

In this week's issue: Read the latest news; learn more about Proposition 3; and find out which Texan won a Nobel Prize!

Is this email not displaying correctly?
[View it in your browser.](#)



Higher Ed in the News

[Graduation Rates to Play Bigger Role in College Funding](#)

October 10, 2011

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Gov. Nathan Deal is preparing to tackle how the state funds colleges so that more money would go to the schools doing the best job graduating students.

[Public-College Leaders Acknowledge Challenges and Lament Slow Pace of Reform](#)

October 7, 2011

Chronicle of Higher Education

From the conference podium at the Four Seasons hotel in this Dallas suburb, a parade of speakers laid out the dire social and economic challenges facing the nation and the need for a radical change in how colleges operate and educate students.

[Pace of colleges' graduations not keeping up with enrollment](#)

October 6, 2011

San Antonio Express News

Colleges are still packing in students, but not pushing them out fast enough.

[Getting Credit](#)

October 6, 2011

Inside Higher Ed

Rapid growth in the number of students earning credentials at community colleges over the last two decades has outpaced enrollment gains at those institutions, according to a [report](#) released Wednesday by the American Association of Community Colleges. Findings include faster gains for minority students, meaning a partial closing of the "achievement gap" in credentials awarded.

[Choosing a Path in Community College Leads to](#)

Proposition 3: Expanding Access to Higher Education

Fall is an important season in higher education, as students begin or return to their studies. More than ever, students and their families rely on student loans to help pay for a college education. For more than 40 years, Texas has made access to affordable, fixed-rate student loans a priority for helping families bridge the cost gap in higher education.

Proposition 3, on the ballot November 8, would authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds to support state educational loans for college students. The demand for affordable student loans is clear. Last year, 61% of Texas college students required some form of financial aid, and more than half of that aid came in the form of student loans -- \$4.3 billion worth in the 2009-10 academic year.

Proposition 3 will expand access to the state's Hinson-Hazlewood College Access Loan Program, which has provided fixed rate, low-interest loans to more than 340,000 Texas students since 1965. All Texas students who are enrolled at least half-time are eligible for loans, and must meet academic progress requirements. The program currently offers one of the lowest student loan interest rates in the nation -- 5.25 percent.

Importantly, Proposition 3 does not create additional expense for taxpayers. That's because the College Access Loan Program is entirely self-supporting: all costs associated with administering the program, as well as the cost of repaying the bonds, are covered through the payments made by student loan borrowers. All surpluses in the program generated from interest payments are used to make more loans available to future students.

Further information on Proposition 3 and the loan program can be found [here](#).

[Higher Grad Rates](#)
September 10, 2011
Education News

The Community College Research Center of Teachers College, Columbia University says helping students choose a concentration sooner increases completion rates.

THECB Higher Ed News Service

The THECB Higher Education News and Notices email service allows you to receive the latest higher ed information from the CB such as the most recent news stories, legislative updates, meeting notices, and rule changes.

To sign up, please click on the link below and fill out the online form under "Create Profile/Update Profile" link.

The service allows you to tailor which types of emails you'd like to receive. For instance, you can choose to receive all emails or you can subscribe to only certain emails, such as those concerning reports or rule changes.

You can unsubscribe to the service at any time by clicking the "Unsubscribe" link.

Sign up or update profile [here](#).

Note: If you are already receiving our newsletters, you will automatically continue to receive them via this service. However, if you'd like to sign up to receive any other category of email notice, you will need to update your profile. This can also be done by clicking on the "Create Profile/Update Profile" link.

Tennessee officials outline higher ed funding initiative

On September 30, a group of higher education officials, business leaders, and elected officials received a presentation from representatives of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) related to the newly adopted outcomes-based funding initiative in that state. The presentation by Russ Deaton and Sean Tierney of the THEC, was videotaped and is available [online](#).

Additionally, electronic versions of the materials presented at the meeting are also available [here](#). This includes the working spreadsheets on Outcomes-based Funding used

Additional information about the election and other items on the ballot for November 8 can be found on the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.tx.us.

Texan Wins Nobel Prize

Bruce Beutler of The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas was recently awarded the Nobel Prize in medicine for his discoveries about the immune system. Beutler's work has led to revolutionary treatments in autoimmune disorders like rheumatoid arthritis.

Beutler is founding director of the new Center for Genetics of Host Defense at UT-Southwestern. He is the fifth Nobel laureate on the faculty at the University.

Beutler shares the award with two other scientists who were also honored for their work on the immune system. Read more [here](#).

[Coordinating Board Upcoming Meetings/Events](#)

Name	Date/Time	Location
Agency Operations Committee Meeting	10/26/2011 02:00 PM	Board Room
Distance Education Advisory Committee	10/24/2011 10:00 AM	Tejas Room
Board Meeting	10/27/2011 08:30 AM	Board Room
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting	12/13/11 10:00 AM	Board Room
Closing the Gaps Committee Meeting	12/14/11 10:00 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:

in Tennessee.

Resources:

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

<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

To subscribe to our newsletter or to receive other THECB reports and notices, please visit the THECB Higher Education News and Notices [webpage](#).

[follow on Twitter](#) | [forward to a friend](#)

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Our mailing address is:

1200 E. Anderson Lane

P.O. Box 12788

Austin, TX 78752

(512) 427-6101

© 2011 THECB

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)