



**2016
Texas Higher Education
Star Awards**

60x30TX

 **STAR AWARDS**

October 26, 2016

16th Annual Texas Higher Education Star Awards

Presented by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

The Texas Higher Education Star Award was originally established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in 2001 to recognize exceptional contributions toward achieving one or more of the goals of the former long-range Texas higher education plan, *Closing the Gaps by 2015*, which brought Texas from 2000 to 2015. The state's new higher education plan, *60x30TX*, adopted by the Coordinating Board on July 23, 2015, builds on the success of *Closing the Gaps* and is designed to establish a globally competitive workforce in Texas by 2030. (See *60x30TX* at: <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/60x30TX>)

Criteria for the 2016 Star Award

Programs/projects/activities, groups/organizations, and partnerships must:

- demonstrate successful outcomes in areas of: (1) the educational attainment of the state's 25- to 34-year-old population; (2) student completion of a certificate or degree; (3) the number of programs with identified marketable skills; or (4) the implementation of programs or cost efficiencies that help to ensure that undergraduate student loan debt will not exceed 60 percent of first-year wages;
- clearly demonstrate improvement and excellence through the use of benchmarks and other comparison data that allow progress to be monitored and evaluated and that are attributable to the efforts of the program/organization/partnership; and
- clearly demonstrate an efficient cost/benefit ratio per student.

Each year, the Coordinating Board receives applications submitted from throughout Texas. After an initial review by a Coordinating Board staff committee, a select group of applicants are named finalists.

A nine-member Texas Higher Education Star Award Selection Committee includes three members of the Coordinating Board, three Texas business and community leaders, and three out-of-state education experts. Winners are chosen from this review committee's highest rankings.

Texas Higher Education 2015 Star Award Selection Committee

Coordinating Board Members

- **Janelle Shepard**, Member, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
- **Stuart W. Stedman**, Vice Chair, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
- **David D. Teuscher, M.D.**, Secretary, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Texas Business and Community Leaders

- **Laurie Bricker, M.Ed.**, Consultant, Houston, Texas
- **Charles R. Matthews, Ed.D.**, Trustee, College for All Texans Foundation Board, Aquilla, Texas
- **Michael Paris**, Executive Director, Paris Economic Development Corporation, Paris, Texas

Out-of-State Higher Education Experts

- **Dale Campbell, Ph.D.**, Professor and Director, Institute of Higher Education & FUTURES Bellwether College Consortium, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida
- **Marshall A. Hill, Ph.D.**, Executive Director, National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements, WICHE, Boulder, Colorado
- **Christopher J. Rasmussen, Ph.D.**, Vice President for Programs and Research, Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, Washington, D.C.

2016 Texas Higher Education Star Award Recipient



Texas Affordable Baccalaureate Program

Texas A&M University–Commerce



2016 Texas Higher Education Star Award Finalists

Architecture

El Paso Community College and Texas Tech University

In the fall of 2007, El Paso Community College (EPCC) and Texas Tech University (TTU) jointly implemented a 2+2 architectural program that is the first of its kind in Texas and unique to the nation for its model articulation, practices, and emphasis on program development based on local community and student needs. The program is focused on fulfilling a long-standing need in West Texas to create a pathway for local students to become professional architects. In the past five years, with the help of a grant from the U.S. Department of Education and the augmentation of funds approved by the governing boards of EPCC and TTU, the program has improved, expanded, and consolidated to provide a seamless transfer pathway. The program has now graduated over 100 students of which 90 percent are Hispanic and first generation; many are older students who have worked in the field without a degree in architecture accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) and who were determined to obtain a professional education. The degree created by the EPCC-TTU partnership provides students the opportunity to complete the baccalaureate degree and then move to the NAAB-accredited Master of Architecture at TTU or other institution in order to become a licensed architect.

TTU's Institutional Research office reports that 55 percent of the students in the EPCC-TTU partnership program have graduated without student debt; the average debt-to-wage ratio of the students in the program who took out loans is less than 30 percent.

For additional information, please contact: Aditi Sarkar, Director, HSI STEM Architecture Grant, at asarkar@epcc.edu or (575) 571-2406.

2016 Texas Higher Education Star Award Finalists

Intern 2 Learn

Tarleton State University

The Intern 2 Learn program is an innovative student employment program designed to provide undergraduate students with relevant work experience provided by Tarleton State University's (Tarleton) Student Financial Assistance Services. Intern 2 Learn provides undergraduate students an opportunity to work as interns in positions related to their academic curricula. Eligible students participating in the program are promoted to higher levels of responsibility and pay as their experience and knowledge levels grow. These three levels of experience are Assistant Intern at \$8.00 per hour, Associate Intern at \$9.00 per hour, and Senior Intern at \$10.00 per hour. In addition, as part of the institution's commitment to Applied Learning Experiences, Intern 2 Learn is designed to engage students in applied learning experiences to broaden real-world connections to academic experiences inside and outside the classroom.

