Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Academic Planning and Policy E-NEWS

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

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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.

New Online System for Proposed New Degree Programs and Administrative Changes

The Coordinating Board has a new online system to receive new proposals for degree programs and administrative changes from universities, health science centers, and system offices. This online system will allow institutional representatives to upload up to three files in pdf format (up to 15MB each), which should include signed documents that need to be submitted along with each proposal and change request.

The web link (https://www1.thecb.state.tx.us/apps/proposals/) is password protected, so each system/institution should designate one person who will be responsible for a system's or institution's submission of proposals to the Coordinating Board. All proposals should come through the System Office, if applicable. Please contact Cindy Valdez at 512.427.6431 or Cindy.Valdez@thecb.state.tx.us for assistance.

Kevin Lemoine, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Academic Affairs and Research

Transfer Success Conference

The Texas Transfer Success Conference, scheduled for Friday, May 22, 2009, will be held simultaneously at eight sites across Texas to make participation as easy and affordable as possible for multiple representatives from any Texas campus. Participation includes lunch and a "carry away" of important resources on a thumb drive. While attendance is free, prior registration is required. Conference information and registration are available at the following website: http://www.transferinstitute.unt.edu/conferences/thecb_conference.html.

The Texas Transfer Success Conference is being coordinated by the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students, based at the University of North Texas, and the UNT Center for Higher Education. In addition to important state and local information, the conference will feature simultaneous presentations by John Gardner and Betsy Barefoot of the Policy Center on the First Year of College, and by Trudy Bers of Oakton Community College (Illinois), a developer of the Lumina Foundation-funded campus self-study process to improve transfer practices and policies, IPKIT (Improving Practitioner Knowledge to Increase Transfer).

Catherine Parsoneault, Senior Education Specialist, Academic Affairs and Research

High School Graduates Enrolled in Higher Education the Following Fall

The latest high school to college report by high school has been posted on the Coordinating Board (THECB) website under the High School to College Linkages: http://www.txhighereddata.org/Interactive/HSCollLinkFilters/HSGradEnrolByCountyDistrictSchool.cfm. This is the first year the THECB has performed alternate matching to find students that did not report a SSN in high school. Because the THECB collects the high school code and allows institutions to report the high school assigned ID from students' transcripts on the THECB student enrollment report, Coordinating Board staff were able to locate about 40 percent of the high school graduates that formerly were considered untraceable. This year, of the 17,701 high school graduates with assigned ID's, 7,009 were found in college. Statewide, that resulted in locating 1.4 percent more high school graduates in higher education over last year's results.

Kathy Cox, Assistant Director, Educational Data Analysis Support Center, Planning and Accountability

Upcoming Events

Coordinating Board Meetings
April 30, 2009
July 30, 2009
October 29, 2009
Agenda

Transfer Success Conference
May 22, 2009
http://www.transferinstitute.unt.edu/conferences/thecb_conference.html

Family Practice Residency Advisory Committee
at Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Offices
May 6, 2009

Graduate Education Advisory Committee
at Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Offices
May 8, 2009

Useful Links

Academic Affairs and Research
http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/AAR/default.cfm

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

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

P-16 Initiatives
http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/OS/

College for All Texans
www.CollegeForAllTexans.com

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

Texas Awarded Statewide Longitudinal Data System Grant to Expand the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS)

Texas has been awarded a grant in the amount of $7.9 million that will improve the collection of P-20 data. The Texas Education Agency will expand the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) to include classroom-level information for students and teachers and to expand the collection of student course completion data to include grades one through twelve. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board will expand the collection of student and faculty data in the Education Data Center (EDC) to include classroom-level information and grades. This will provide a collection of continuous P-20 classroom-level information in the state's existing data warehouse, while protecting the confidentiality of student and staff data.

Tremendous resources are invested in educational interventions that take place at the classroom level. Yet Texas cannot currently make the direct link between a student and a classroom, or between the high school classroom and the college classroom. This project will make it possible to evaluate the effectiveness of classroom interventions, education programs, and teacher characteristics, including teacher preparation programs. Independent school districts will also be able to follow the performance of their graduates in higher education and modify their curricula accordingly.

