



Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Academic Planning and Policy E-NEWS

ACADEMIC PLANNING AND POLICY: Academic Affairs & Research – Planning & Accountability – P-16 Initiatives

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 1

FEBRUARY 2009

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

San Antonio Pathways Project Update

Dr. Bruce Leslie, Chancellor of the Alamo Community College District (ACCD), was instrumental in creating a **vertical curricular alignment pilot project in the San Antonio area**, called the Pathways Project. Six independent school districts, ACCD, and The University of Texas at San Antonio have joined as Pathways partners. Four teacher-faculty teams (History, Biology/Chemistry, English, and Math) composed of partner representatives have been meeting on a monthly basis since October 2008. Nancy Cobb, Gateway to College Director, San Antonio College, will coordinate the project and provide support to the teams. The Coordinating Board has collected five years of past data; Fiscal Year 2008 data collection is in progress. Several reports for each faculty team have been produced. The reports primarily focus on how course-taking behavior in high school relates to course placement and course success in higher education. Reports on Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) scores and demographic variables also have been produced.

Janet Beinke, Director of Planning, Planning and Accountability

Lumina Foundation Making Opportunity Affordable (MOA) Initiative

Texas is one of 11 states to receive a one-year **planning grant of \$150,000** through the Lumina Foundation for Education's *Making Opportunity Affordable* (MOA) initiative. Texas will be **eligible to compete next year for a \$2 million Opportunity Grant** to implement plans over four years. With MOA planning funds in Fiscal Year 2009, the Coordinating Board will: 1) seek legislative approval for changes in the higher education funding methodology to focus on outcomes/outputs rather than inputs; and 2) with the assistance of advisory committees, develop a statewide articulated transfer curriculum for mechanical engineering (2+2 program) that will facilitate the efficient transfer of credits among community colleges and four-year institutions. Through the development of a mechanical engineering 2+2 program, Texas will refine the process of more fully and efficiently using the community college pathway to baccalaureate degrees in an effort to promote cost-saving methods of delivering high-quality education to greater numbers of students.

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

2008 Higher Education Star Award Winners

Nineteen of 84 nominees for outstanding higher education programs were named as finalists for the eighth annual Texas Higher Education Star Awards. **Seven winners were announced on December 2, 2008**, at the State of Higher Education Luncheon held at the Sheraton Austin Hotel in conjunction with the 2008 Texas Higher Education Leadership Conference. The winners are:

- College of Education Partnership, South Plains College/Texas Tech University
- Collegiate Challenge Program, Spring Branch Independent School District
- Online Teacher Preparation Program for Paraprofessionals, Stephen F. Austin State University
- Second Degree Accelerated BSN Program, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
- Student Employment Initiative, The Univ. of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College
- UTEP-EPCC Transfer Scholarship Program, The University of Texas at El Paso
- University-Wide Enrollment Management, University of North Texas

Additional information is available at <http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/StarAward/>.

Georgia Hodde, Administrative Assistant, Academic Planning and Policy

UPCOMING EVENTS

Coordinating Board Meetings

April 30, 2009
July 30, 2009
October 29, 2009
[Agenda](#)

P-16 Institute Conference

February 11, 2009
Doubletree Austin Hotel North
Registration:
<http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/events/p16Institute/>

Upcoming College Readiness Initiative (CRI) Faculty Collaboratives

Feb. 28, '09; Apr. 3, '09
<http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/Reports/PDF/1656.pdf>

USEFUL LINKS

Academic Affairs and Research
<http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/AAR/default.cfm>

Finance and Resource Planning
<http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/PA/FinanceAndResourcePlanning/default.cfm>

Texas Higher Education Accountability System
<http://www.txhighereddata.org/Interactive/Accountability/>

P-16 Initiatives
<http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/OS/>

College for All Texans
www.CollegeForAllTexans.com

Employment Opportunities at the Coordinating Board
<http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/Agency/jobs.cfm>

New Coordinating Board Rules—Publishing Doctoral Program Data

At its January 29th meeting, the Coordinating Board approved an amendment to the Agency Rules by creating a new Section 5.51, Publishing of Doctoral Program Data. Specifically, Section 5.51 implements the Board's adoption of a recommendation from the Graduate Education Advisory Committee (GEAC) regarding the **18 Characteristics of Texas Public Doctoral Programs**. The goal of the rule is to provide for ongoing evaluation and quality improvement for the programs, while providing valuable information regarding individual doctoral degree programs to prospective students, employers, policy makers, and faculty. This new rule will require public institutions with doctoral programs to publish these criteria on their websites no later than December 15, 2009. The 18 Characteristics are currently posted on the Coordinating Board's website at <http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/AAR/18Char.doc>.