Operating since summer 2013, the Intern 2 Learn program has seen rapid growth and has become a dynamic employment opportunity for Tarleton's students, allowing them an opportunity to integrate classroom education within a professional work environment. Since the first semester, the Intern 2 Learn program has grown rapidly. It has employed 151 students in 2014; 187 students in 2015; and, as of June, 172 students so far in 2016, with more students continuing to be hired for the 2016 summer semester. Data demonstrate that participating interns have high completion rates and documented acquisition of multiple marketable skills. Of the 365 participating interns, 55 percent (201 students) completed a degree at Tarleton, compared with the institution's overall undergraduate completion rate of 43 percent. Furthermore, the operational framework of the Intern 2 Learn program made it unique and superior to alternative options for students both on- and off-campus. Finally, the strategic utilization of financial resources has provided Tarleton with a cost efficient program for students and employers alike.

For additional information, please contact: Kyle Parsons, Intern 2 learn/Work Study Coordinator, at parsons@tarleton.edu or (254) 968-9740.

2016 Texas Higher Education Star Award Finalists

Texas Affordable Baccalaureate Program

Texas A&M University-Commerce

The Texas Affordable Baccalaureate (TAB) Program at Texas A&M University-Commerce (TAMU-Commerce) is the state's first competency-based baccalaureate degree offered by a public university that has been approved by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. The Bachelor of Applied Science in Organizational Leadership at TAMU-Commerce is a fully online degree program consisting of 99 competencies (for the equivalent of 120 semester credit hours) defined by both faculty and industry. Because many students come to the program with an associate degree or prior learning from the workplace or military, there also are options for students to satisfy degree requirements through transfer credit or prior learning assessment.

Tuition and fees are fixed at \$750 for Texas residents and \$2,500 for non-residents for each seven-week term. Students may accelerate and complete as many courses as possible for this flat rate. Academic advisors and instructors work closely with students to mentor and guide them through each module and competency to demonstrate mastery. Program quality is ensured through the requirement that students must score 80 percent or higher on all final module assessments to move on to the next one. Scores are converted back to a traditional grade point average to ensure transferability of credits as well as the ability of students to pursue advanced degrees. Upon completing the program, students have an e-portfolio to demonstrate their learning to current and prospective employers or graduate schools.

The program has garnered national recognition for its work on the vanguard of the burgeoning field of competency-based education. Developed in 2013, delivering its first courses in January 2014, and graduating the first students in May 2015, the TAB Program at TAMU-Commerce has seen an enrollment growth of 2,600 percent, from 7 to 192 students; a term-to-term retention rate of 86 percent; and 66 graduates. Transfer students are a significant portion of the TAB Program student population. Eighty-four percent of students (N=160) enrolled in the TAB program qualified for the junior- and senior-level classifications. Current students have an average age of 39 years; 97 percent (N=186) brought credentials from previously attended higher education institutions, with some credits dating back to the early 1990s. On average, TAB students graduate from TAMU-Commerce in less than a year and experience significant cost savings. The average cost-to-degree of the graduates is \$4,891 (not including textbook costs at the upper-division level), for a cost-to-degree savings of \$6,650.

For additional information, please contact: Ray Keck, Interim President & CEO, at Ray.Keck@tamuc.edu or (903) 886-5014.

2016 Texas Higher Education Star Award Finalists

University Leadership Network

The University of Texas at Austin

The University Leadership Network (ULN) is a student success program at The University of Texas at Austin (UT-Austin) that combines incentive-based scholarships with leadership training to provide 500 students each year with the support and incentive to graduate in four years. ULN is designed to reduce obstacles to graduation for students who are academically underprepared and have high financial need. It is unique in that it selects students based on their financial need as well as their risk of delayed graduation or attrition as indicated by predictive analytics when they arrive as freshmen.

Through ULN, students receive yearly incentive scholarships dependent on sufficient progress to degree and participation in leadership- and community-building activities over the course of their four years at UT-Austin. ULN students receive \$5,000 per year for participation in the program – \$20,000 per student over their four years in the program. The scholarship money is disbursed through monthly payments during the fall and spring semesters. This paycheck-like payment schedule is designed to help students budget and also links the scholarship award to the program's basic participation requirements month by month. Because the ULN scholarship is intended for at-risk students as additional aid to help cover the costs of tuition, it is offered in addition to other federal or state grants and scholarships a student may be receiving from the university.

Every ULN student is also assigned to one of UT-Austin's academic success programs, which provide first-year academic learning communities of linked classes that include small sections, peer mentoring, group and individualized advising, learning skills training, tutoring, and peer-to-peer teaching. Thus, ULN students receive a comprehensive combination of support interventions – both an academic success program that provides the services to maximize success in the classroom and the ULN program that awards financial aid while also incentivizing development of leadership skills and co-curricular involvement on campus.

