are all very sorry to see Dr. Stephenson leave the staff of the Coordinating Board, we are most fortunate to have Dr. Stacey Silverman willing and able to take on the responsibilities of Interim Assistant Commissioner. Dr. Silverman has been employed with the Coordinating Board since 1993 and has been serving as Deputy Assistant Commissioner for WAAR since July 2012. In that role, Dr. Silverman has provided leadership on statewide policy initiatives related to all aspects of undergraduate and graduate education. She has been responsible for the oversight and administration of state programs that foster the development of the Texas health professions workforce through the education and training of resident physicians pursuing family medicine and other needed health care professionals, and providing agency support for increased research efforts. Dr. Silverman also coordinates on-going studies in higher education and provides resource information to the Board and the Legislature.

While Dr. Stephenson will be greatly missed, with Dr. Silverman's leadership and a top-notch staff, we are confident that the Coordinating Board's Division of Workforce, Academic Affairs and Research will continue to advance our progress in achieving the higher education goals of our students and our state.

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Next Quarterly Board Meeting:
Thursday, April 25, 2013
8:30am

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

USEFUL LINKS

**Workforce, Academic Affairs
and Research**
[WAAR Website](#)

Finance and Resource Planning
[Finance/Resource Website](#)

**Texas Higher Education
Accountability System**
[Accountability Website](#)

P-16 Initiatives
[P-16 Website](#)

**THECB Legislative
Recommendations**
[83rd Legislature](#)

College for All Texans
[CFAT Website](#)

**Employment Opportunities at
the Coordinating Board**
[CB Jobs](#)

APP E-NEWS Contact:

Sarah Rondinelli | Program Specialist
sarah.rondinelli@thecb.state.tx.us
(512) 427-6582

T-STEM Challenge Scholarship Program Accepting Applications

The Texas Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (T-STEM) Challenge Scholarship Program was established by House Bill 2910, passed by the 82nd Texas Legislature, Regular Session. The purpose of the T-STEM Challenge Scholarship Program is to support the education and training of STEM students at Texas public community and technical colleges. The program provides funding for the development, implementation, and maintenance of scholarships to qualifying STEM students. The T-STEM program is funded through a grant from the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation. T-STEM grants will help increase the graduation rates of students enrolled in STEM and related degree and certificate programs. The Request for Applications (RFA), for funding during Fiscal Year 2014, was approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) during their quarterly Board meeting on January 24, 2013. The RFA is posted online at <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/TSTEM>. The available funding will be allocated among selected qualifying public community and technical colleges, districts, or systems. The application deadline is April 1, 2013. Questions about the RFA or the T-STEM Challenge Scholarship Program should be directed to Reinold Cornelius at Reinold.Cornelius@thecb.state.tx.us.

Reinold Cornelius | Senior Program Director | Workforce, Academic Affairs and Research

Emergency and Trauma Care Education Partnership Program (ETEP)

The Emergency and Trauma Care Education Partnership Program (ETEP) was established by Senate Bill 7, passed by the 82nd Texas Legislature, First Called Session. Senate Bill 7 amended Texas Education Code, Chapter 61, Subchapter HH, and authorized the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to administer the program and provide grants to emergency and trauma care education partnerships. ETEP provides funding to support partnerships between hospitals and graduate medical education programs that increase the number of emergency medicine and trauma care physician residents and fellows. The program provides similar support for partnerships between hospitals and graduate nursing programs to increase the education experiences in emergency and trauma care for registered nurses pursuing a graduate degree or certificate.

The \$4.5 million in funding available to support ETEP graduate medical education partnerships, for the 2012-2013 biennium, is allocated among eligible applicants based on the number of additional residents or fellows that are projected to participate in each program. Among eligible graduate nursing program applicants, available funding is allocated based on the number of additional nursing students that are projected to enroll in each program. Thirteen graduate medical education programs and three graduate nursing programs received awards for 2012 and 2013. These funded partnerships project a combined increase of 56 graduate medical residency or fellowship positions and 159 graduate nursing students. For more info, please visit: <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/ETEP>.

Suzanne Pickens | Program Director | Workforce, Academic Affairs and Research

Texas Woman's University's Institutes of Health Sciences Recognized for Excellence

At its quarterly meeting on January 24, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board recognized for excellence the Texas Woman's University Institute of Health Sciences - Houston Center (TWU-IHS-Houston) and the Texas Woman's University T. Boone Pickens Institute of Health Sciences - Dallas Center (TWU-IHS-Dallas). Dr. Ann Stuart, TWU Chancellor and President, and Harold D. Johnson, TWU Associate Vice President for Facilities Management and Construction, gave a presentation on the two centers and the university's continuing efforts to increase partnerships, develop collaborations, and secure other sources of funding to extend and maximize limited resources.

