

Academic Planning and Policy E-News

Academic Quality and Workforce | College Readiness and Success
Innovation and Policy Development | Strategic Planning and Funding



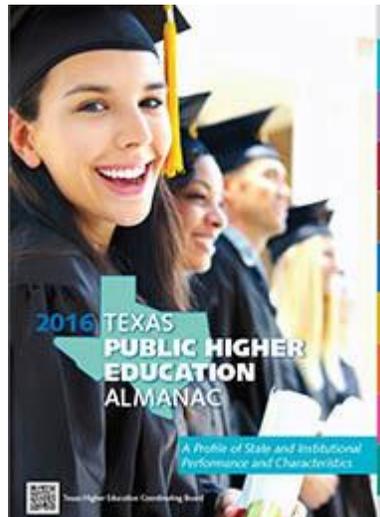
Texas Higher Education
Coordinating Board

Office of Academic Planning and Policy, David W. Gardner, Deputy Commissioner

Volume 8, Number 5, May 2016

2016 Almanac Highlights Successes as Texas Enters New Higher Education Era

This month the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) launched its sixth annual [Texas Public Higher Education Almanac](#) as part of the agency's core function to promote transparency and accountability among Texas public institutions of higher education. The [2016 almanac](#) provides higher education facts and performance data that allow readers to compare Texas public higher education institutions. The data provide a snapshot of the state's success in achieving the goals of the 2000-2015 higher education plan, [Closing the Gaps by 2015](#). The almanac draws from data found in the agency's accountability system – long recognized as a "best practice" national model for higher education performance data.



"The almanac was originated by the Coordinating Board to more effectively communicate Texas higher education data," said Commissioner Raymund Paredes. "These data include the many accomplishments achieved under *Closing the Gaps*. Now we have entered a new era under *60x30TX*, the state's new strategic plan that promotes innovative, student-centered goals of completion of high-quality credentials, identifiable marketable skills, and the ability to move students into the workforce without crushing loan debt. We won't reach our goals by doing business as usual."

The 2016 almanac includes a statewide student debt profile. The almanac institutional profiles now include average student debt of undergraduate completers of bachelor's degrees, associate degrees, and certificates and the percent of undergraduate completers with debt. All student loan debt of undergraduate completers reported to the THECB is included, such as federal and state loans, parent Plus loans, and private educational loans. Undergraduate completers reported with any debt in the categories noted above are included in the percent-with-debt calculation.

Also featured is an updated earnings profile with workforce earnings data highlighting individual first-year and long-term earnings for certain degree programs, as well as a range of credential levels. Earnings data are derived from the Texas Unemployment Insurance Wage Record and include only those students who graduated from Texas higher education institutions and were subsequently employed in the state. The earnings data are intended to help illustrate the value of higher education, from certificates to professional degrees.

Calendar

Next Board Meeting

July 21, 8:30 a.m.

60x30TX East Texas Regional Workshop in Nacogdoches

May 31, 10 a.m. -
3:30 p.m.

Music Learning Outcomes Workgroup

June 1, 9 a.m.

Dance Learning Outcomes Workgroup

June 3, 9 a.m.

Education Research Center Advisory Board Meeting

June 7, 1 p.m.

Architecture and Construction Program of Study Advisory Committee

June 16, 10 a.m.

60x30TX South Texas Regional Workshop in San Antonio

June 16, 10 a.m. -
3:30 p.m.

To help students and parents make better informed decisions about the value of higher education, the THECB provides an online companion to the almanac at www.CompareCollegeTX.com. This interactive tool – funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation – allows users to make side-by-side comparisons of Texas higher education institutions based on measures reported in the almanac. Produced in collaboration with College Measures, this comprehensive, mobile-friendly tool also links to wage data for graduates by degree level and major for individual Texas public higher education institutions. The almanac and CompareCollegeTX.com are designed to place the most relevant data and information on Texas public institutional performance in the hands of policymakers, students, parents, and the general public. The THECB compiled and organized existing data for use in the almanac. Private funding paid for the design, printing, and delivery.

Kelly Carper Polden | Assistant Director of Communications
| External Relations

Call for 2016 Texas Higher Education Star Award Nominations

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) welcomes nominations for the 2016 Texas Higher Education Star Award for exceptional contributions toward meeting one or more of the goals of *60x30TX*. This will be the first year of competition for awards related to the new Texas higher education plan.

The THECB originally established the Star Award 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*. Given its success, the Star Award program is being continued, with revised guidelines for *60x30TX*.