Students in the ULN program are persisting and achieving academic success at a level comparable to their UT-Austin class overall, and out-performing a pre-ULN comparison group. While the first ULN cohort are not expected to graduate until 2017, other college success factors indicate ULN students are on track to graduate. Comparison of students from the ULN 2013 and 2014 entering cohorts with a reference group from the UT-Austin 2010 cohort with similar SAT scores and financial need reveals that the drop-out rate after one year for ULN students was roughly half that of the pre-ULN comparison group (9.1% drop-out for the ULN students compared to 17.7% for the pre-ULN comparison group). Beyond the first year, students in the ULN 2013 cohort have persisted to their junior year at a rate of 86.3 percent, similar to the overall rate of 90.5 percent for the total UT-Austin 2013 cohort. The ULN cohort entering in 2014 returned for their second fall at a rate of 92.6 percent, compared to 95.5 percent for the total UT-Austin cohort who entered the same year. By comparison, the national average for full-time, first-time-in-college students returning for the second year at a four-year public institution was 72.5 percent (2013 to 2014, National Center for Education Statistics).

For additional information, please contact: David Laude, Senior Vice Provost, at dalaude@austin.utexas.edu or (512) 232-3317.

2016 Texas Higher Education Star Award Finalists

Insight Motivated Marketing (IMM 360) Curriculum

The University of Texas at Tyler

The goal of the Insight Motivated Marketing (IMM 360) Curriculum is to provide all marketing students a set of general and specific marketable skills through a 360-degree view of how suppliers and retailers work together to serve their customers. IMM 360 offers a curriculum designed to help students understand the role of data in marketing decision making; provides students with real world application when it comes to suppliers, retailers, and distributors; and uses state of the industry technology and data from resources such as The Nielsen Company, JDA Software, Learning Evolutions, and SAP (Systems Applications and Products). Utilizing these industry software tools and data, students develop the marketable skills needed to critically analyze what types of data are available and when best to use the data to enhance customer facing decision making.

The program also builds marketable skills through the valuable role of research and hands-on skill development through the Center for Retail Enterprise's Brookshire's Consumer Insights Lab. Students develop highly sought after marketable skills, which have already attracted employers such as Brookshire Grocery Company, Cavender's Western Wear, 7-Eleven, Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits, Frito Lay, Republic National Distributing, Fossil, and Dr. Pepper Snapple Group to interview and hire students

For additional information, please contact: James Lumpkin, Dean, College of Business and Technology, at jlumpkin@uttyler.edu or (903) 566-7360.

2016 Texas Higher Education Star Award Finalists

Success Through Education Programs (STEP)

University of Houston-Clear Lake

This recruitment-retention collaborative identifies predominately first-generation (77%), diverse, low-income, often nontraditional, Hispanic students (52%) who have the potential to become highly qualified teachers. Success through Education Programs (STEP) provides these dedicated students with a seamless pathway to graduation and certification from high school to community college to the University of Houston Clear Lake (UHCL). Partners include: Galveston ISD, Galveston College, Goose Creek CISD, Lee College, Galena Park ISD, San Jacinto Community College-North, Houston ISD, Houston Community College-Southeast, Santa Fe ISD, and San Jacinto Community College-South.

The STEP surround these students with mentoring, professional development, resources, opportunities for scholarships, and continuous academic advisement for six years to ensure they reach their goals of graduation and teacher certification. Involvement in STEP activities develops a sense of belonging that enhances their commitment to succeed in obtaining their teacher certification. Throughout their teacher education program, students are encouraged to return to their communities as committed teachers who lead, inspire, and mentor their own students to achieve success through education.

Since fall 1993, STEP has been committed to increasing the number of high-caliber, committed teachers serving local communities. For 23 years STEPS' long-range goal has been to assist underserved students as they realize their dreams of achieving bachelor's degrees. To date, STEP has graduated 846 students, with 662 of them becoming certified teachers through the UHCL School of Education. Over the years, the STEP graduation rate ranged from approximately 70 percent to 93.6 percent. In 2015, the transfer graduation rate for STEP students was 90 percent; the UHCL transfer four-year graduation rate was 68.8 percent.

For additional information, please contact: Nancy Wright, STEP Faculty Liaison, at wrightn@uhcl.edu or (281) 283-3579.

Texas Higher Education Star Awards Past Recipients

2015

The Education and Career Positioning System – Linking Student Pathways to Careers

Lone Star College–University Park

2014

Gulf Coast Partners Achieving Student Success

Lee College and Goose Creek Consolidated I.S.D.