The TWU-IHS-Houston is a 10-story, 202,000 square-foot "campus in one building" that was funded at no cost to the state through an innovative public/private partnership that raised nearly \$40 million for the new building. The TWU-IHS-Houston is located on a parcel of land at the entrance to the Texas Medical Center and offers advanced degrees in six programs: Health Care Administration, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Nursing, Nutrition, and Library and Information Studies. The new campus project consolidates into one building TWU-IHS functions previously housed in several buildings that were located at the center of Texas Medical Center in Houston. The TWU-IHS-Dallas opened in February 2011, combining the university's Parkland and Presbyterian sites into an eight-story, 190,000-square-foot building in the heart of the Southwestern Medical District. The TWU-IHS-Dallas bears the name of Texas oilman and entrepreneur T. Boone Pickens, who donated \$5 million to the building's fundraising campaign. The TWU-IHS-Dallas houses the Houston J. and Florence A. Doswell College of Nursing, the TWU Stroke Center-Dallas, and the university's Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Health Systems Management Programs.

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

P-16 Institute Highlights Initiatives

The Division of P-16 Initiatives hosted a P-16 Institute on February 12, 2013, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Austin. After a premier day of GenTX training, day two of the P-16 Institute featured another slate of content-rich workshops and topics. A total of 106 public and higher education administrators, workforce, community, and business leaders attended the second P-16 Institute of the 2012-13 academic year. A key highlight for many attendees was a presentation by Dr. Janet Cunningham, Executive Director of the Coastal Bend Partners for College & Career Readiness P-16 Council (<http://p16.tamucc.edu>). Dr. Cunningham reported on the latest developments for Coastal Compass, a new one-stop educational and workforce resource center opening at a high-traffic mall location in Corpus Christi. Coastal Compass becomes one of only a handful of resource centers of its kind in the nation. The presentation inspired other Councils at the P-16 Institute to explore ways to replicate the model in their communities. Other presentations included Houston Pathways (<http://www.sanjac.edu/node/2345>), Academic Vertical Alignment Training and Renewal (<http://www.ntp16.notlb.com/avatar>), and Abilene's Stop-Out Recovery Initiative (<http://www.p16abilene.org>). The next P-16 Institute is scheduled to be held on June 18, 2013, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel in Austin.

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

P-16 Councils Get a Social Media Boost

On February 11, 2013, the Coordinating Board continued its GenTX Training Series for P-16 Councils with an interactive primer on social media. Approximately 80 representatives from 24 Councils participated in the P-16 Social Media Boot Camp which was a hands-on, four-hour session designed to help Councils take their GenTX campaign to the social media sphere. Councils engaged in one-on-one tutorials and group sessions on a variety of topics, such as how to align social media usage to marketing goals and how to leverage their social media properties through GenTX.org. They also learned strategies for how to use social media to market their GenTX initiatives to student populations, educational stakeholders, and P-16 Council communities at large. A custom training approach was provided by Ms. Oné Musel-Gilley, a P-16 educational marketer. The training took place at the Doubletree Hotel in Austin. The next GenTX Training will be held on June 17, 2013, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel in Austin.

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

The Texas Tuning Project and the Development of Voluntary Statewide Transfer Compacts Moving Forward

The 2011 Tuning Oversight Council for Engineering and Science (2011 TOCES) has completed its work. The final Tuning documents and Voluntary Transfer Compacts for Biomedical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Biology, and Chemistry were sent to all presidents and chancellors of Texas public higher education institutions in mid-December. To date, 22 percent of public universities that offer bachelor's degrees in Biology and Chemistry, and 16 percent of the public community and technical colleges offering Biology and Chemistry courses, have agreed to participate in the newly developed Voluntary Transfer Compacts for Biology and Chemistry. Transfer information, final Tuning packages, and institutions that have agreed to participate in one or more of the Voluntary Transfer Compacts for Biology; Chemistry; and Biomedical, Chemical, Civil, Electrical, Industrial, and Mechanical Engineering are available online at <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/TuningTexas>.

