

# THECB EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS REQUEST 2014-2015 BIENNIUM

*Funding the State's Highest Priorities*



JANUARY 2013

The 83rd Texas Legislative Session is a critical time for investing in higher education to help the state achieve the goals of *Closing the Gaps by 2015* and lay the foundation for Texas to become a national and global economic competitor. According to Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce, 60% of all Texas jobs will require postsecondary education or training by 2020. These projections are a key reason why the THECB is requesting \$216.5 M in exceptional items designed to strengthen the programs that contribute most directly and effectively to achieving the goals of the state's higher education plan. Specifically, the THECB's exceptional items request prioritizes the state's TEXAS Grant Program which serves the neediest students, strengthens Graduate Medical Education given the severe shortage of physicians in Texas, and invests in increasing innovations in research.

## PRESERVING MOMENTUM

### Financial Aid

- ✓ An additional **\$163.7M** for **TEXAS Grants**, assuming current operational practices continue, will:
  - Serve an estimated 154,895 students
  - Serve an estimated 71% of new eligible students
  - Provide an average award amount for university students at \$5,000
  - Provide an average award amount for community college students at \$1,325
- ✓ An additional **\$9M** for **Teach for Texas Loan Repayment Program** will:
  - Serve an estimated 1,800 teachers
  - Provide an average award amount at \$2,500
- ✓ An additional **\$3.5M** for **T-STEM Challenge Scholarship** will:
  - Serve approximately 2,220 community and technical college students
  - Provide an award amount of \$1,250
  - Match private contribution pledged by Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation

### Graduate Medical Education

- ✓ **\$11.5M** for **Graduate Medical Expansion** will:
  - Support the addition of 766 first-year entering residency positions in the next biennium
  - Provide an award amount of \$15,000 per resident which would cover 10% of the cost for new first-year entering residency training positions

## Graduate Medical Education (Continued)

- ✓ An additional **\$14M** for the **Family Practice Residency Program** will:
  - Support approximately 1,432 family practice residents in the next biennium
  - Increase the award amount from \$3,841 to \$13,352
  - Increase in the number of rural and public health rotations from the current level of 25 funded at \$2,000 to 80 funded at \$3,000
  
- ✓ **\$4.5M** for the **Emergency and Trauma Care Education Partnership Program** will:
  - Provide fellowships to increase training opportunities in emergency medicine and trauma care residency programs
  - Appropriate these funds to the agency rather than entering into an MOU with the Texas Department of State Health Services

## Research

- ✓ An additional **\$8M** for the **Norman Hackerman Advance Research Program** will:
  - Increase grant awards to 58 from the current level of \$80,000 to \$150,000
  - Expand the current focus from just two research areas: biological science and materials science to include areas such as chemistry, computer science, engineering, mathematics, earth science, and physics and astronomy
  - Leverage external research funds at an expected multiplier of 3.5

## Agency Operations

- ✓ An additional **\$645,736** for the **agency's operating budget** will:
  - Fund four FTE to expand compliance and monitoring functions relating to enrollment data tied to formula funding appropriated to public institutions of higher education and state financial aid allocated to institutions of higher education
  - Implement Sunset Advisory Commission's recommendation
  
- ✓ An additional **\$1.1M** for the **agency's information technology** resources will:
  - Allow the agency to replace obsolete technologies to enhance staff productivity and improve customer services

**TOTAL EXCEPTIONAL ITEM REQUEST = \$216.5M**

For more information:  
Office of External Relations  
512-427-6111  
er@theccb.state.tx.us