To submit a nomination, please visit www.thecb.state.tx.us/StarAwardSubmission and follow the steps for nomination submission via email. Please note the following important dates:

- Nominations due (including self-nominations): June 13
- Nominees notified; applications sent to nominees: June 17
- Applications due: July 18
- Finalists notified: September 15
- Winners honored: 2016 Texas Higher Education Leadership Conference

Information regarding the 2016 Star Awards competition is available on the THECB's website at www.thecb.state.tx.us/StarAwards. Detailed 2016 Star Award Guidelines are available at www.thecb.state.tx.us/StarAwardGuidelines.

Mary E. Smith | Assistant Deputy Commissioner/ADR
Coordinator | Academic Planning and Policy

Call for 2016 Primary Care Innovation Grant Program Applications

The Primary Care Innovation Grant Program provides awards, on a competitive basis, to medical schools that administer innovative programs designed to increase the number of primary care physicians in the state. For the 2016-2017 biennium, the Texas Legislature appropriated \$2.037 million for the program. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is currently accepting applications for the Primary Care Innovation Grant Program from

Committee on Affordability, Accountability and Planning (CAAP)

June 29, 9 a.m.

Committee on Academic and Workforce Success (CAWS)

June 29, 12 p.m.

60x30TX in the News

[Dallas Regional Chamber](#)

[Solutions: The Official Blog of the Texas Workforce Commission](#)

[Star-Telegram](#)

[Texas Association of Community College Marketers \(TACCM\)](#)

[Texas Education Association \(TEA\) news release](#)

[Texas Insider](#)

[theeagle.com](#)

[The Grant County Beat](#)

[The Mesquite: Texas A&M University-San Antonio](#)

[TribTalk](#)

[TXK Today](#)

APP Links

[Higher Ed Data](#)

[Higher Ed Strategic Plan](#)

[Higher Education Almanac](#)

[Accountability System](#)

[College Readiness and Success](#)

eligible applicants. Notice of Intent was due May 16, 2016, and applications are due to MedEd@thecb.state.tx.us May 31, 2016.

Five, two-year grants were awarded in 2015, totaling \$1,794,263. Elements of the awarded projects included interdisciplinary programs connecting students with rural clinic work, leadership training, professional development sessions, mentoring programs, summer preceptorships, cohort-based longitudinal programs, and a pipeline program for students from community college to medical school. All awarded projects focus on students' early and sustained exposure to various aspects of primary care.

The 2016 Primary Care Innovation Grant Program will provide awards from August 1, 2016 through August 31, 2018. It is anticipated that four to 10 programs will be awarded funding in this cycle to encourage and promote careers in primary care in Texas. Additional information about the request for applications, grant program, and submission materials are located at www.thecb.state.tx.us/PCInnovation.

Jennifer Nailos | Program Director | Academic Quality and Workforce

Generation Texas Helps More than 23,000 during FAFSA and Financial Aid Awareness Month

Generation Texas (GenTX) supported more than 330 statewide events and workshops, serving an estimated 23,839 students and parents at high school campuses and community sites. The purpose of the events and workshops was to advertise and track Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) workshops during Financial Aid Awareness Month in February 2016. GenTX is a statewide, grassroots movement focused on creating a college-going culture in Texas and is managed by the [Division of College Readiness and Success \(CRS\)](#) at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB).

Events were open to all Texas high school students, parents, current college students, and returning adult students to increase completion of FAFSAs and take the first step toward applying for financial aid. Financial aid professionals and trained volunteers from communities across Texas provided time and expertise to students and parents to answer FAFSA- and financial aid-related questions and assist students in filing a FAFSA.

During the 2014-15 cycle, students filed 1,626,134 FAFSAs. So far, through quarter four of the current 2015-16 cycle, students have filed 1,488,073 FAFSAs. In February 2016, GenTX outreach efforts also gained 6,300 Twitter impressions.

Due to changes in the FAFSA timeline, GenTX staff and volunteers will be combining outreach efforts to help students fill out college applications, FAFSAs, and financial aid forms in November 2016. GenTX staff will provide information, resources, social media, and technical support, with a goal to

[Academic Quality and Workforce](#)

[Compare College TX](#)

The APP E-NEWS is written and produced by the staff of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). For newsletter questions or comments, contact Ramona Reeves, Editor, at ramona.reeves@thecb.state.tx.us or (512) 427-6434.



increase the number of Apply Texas applications and FAFSAs completed during November 2016. GenTX staff in CRS encourages everyone to participate as the state strives to meet the goals of *60x30TX*.