Kevin Lemoine, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Academic Affairs and Research

Designing Texas Undergraduate Education in the 21st Century

The Coordinating Board's Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee (UEAC) has completed a report titled *Designing Texas Undergraduate Education in the 21st Century*. The **UEAC's report includes nearly 20 recommendations** for strengthening undergraduate education across the state. Specific recommendations and strategies featured at the Coordinating Board meeting on January 29 included:

- Create institutional incentives to improve student success, especially for at-risk students.
- Define state accountability data to reflect the multiple intentions of students.
- Reconsider the Texas Core Curriculum to ensure that it reflects current and future demands on student knowledge and skills.
- Continue to support and fund research and faculty development in the development and measurement of learning outcomes.
- Develop a virtual teaching excellence laboratory for faculty to enhance the use of active learning, the cultivation of better student and faculty engagement, and the expansion of instructional technology skills.
- Establish a system for program review for existing undergraduate programs with common criteria for baccalaureate degrees and common criteria for associate degrees.
- Establish a formula for appropriating need-plus-merit financial aid, particularly grants, which is indexed to the statewide average of direct tuition and fees.

The report will be available within the next few weeks on the Coordinating Board website at

<http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/reports/default.cfm>. The next UEAC meeting will be held on Friday, February 27 at the Coordinating Board.

Catherine Parsonneault, Senior Education Specialist, Academic Affairs and Research

Faculty Collaborative Symposia

To promote faculty awareness of the College & Career Readiness Standards (CCRS), Faculty Collaborative Symposia have been organized in alignment with each of the four content areas of the CCRS. These events provide information and facilitate opportunities for collaborative discussion of the implications of the content and cross-curricular standards for faculty who teach in the teacher preparation programs as well as faculty in the various content areas.

The first two symposia were hosted by Texas State University-San Marcos on November 21 and by The University of Texas at Austin on January 23. The symposia were very well received and attended by approximately 300 university faculty members. The next event is the **Science symposium, to take place on February 28, 2009**, at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi; followed by the **Social Studies symposium, to take place on April 3, 2009**, at The University of Texas at Arlington. Additional information is available at <http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/Reports/PDF/1656.pdf>.

Araceli Ortiz, Director of Educator Quality, P-16 Initiatives

New Enrollment Forecasts

2008's enrollment increase of 43,500 is the largest since 2002. Half of this increase is tied to Hispanic students. On the basis of five years of past student enrollments by geographic location, age, and race/ethnicity, the **Coordinating Board estimates that 1.34 million students will be enrolled in Texas public and independent institutions of higher education in 2015** (or an additional 368,000 students over 2000). This is a conservative forecast because institutional initiatives to attract new students are not considered until students actually appear in institutional enrollments. However, if accurate, the forecast indicates that Texas will need to enroll approximately 252,000 more students than those forecast in order to meet the *Closing the Gaps* goal of 1.6 million students by 2015. The full report is available at <http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/1301.PDF>.

Janet Beinke, Director of Planning, Planning and Accountability

Advisory Committee Update

As mandated by statute, the Coordinating Board convened an advisory committee in summer 2008 to review the **Higher Education Assistance Fund (HEAF) allocation** and recommend updates. The committee agreed to retain the current three-element space model (need, condition, and complexity), modifying it to exclude construction projects that have been approved by the Board but not placed on line by institutions. The committee also recommended that the overall funding level remain at \$262.5 million per year, with a 2.2 percent set-aside for the Texas State Technical College institutions. Finally, the committee recommended updating the allocation with the fall 2008 metrics prior to presenting the allocation to legislators during the 81st Legislative session. At its January 29th meeting, the Coordinating Board voted to adopt the committee's recommendations.

Paul Turcotte, Program Director, Planning and Accountability

Academic Planning and Policy (APP) Organizational Charts

Included with this Newsletter are current organizational charts for the Coordinating Board's Academic Planning and Policy Unit, consisting of the divisions of Academic Affairs and Research, P-16 Initiatives, and Planning and Accountability.

RECENT APP SENIOR STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Tamara Thornton Clunis was appointed **Director of Developmental and Adult Education** for the P-16 Initiatives Division. She is responsible for developing a statewide plan for developmental education, with an emphasis on improving student outcomes and increasing alignment between adult basic education and post-secondary education. Ms. Clunis has over 10 years of experience with developmental and adult education in Texas. Prior to joining the Coordinating Board, she worked for Austin Community College teaching reading and learning strategies. She also has worked as a senior faculty member and developmental reading specialist with the United States Military Academy (West Point). Ms. Clunis holds a Master's degree in Developmental and Adult Education from Texas State University-San Marcos, and is a Ph.D. candidate in the Adult, Professional, and Community Education program at Texas State University-San Marcos.

