



Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Releases 2012 Texas Public Higher Education Almanac

AUSTIN – The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) today formally released the 2nd edition of the *Texas Public Higher Education Almanac*.

In 2004, under a directive of Governor Rick Perry, the THECB launched an online Accountability System for public institutions of higher education. Since then, the THECB has continuously improved the system to include more data and information — achieving national recognition as a “best practice” model for collecting and disseminating higher education data.

At a press conference held at Texas A&M University-San Antonio, Gov. Perry and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Chairman Fred Heldenfels IV noted that the *2012 Almanac* represents a sustained effort to promote transparency, accountability, and the value of higher education to Texas taxpayers, including students and their families.

“Higher education plays a vital role in the development of Texas’ economy and our role as a national leader and global competitor,” Chairman Heldenfels said. “The 2012 Almanac is a snapshot that will not only allow us to better identify our successes, but also assess areas for improvement.”

“Access to a college degree is more critical than ever, and we must maintain our dedication to transparency, which is essential to making higher education more affordable, accountable and accessible to Texas students,” Gov. Perry said. “This almanac is an important tool in those efforts, not only because it offers transparent data that is valuable to a student in the process of choosing a school, but also because it holds our colleges and universities accountable as they pursue efforts to improve their graduation rates, create more affordable degree options and achieve standards that will keep our state a leader in higher education.”

Utilizing information submitted by two-year and four-year public institutions to the THECB, the *2012 Almanac* spotlights state and national data relating to postsecondary costs, access and completion. Key data and highlights include:

- Enrollment in all Texas higher education institutions (two-year and four-year public, independent, and career institutions) has **increased 53 percent** since 2000.
- The annual number of degrees and certificates awarded at all Texas higher education institutions has increased by **61 percent** since 2000, but accelerated progress is needed to meet student success goals.
- Texas **ranks 28th nationally** in attainment of Bachelor’s degrees.
- Texas **ranks 44th nationally** in attainment of Associate degrees.
- Texas **ranks 27th nationally** in average tuition at public, four-year institutions (\$6,350).
- Texas **ranks 3rd nationally** in average tuition at public, two-year institutions (\$1,512).

- **22.6 percent** of students enrolled at a public four-year university were enrolled part-time.
- **70.8 percent** of students enrolled at a public community college were enrolled part-time,
- Of every 100 students enrolled (full- or part-time) at a public university, **57** students earned a postsecondary degree within six years; 30 students were no longer enrolled at any institution and earned no degree at the six year mark.
- Of every 100 students enrolled (full- or part-time) at a public community college seeking a degree, **27** students earned postsecondary degree or certificate within six years; 59 students were no longer enrolled at any institution and earned no postsecondary award at the six year mark.

The THECB launched the *Closing the Gaps by 2015* initiative in 2000, which intends to bring Texas to parity in higher educational attainment with the ten largest states. In 2007, the Perryman Group, one of the most prominent consulting firms in Texas, studied the economic impact that achieving the goals of *Closing the Gaps* would have on the state and concluded that, by 2030, Texas would experience increases of \$489 billion in total spending, \$194 billion in gross state product and \$122 billion in personal income. Furthermore, Texas would see an increase of one million new jobs and experience a return on its investment in higher education of 8:1.

“The Texas Public Higher Education Almanac is an indispensable resource not only for policymakers, researchers and higher education leaders, but also for anyone interested in higher education in Texas,” said Senator Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo), Chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee. “By providing accurate, timely data regarding our public colleges and universities, it enhances transparency and highlights key institutional performance measures.”

Higher Education Commissioner Raymund Paredes noted that the *2012 Almanac* is greatly enhanced over the inaugural edition as it includes various data related to part-time students and highlights key issues in higher education such as transfer, developmental education and finance.

“We recognize that traditional accountability measures are not well-suited for Texas universities and community colleges that serve non-traditional students,” explained Commissioner Paredes. “For this reason, the *2012 Almanac* includes graduation rates for part-time students, as well as a 10-year graduation rate to account for students who take longer to complete their degree programs. We believe this offers a far more comprehensive perspective on student success.”

The *2012 Almanac* also represents a working collaboration between the THECB and various private philanthropy groups working with the State to improve higher education in Texas. The THECB acknowledges the College for All Texans Foundation, Educate Texas, and Houston Endowment, Inc. and the Lumina Foundation for Education for providing financial support to produce the *2012 Almanac*.

The *2012 Almanac* is available online at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s website at www.thecb.state.tx.us/almanac.

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