In order to make the information more accessible, a user interface will be developed to provide district administrators with access to a series of aggregate reports, as well as ad hoc reporting capability through a web portal. Pilot projects will be developed for district administrators in the use of customized analytics and anonymous cohorts. The latter will provide districts with the ability to compare the performance of student groups in their district to a similar group based on selected characteristics or a compilation of districts across the state. Having this ability will allow the state to determine best practices that can be shared by identifying programs that are more effective for students with different characteristics.

The support received through the Statewide Longitudinal Data System grant will allow Texas to transform the existing Texas Public Education Information Resource (TPEIR) data warehouse into a model that will further the use of more robust, timely performance data for elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education. The enhanced TPEIR database, modified to include student/teacher linkages throughout the P-20 continuum, will build capacity to make decisions based on evidence of effectiveness at multiple levels and for multiple purposes: at the local level for improved P-12 performance, at the state level for policy-making and scaling up of interventions that prove successful; and at the national level for research into policies and practices that close the gaps and improve performance for all students.

Susan Brown, Assistant Commissioner, Planning and Accountability

Mechanical Engineering Statewide Articulated Transfer Curriculum Committee

On April 10, with grant support from the Lumina Foundation for Education's *Making Opportunity Affordable* (MOA) initiative, the Coordinating Board hosted the first meeting of the Mechanical Engineering Statewide Articulated Transfer Curriculum Committee, the voluntary advisory committee that will assist the Coordinating Board in developing a statewide articulated transfer curriculum for mechanical engineering. The charge to the committee is to identify a set of lower-division courses, up to the level of a certificate or an associate's degree, that will provide the necessary academic background to integrate a mechanical engineering student seamlessly into participating engineering programs at four-year institutions.

All universities offering a bachelor's degree program in mechanical engineering and all community colleges offering an associate's degree program in mechanical engineering related technologies were invited to nominate a representative for the committee. Fifteen universities and six community colleges nominated representatives. The 21-member committee is made up of engineering deans and designees representing the following institutions: Alamo Community College District-St. Philip's College; Dallas County Community College District-Mountain View College; Houston Community College System; Lamar University; Midwestern State University; San Jacinto College-Central; Tarrant County College-Southeast; Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi; Texas A&M University-Kingsville; Texas State University System; The University of Texas at Arlington; The University of Texas at Dallas; The University of Texas at El Paso; The University of Texas of the Permian Basin; The University of Texas-Pan American; The University of Texas at San Antonio; The University of Texas at Tyler; Tyler Junior College; University of Houston; University of North Texas; and West Texas A&M University. The next meeting of the committee will be held at the Coordinating Board on May 28.

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

AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) Summer Associate Program

The College for All Texans Foundation has been awarded a Summer Associates grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service to enhance existing VISTA projects in Houston and San Antonio during summer 2009. The grant award (approximately $60,000) provides an additional 20 full-time positions for eight weeks of summer service. Summer Associates will focus on providing direct college mentoring and coaching through existing partnerships with Communities in Schools of San Antonio, the Houston Independent School District, and other program partners in larger efforts to engage students who may not otherwise find support in working toward higher education opportunities. Summer Associates receive $1,600 while in service, and upon completion they will receive a $1,000 Eli Segal Education Award, which can be used for qualified higher education expenses or student loans.

Jennifer Pandya, Program Director, P-16 Initiatives

Retirements

After having served as a member, vice-chair, and chairman of the Coordinating Board's Advisory Committee on Research Programs (ACORP), Dr. Billy Welch recently announced his retirement from the committee. Dr. Welch, a distinguished scientist and researcher who has been recognized with many honors, has served on the ACORP for 15 years, serving the last two years as Chairman of the committee. We appreciate the many years of dedicated service Dr. Welch has provided to our state and our country throughout his career. Dr. Welch's replacement on ACORP will be named prior to the next ACORP meeting in June.
Stacey Silverman, Director of Academic Research and Grant Programs

Best wishes also to two long-term members of the Coordinating Board (THECB) staff who have recently retired after many years of devoted service to our state: Mr. David Linkletter (after 26 years with the THECB) and Dr. Camille Pridgen (after 15 years with the THECB). We are grateful to each of them for their many years of dedicated service to higher education in Texas.
Stacey Silverman, Director of Academic Research and Grant Programs

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