Kevin Lemoine, a member of the Coordinating Board staff since 2004, was appointed **Deputy Assistant Commissioner** for the Academic Affairs and Research Division. Dr. Lemoine serves as the division's chief operations officer. His primary responsibilities include coordination of workforce and academic program review, oversight of various grant programs, and coordination of legislative inquiries. He also provides leadership on statewide policy initiatives related to undergraduate education, graduate education, and distance education. He received his Ph.D. and Master of Arts degree in French and Spanish Linguistics from The University of Texas at Austin and his Bachelor of Arts degree in French from the University of Southern Mississippi.

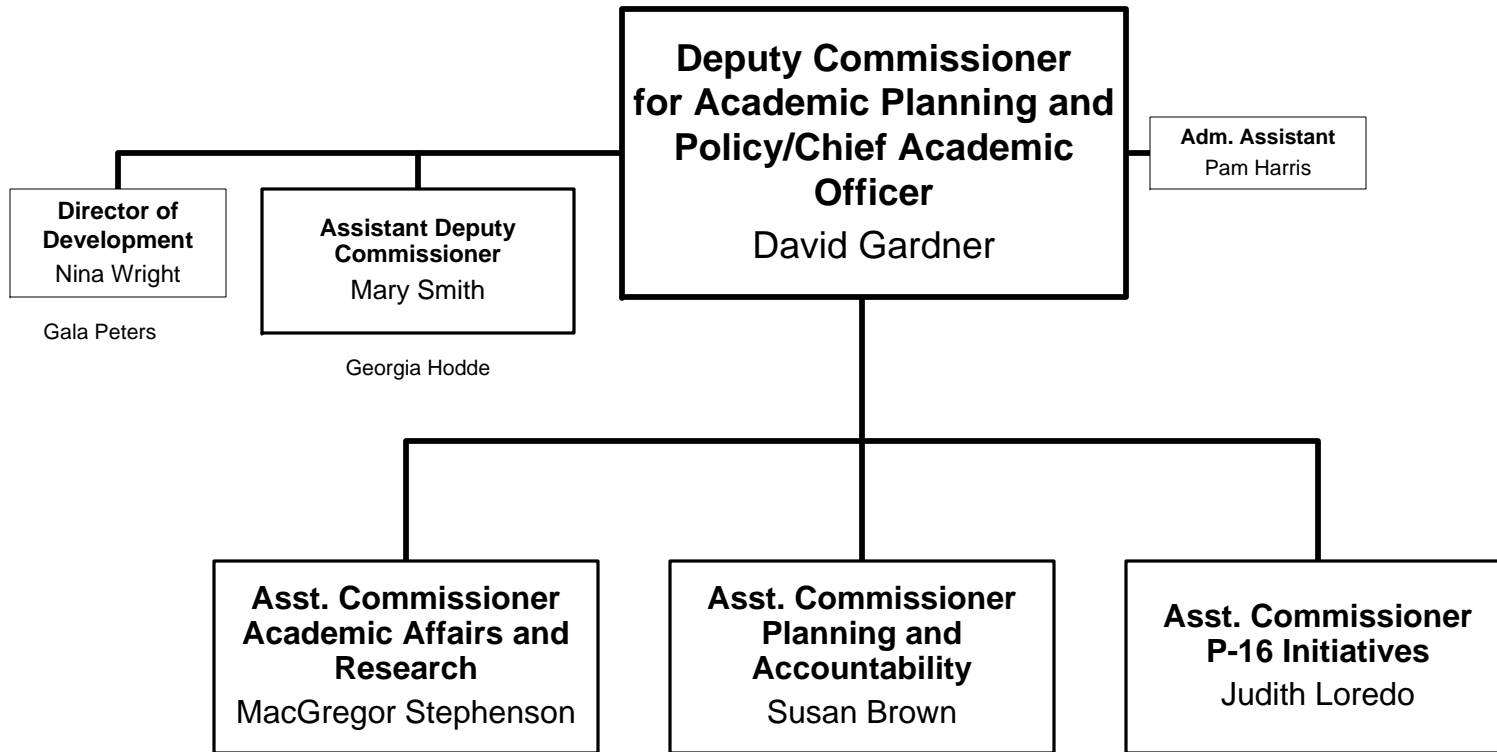
Mary (Muffet) Livaudais was appointed **Senior Director of Outreach** for the P-16 Initiatives Division. Dr. Livaudais is responsible for providing leadership and support in the coordination of programs related to higher education participation, affordability, and transfer. She works with the GO Centers, VISTA Project, House Bill 400 partnerships, and other policies and programs designed to address the needs of economically disadvantaged and at-risk students. Dr. Livaudais received her Bachelor of Arts degree in History, cum laude, from Tulane University, her Master's in Reading, and Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Houston.