San Antonio College GED-to-College Transition Program

San Antonio College Services for Women & Non-Traditional Students and San Antonio I.S.D.

Texas A&M – Blinn TEAM Program

Texas A&M University and Blinn College

Developmental Math Program

The University of Texas at El Paso

2013

Brookhaven College Counseling Center SkillsShops

Brookhaven College

Students Advancing Through Involvement in Research Student Talent Expansion Program (STAIRSTEP)

Lamar University

Temple College – Texas Bioscience Institute

Temple College

2012

Alamo Area Academies

Alamo Colleges

Dual Enrollment Medical Science Academy

South Texas College

UT Arlington-Academic Partnerships BSN Completion Program

The University of Texas at Arlington College of Nursing and Academic Partnerships

Gateway Project

West Texas A&M University

2011

In-House Online Tutoring

Houston Community College System

IDEA Public Schools

IDEA Public Schools

Students Together, Involving, Networking, and Guiding (STING)

The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College

Gateways to Excellence in Math and Science (GEMS)

The University of Texas at Dallas

UTMB Integrated Medical Curriculum

The University of Texas Medical Branch

Uplift Education

Uplift Education

2010

Learning Frameworks

Brazosport College

College of Nursing Undergraduate Nursing Weekend Program

Texas Woman's University T. Boone Pickens Institute of Health Sciences, Dallas Center

Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP)

Created by Senate Bill 940 of the 77th Texas Legislature

Modeling Excellence in Collaborative Teacher Education

University of Houston Downtown, Lone Star College-Kingwood, and Lone Star College-CyFair

2009

Mathematics Outreach Center

Amarillo College

College, Career & Technology Academy

South Texas College and Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District

TAMU-Commerce/Mesquite Independent School District Partnership

TAMU-Commerce and Mesquite Independent School District

Partnering for Teachers

Texas Woman's University and Dallas ISD

Late Intervention Program

The University of Texas at San Antonio

Providing Access to Success: Emerald Eagle Scholars Program

University of North Texas

2008

Online Teacher Preparation Program for Paraprofessionals

Stephen F. Austin State University

UTEP-EPCC Transfer Scholarship Program

The University of Texas at El Paso

Second Degree Accelerated BSN Program

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

Collegiate Challenge Program

Spring Branch Independent School District

University-wide Enrollment Management

University of North Texas

College of Education Partnership

South Plains College/Texas Tech University

Student Employment Initiative

The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College

2007

LULAC Parent/Child Scholarship Program

Alamo Community College District-San Antonio College

Developmental Education Initiative Title V Project

El Paso Community College

UT TeleCampus

The University of Texas System

Student Money Management Center

University of North Texas

2006

College Connection Program

Austin Community College

Academic Assistance and Resource Center

Stephen F. Austin State University

SureStart Program

Tarrant County College District

Chemistry Peer Leader Program

The University of Texas at El Paso

YES College Preparatory Schools

YES College Preparatory Schools

2005

Graduates and Completers Projects

Houston Community College System

Summer Bridge Program

North Harris Montgomery Community College District-North Harris College

Navarro College Partnership

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Center for Mexican American Studies (CMAS)

University of Houston

Model Institutions for Excellence Initiative

University of Texas at El Paso

Gulf Coast Consortia/Keck Center

University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston

2004

Community Link

Amarillo College

College Assistance Migrant Program

St. Edward's University

College of Science & Technology Scholars Academy at UH-D

University of Houston-Downtown

Law School Preparation Institute

The University of Texas at El Paso

2003

Community Education Centers

Alamo Community College District

Strategies for Success

Alamo Community College District – San Antonio College

Rising Star Program

Dallas County Community College District

The Academy for Collegiate Excellence and Student Success

Prairie View A&M University

Pathways to Success in Science

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

South Plains Nursing Education Community Coalition

Texas Tech Health Sciences Center, South Plains College, Lubbock Christian University, and Covenant School of Nursing, in partnership with University Medical Center, Covenant Health System, WorkSource of the South Plains, and American State Bank

Entering Student Program

The University of Texas at El Paso

Increasing the Success of the Most Economically Disadvantaged Students

West Texas A&M University

2002

Premedical Honors College

Baylor College of Medicine

The Monitored Probation Early Intervention Program

Lamar University

HomeGrown Teacher Education Program

San Jacinto College-North Campus

Nursing Success Program

Texas Woman's University

The Mother-Daughter Program

The University of Texas at El Paso

Texas Prefreshman Engineering Program

The University of Texas at San Antonio

University Scholars

The University of Texas-Pan American

2001

First-Year Learning Communities Program

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Virtual College of Texas

Texas Association of Community Colleges

Mathworks Summer Program

Texas State University-San Marcos

The University Writing Center

Texas Tech University

Jesse H. Jones Academic Institute

University of Houston-Downtown

