GenTX Week “Take the Challenge!” winners to be recognized
by Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Jan. 22, 2014—AUSTIN, TEXAS—The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), creators of the Generation Texas higher education advocacy movement, will recognize GenTX Week 2013 Take the Challenge! contest winners at the THECB Board meeting scheduled on Jan. 23 at 8:30 a.m. in Austin.

The Take the Challenge! video contest underscored the message to high school students that making the decision to take rigorous academic courses, including those associated with a distinguished graduation plan, is one of the best ways to prepare for success at a community or technical college or four-year university. Learn more about the contest at www.gentx.org.

Contest winners are:

- **Hannah Martinez**
  Ms. Martinez is the winner of the GenTX Week Take the Challenge! competition, the first-ever social video contest for Generation TX. A senior at Byron Nelson High School in Trophy Club, TX (Fort Worth), Ms. Martinez won the contest by collecting the most social media votes. As the contest winner, she will receive a $1,500 scholarship to the college of her choice.

- **James Pace High School**
  In celebration of the statewide 2013 Generation TX Week, THECB will also give its first-ever GenTX Week Star Award to James Pace High School in Brownsville, TX for completing the most college applications at ApplyTexas.org during the 2013 GenTX Week (November 18-22).

- **Top 10 Most Inspiring Teachers**
  Awards are also being given to 10 teachers selected through a student nomination process for the Take the Challenge Video Contest. The winning teachers are:
  - Kristin Billo, English, Victoria, Texas
  - Rene Carrillo, French, Laredo, Texas
  - Griselda Dozal, College Prep, Laredo, Texas
  - Jessica Escamilla, Math, Laredo, Texas
  - Gina Garcia, French, Austin, Texas
  - Tricia Goodman, AP Calculus, Round Rock, Texas
  - Amber James, Media, Tyler, Texas
  - Drew Klaus, World History, Fort Worth, Texas
  - Lisa Lobb, Audio Visual, Irving, Texas
  - Connie Ramos, AVID Program, San Antonio, Texas

Gen TX, a statewide initiative supported by the THECB, is focused on creating a college-going culture across the state. Through GenTX Week and other seasonal promotions, Gen TX is clarifying the path to college for Texas students and families by providing information on college and career readiness, college application and financial aid in a fresh and engaging manner.

###

**THECB Mission** The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s mission is to work with the legislature, governor, governing boards, higher education institutions, and other entities to help Texas meet the goals of the state’s higher education plan, Closing the Gaps by 2015, and thereby provide the people of Texas the widest access to higher education of the highest quality in the most efficient manner.