Mary E. Smith, a member of the Coordinating Board staff since 1987, was appointed **Assistant Deputy Commissioner** for Academic Planning and Policy. Dr. Smith assists Deputy Commissioner David Gardner by providing leadership on key projects, reports, and studies that cut across divisions of the agency. She holds a Ph.D. in Communication Studies, a Master of Arts degree in Speech Communication, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology, all from The University of Texas at Austin.

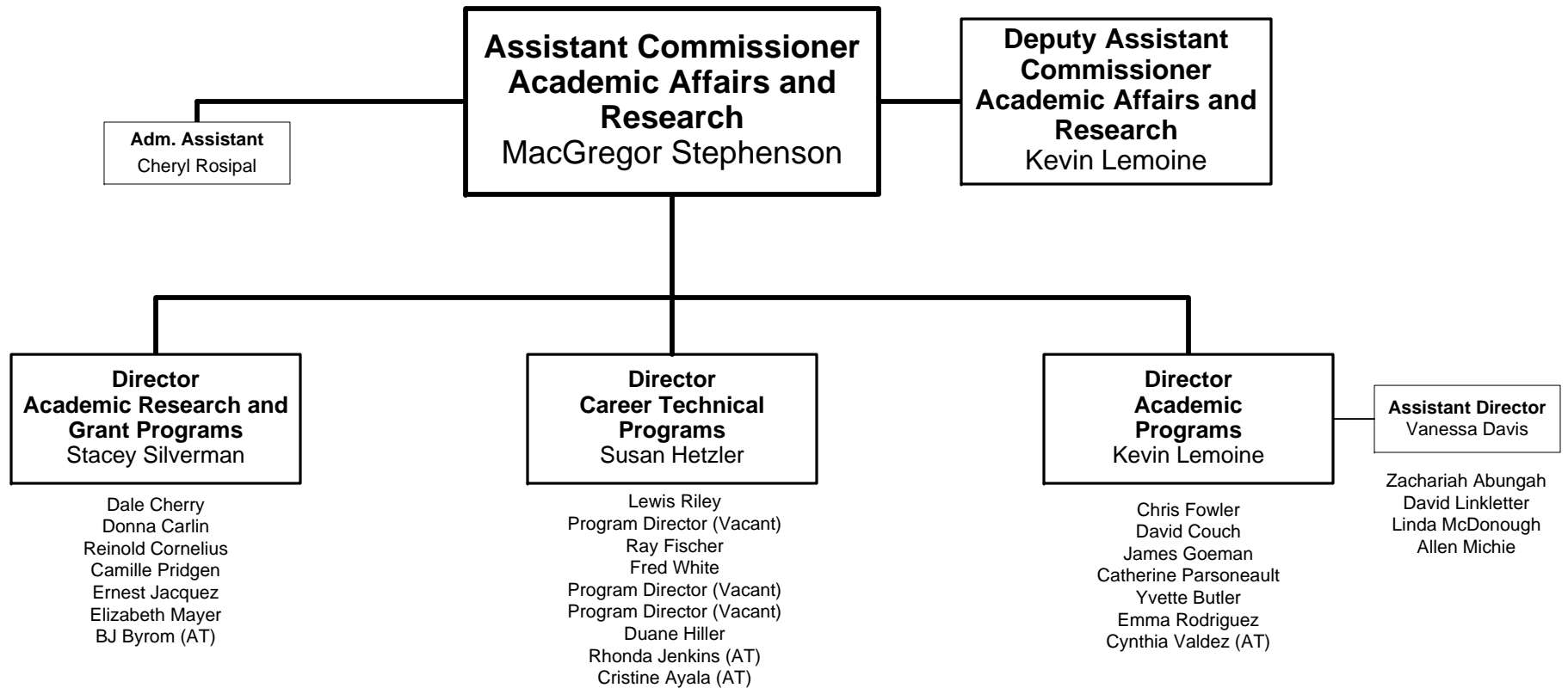
MacGregor Stephenson was appointed **Assistant Commissioner** for the Academic Affairs and Research Division. Dr. Stephenson provides leadership and support to the division's employees in the coordination of programs and policies related to academic affairs, career technical education, and academic research and grants. Dr. Stephenson recently served as Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the Texas A&M University System, and as the Interim Director of the Tarleton State University System Center-Central Texas in Killeen. Prior to working for the A&M System, Dr. Stephenson worked in the Governor's Office as Governor Perry's advisor for higher education. He holds a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration and a law degree from the University of Denver.

TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

**Office of Deputy Commissioner
for Academic Planning and Policy**

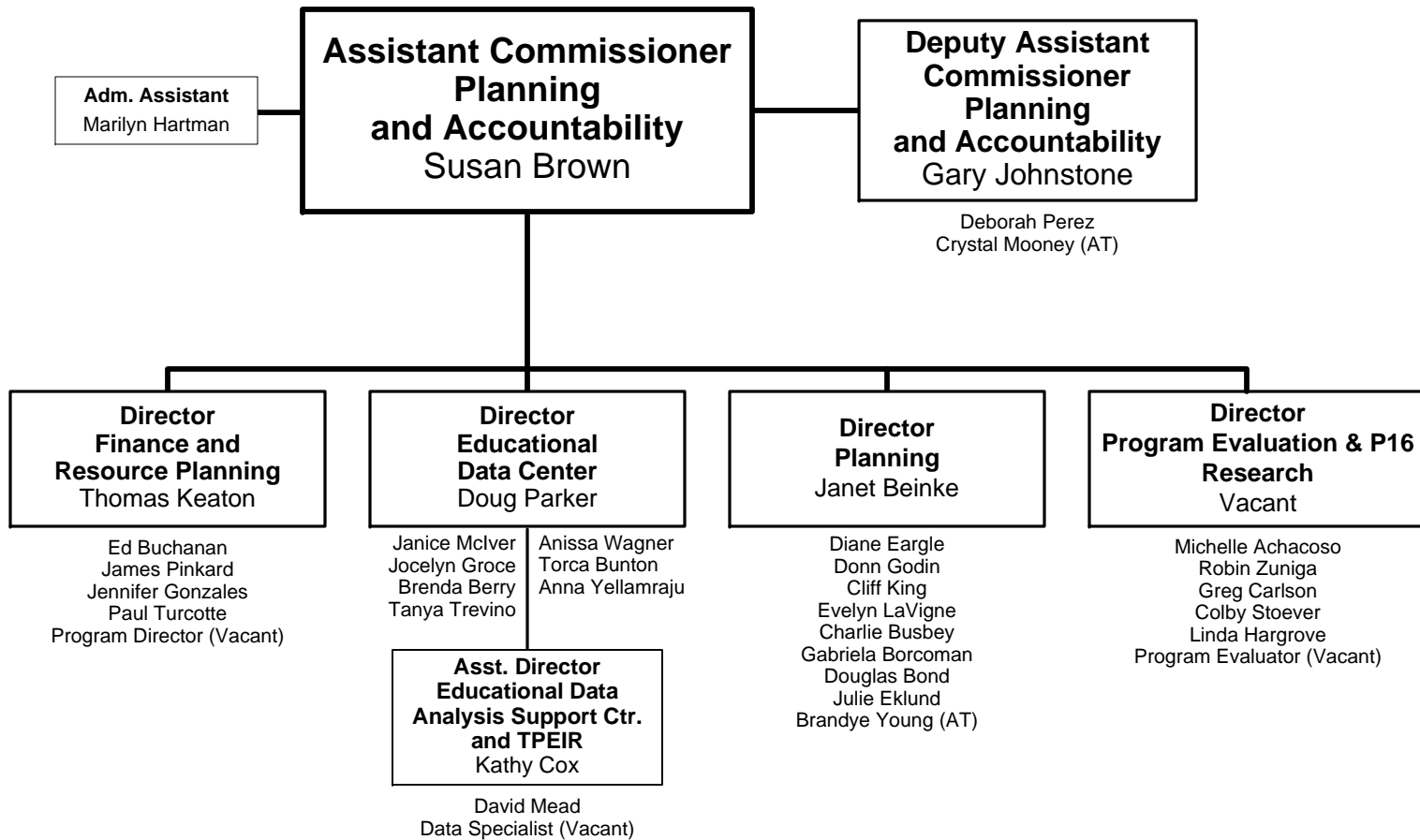


TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Academic Affairs and Research Division



(AT) Administrative Technicians support program directors in multiple units.

TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Planning and Accountability Division



TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

P-16 Initiatives Division

