

**Suzanne Pickens**

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Suzanne Pickens is a Program Director at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in the Division of Workforce, Academic Affairs and Research.

Ms. Pickens has worked at the Coordinating Board since 2009, primarily in the administration of state and federally funded grant programs. The Norman Hackerman Advanced Research Program is a State initiative to foster faculty research in Texas, and the Hospital-Based Nursing Education Partnership Grant Program, which seeks to increase enrollment and graduation of professional nurses in the state, award funds through peer-reviewed competitions. Ms. Pickens also administers the state-funded Emergency and Trauma Care Education Partnership Program, which supports increased training opportunities for physicians and nurses in emergency and trauma care. The purpose of the federally funded Carl D. Perkins grant program is to improve career and technical education. Ms. Pickens is part of a team of administrators for the Perkins grants.

Prior to joining the Coordinating Board, Ms. Pickens worked at the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies, where she conducted research on nursing education and workforce in Texas.

Ms. Pickens received an M.B.A. from Temple University in Philadelphia. Employment prior to the Coordinating Board included Seton Healthcare Network in Austin and Exxon Corporation in New York and London.