

In this week's issue: Read the latest news; learn the latest formula funding recommendations, and find out how the nation is progressing on degree attainment!

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Higher Ed in the News

[Performance Anxiety](#)

December 16, 2011

Inside Higher Education

Indiana revises its performance-funding formula, putting new emphasis on progress toward degree, but not all institutions see an equal shot at the money.

[Trustees Take a Pass](#)

December 15, 2011

Inside Higher Education

Trustees see numerous problems on the horizon, but few are willing to challenge presidents or push radical changes, report finds

[UT System Launches Online Route to Degree Completion](#)

December 13, 2011

Texas Tribune

The University of Texas System is creating a new path to completion for students who attempted but — for whatever reason — have been unable to finish their college degree.

[Getting College Dropouts Back to School](#)

December 4, 2011

The Hechinger Report

Like many young Americans, Julia Capece went straight from high school to college. Halfway toward her bachelor's degree, she moved out of her parents' home. She tried juggling work and school, but living on her own and keeping up with tuition and coursework proved too much.

[Secretary of Education Urges Colleges to Rein in Costs](#)

November 29, 2011

The Chronicle of Higher Education

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan will call on colleges to "start thinking more creatively—and

Advisory Committees Reach Consensus on Formulas

Each biennium, the THECB Formula Advisory Committees study and make recommendations regarding state formula funding for universities, community colleges and health-related institutions. Under HB 9, adopted by the legislature earlier this year, the committees were specifically asked to consider and devise changes to the formulas that would incorporate undergraduate student success measures in allocating funding.

The Committee for General Academic Institutions (i.e. universities) and the Committee for Community and Technical Colleges, each composed of institutional representatives of their respective sectors, spent the last several months examining outcomes-based funding methodologies. The Committees reached consensus on recommended changes to the existing formulas that would allocate a portion of state funding to institutions based on how their students perform on defined success metrics. For universities, these metrics include total bachelor's degrees awarded, degrees awarded to at-risk students, and degrees awarded in critical workforce fields. For community and technical colleges, the metrics include completion of developmental education, persistence through 15 and 30 hours, earning an associate's degree and transfer to a 4-year institution.

These recommendations will be formally submitted to the Commissioner shortly, and the Coordinating Board will adopt its official recommendation to the Legislature in the spring.

with much greater urgency"—about how to contain the rising cost of college today, in a speech today in Las Vegas before a conference of financial-aid administrators.

Council for Continuous Improvement and Innovation Website is Up

The THECB has launched a new [website](#) for the Council for Continuous Improvement and Innovation (Council). The website includes meeting information and additional resources.

The Council, created by the THECB, is charged with developing a culture of continuous improvement and international competitiveness in Texas higher education.

Chaired by THECB Chariman Fred W. Heldenfels IV, the Council convened its first meeting on November 8 to establish goals and expectations. The Council will host quarterly meetings in 2012 to organize a framework for approaching the statewide 2030 strategic plan. The Council will review and recommend processes to increase efficiency and effectiveness across all higher education activities, including programmatic areas aimed to increase student success.

New Report Finds Slow Progress in Degree Attainment

A new [report](#) by the College Board finds that progress toward increasing degree attainment in the United States has been minimal in recent years and suggests the nation will fail to meet various goals set by the Board and other groups.

In 2009, the College Board's Commission on Access, Admissions and Success in Higher Education issued a call for 55 percent of Americans between the ages of 25 and 34 to earn a college degree by 2025. According to the report, the most recent data shows that number at 41.1 percent, which would indicate an attainment rate of 46.0 percent by 2025.

Resources:

- [Texas Legislature Online](#)

THECB Submits Nomination for Frank Newman Award

The THECB has nominated *Closing the Gaps by 2015* for the Frank Newman Award for State Innovation. Each year, the Education Commission for the States recognizes states and territories for enacting innovative education reforms or implementing innovative programs that go beyond marginal or incremental changes to improve student outcomes on a large scale.

More information on the award is available [here](#).

Holiday Schedule

The THECB will be closed December 23-26th. Have a safe and happy holiday!!

[Coordinating Board Upcoming Meetings/Events](#)

Name	Date/Time	Location
Council for Continuous Improvement Meeting	01/25/12 10:00AM	Board Room
Agency Operations Committee Meeting	01/25/12 2:00 PM	Tejas Room
THECB Quarterly Board Meeting	01/26/12 8:30 AM	Board Room

In December 2009, Lumina Foundation for Education awarded the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board a Making Opportunity Affordable (MOA) Grant worth \$1.8 million over four years. The purpose of the grant is to identify strategies and reach consensus on solutions that best use limited resources and advance student success. To learn more about the Lumina Tuning Texas project please visit: <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/TuningTexas>

Contact Us:
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Office of External Relations
(512) 427-6101
er@thecb.state.tx.us

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- [THECB Higher Education Appropriations](#)
 - [Closing the Gaps by 2015](#)
 - [Lumina Regional Meetings](#)
 - [Making Opportunity Affordable: A Student-Centered Approach through the Lumina Foundation](#)
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Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Our mailing address is:

1200 E. Anderson Lane

P.O. Box 12788

Austin, TX 78752

(512) 427-6101

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