The 2012 Tuning Oversight Council for Mathematics, Business, and Information Systems (2012 TOCMBI), which is comprised of 45 faculty members and 2 student members representing 37 institutions, held their fourth quarterly, face-to-face meeting on February 8. Each of the four committees that comprise the 2012 TOCMBI has been meeting virtually on a monthly basis since the initial meeting of the 2012 TOCMBI on February 24, 2012. Nearly complete is Tuning work on the disciplines of Mathematics, Business, Computer and Information Sciences, and Management Information Systems. Tuning committee members are in the process of identifying the lower-division courses that faculty members believe are necessary for success in upper-division courses in these disciplines, based on competencies identified through the Tuning process and a review of courses currently included in curricula for the first two years. Through faculty surveys to be distributed electronically on or about April 8 to approximately 7,000 university and community college faculty members teaching courses in these four disciplines, Coordinating Board staff will gather feedback from across Texas on the final draft work of the 2012 TOCMBI and its respective Tuning committees. The committees will be provided faculty survey results at their final face-to-face meeting on May 31, and will consider this input from their faculty colleagues prior to finalizing their "Tuning deliverables" for the Coordinating Board and Lumina Foundation for Education. Additional information about the work of the 2012 TOCMBI is available online at <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/TuningTexas>.

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

Coordinating Board Staff Developing an Assessment Protocol for the Voluntary Statewide Transfer Compacts

Staff members of the Coordinating Board are in the process of developing an assessment protocol in accordance with criterion #4 of the Memorandum of Understanding Regarding the Voluntary Course Transfer Agreement Pertaining to Bachelor of Science Degrees in Mechanical Engineering (ME Transfer Compact), which was released in 2009 and redistributed in 2011 along with Transfer Compacts for Civil, Electrical, and Industrial Engineering. (Criterion #4 pertains to assessing the effectiveness of the Transfer Compacts on a periodic basis of at least once every three years.) As part of this assessment, students will be tracked longitudinally using Coordinating Board class-level data files. Preliminary summary report profiles will be designed to provide feedback to the Voluntary Transfer Compacts Statewide Assessment Steering Committee, a 10-member committee comprised of university and community college deans and directors, regarding native versus transfer student academic grade performance in prerequisite and subsequent college coursework. The assessment plan being developed will be used to provide the necessary information to help improve that course-level performance as needed to increase students' successful completion of the Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering at participating universities.

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

Council for Continuous Improvement Discusses Possible Goals and Measurable Targets for Higher Education After 2015

Members of the Council for Continuous Improvement and Innovation in Texas Higher Education held their sixth meeting in Austin on January 23. The Council is striving to establish the next long-range plan for higher education in Texas beyond *Closing the Gaps by 2015*. To this end, the Council is considering key metrics to measure the state's progress toward making Texas an international leader in student success and excellence by 2030. During the January 23 meeting, the Council considered measurable targets associated with four potential goals that are being considered for the next long-range Texas higher education plan – Workforce, Alignment, Value, and Excellence. Members also discussed the process for defining and refining supporting objectives for these proposed goals, the importance of determining students' intentions when success and graduation rates are considered, and the merit of designing a long-range plan that includes flexibility to meet changing state needs and population growth. Particularly emphasized during discussions was the importance of considering the work of Dr. Anthony Carnevale, Director of the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, with respect to the appropriate mix of degrees and certificates that would be needed for the future economy of Texas. Also emphasized was the importance of securing feedback from Texas institutions of higher education with respect to the potential goals and targets being considered for higher education in Texas after 2015. Setting up a schedule to gather feedback from institutions will be more fully discussed at the Council's April and July meetings, which will be held April 24 and July 24 respectively. Information about the Council and its meetings is available online at <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/ContinuousImprovement>.

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

2013 College Access and Affordability Telethons

The 2013 College Access and Affordability Telethons were broadcast during February in observance of "February as Financial Aid Month." The collaborative efforts of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation (TG) provided thousands of students and families with information critical to embarking on or continuing their higher education journey. Volunteers answered the phones at the Financial Aid Information Center located at TG headquarters in Round Rock. The telethons were broadcast in seven markets on seven dates in February. Reporters broadcasted live during their station's afternoon and evening newscasts. Coordinating Board staff and TG volunteers answered phones in English and Spanish. THECB's Advise-TX participation included 20 advisers and 2 program managers from The University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University, and Trinity University on six separate nights during the telethons. These advisers are currently serving 11 different school districts in San Antonio and Central Texas. Coordinating Board staff recruited additional phone volunteers from the THECB Work-Study Mentorship Program for the Dallas-area broadcast. Ten work-study mentors and program sponsors from Texas Woman's University drove from Denton to Austin to answer phones. Additionally, mentors from The University of Texas at Austin's Project MALES (Mentoring to Achieve Latino Educational Success) participated during the telethon. The THECB-funded Project MALES Student Mentoring Program is currently in its second year of implementation at UT-Austin. The program fosters discussion and relationship building among undergraduate mentors and male students at Travis and Lanier High Schools in Austin ISD.

Natalie Coffey | Director, Recruitment and Retention | P-16 Initiatives