To connect with future efforts, please visit <http://gentx.org/> or follow on Twitter at [@GenerationTexas](https://twitter.com/GenerationTexas).

Matt Lashlee | Program Director | College Readiness and Success

Three Programs Receive 2016 Statewide Preceptorship Program Funds

The Statewide Preceptorship Program (SPP) funds statewide preceptorship programs in three primary care specialties: family practice, internal medicine, and pediatrics. The programs encourage medical students enrolled in Texas medical schools to choose primary care careers by offering direct student support for a monthlong experience in one of the specialties.

Medical students typically participate in the preceptorship programs during the summer between their first and second year of medical school. The students work in practicing physicians' offices and experience the daily life and work of primary care physicians. The guiding premise of the preceptorship experience is that early exposure to a primary care medical specialty may positively influence future career decisions and practice patterns.

The 84th Texas Legislature appropriated \$3 million for the program for Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017. The program provides grant awards to selected applicants over a grant-funding period of approximately two years from September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2017.

Three recipients of SPP awards for Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017 are:

- Texas Academy of Family Physicians (TAFP) – The Texas Statewide Family Medicine Preceptorship Program allows approximately 350 students to explore the specialty of family medicine in a community setting over two to four week periods.
- Texas Chapter of the American College of Physicians – The General Internal Medicine Statewide Preceptorship Program (GIMSPP) allows first- and second-year medical students to spend time with internists practicing primary care in a community-based hospital or clinic for two-, three-, or four-week periods. Placement emphasis is on rural areas, medically underserved areas, and health professional shortage areas.
- Texas Pediatric Society (TPS) – The General Pediatric Preceptorship Program allows approximately 300 students to spend four weeks in an office- or clinic-based pediatric practice between their first and second years of medical school. Historically, more than a third of the program participants enter pediatric residency training, and of those, more than one-half do so in Texas.

Additional information on the Statewide Preceptorship Program is located at www.theccb.state.tx.us/SPP.

Melinda Valdez | Program Director | Academic Quality and Workforce

THECB and Partners Share Minority Male Student Successes and 60x30TX in the Big Apple



The team that presented included (from left) Matt Lashlee, Program Director in CRS at THECB; Keylan Morgan, Director of Student Success Initiatives at Texas State; and Miguel Arellano Arriaga, Academic Mentor and Program Coordinator of the Student Advising and Mentoring (SAM) Center at Sam Houston.

The Division of College Readiness and Success (CRS) at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) was recently selected, through a competitive proposal process, to present at the 10th annual *Prepárate*[™] conference that was held on April 18-19, 2016 in New York City. Sponsored by the College Board, *Prepárate*[™] convened K-12 and higher education participants to discuss strategies to increase the preparation, access, and college completion of Hispanics, the fastest-growing student population in our public schools. The focus of the conference was to improve access and opportunity for those students and prepare them for college and career success.

CRS staff partnered with co-presenters from Sam Houston State University (Sam Houston) and Texas State University (Texas State) to share "Texas Initiatives for Improving Higher Education for Latino Men." The breakout session addressed the fact that, despite improvement over the past decade, participation and success in higher education among Latino male students is still below state targets in Texas. Discussion also highlighted the peer-to-peer and near-peer minority initiatives the THECB has funded to continue meeting the goals of the previous statewide higher education plan, *Closing the Gaps*, and the new higher education plan, *60x30TX*. The presentation featured *60x30TX*, as well as best practices in developing student success programs to assist Hispanic males in accessing and persisting in higher education.

Matt Lashlee | Program Director | College Readiness and Success

Focus on 60x30TX

Each APP newsletter includes a Q&A about *60x30TX* with a staff member at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. This month's Q&A is with Mary Smith, Assistant Deputy Commissioner of Academic Planning and Policy. We are focusing on the following [text](#) (p. 2):

The aim of this plan is to help students achieve their educational goals and help the state remain globally competitive for years to come. Although the 60x30TX Plan focuses on higher education and its relationship to the workforce, one size does not fit every institution of higher education in Texas. The 60x30TX Plan provides the latitude for institutions to pursue the state's higher education goals while pursuing their distinct missions and institutional goals. The plan also encourages local creativity in pursuing the 60x30TX goals and targets.

You work with the Star Awards every year. For the past decade or so, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has recognized institutions for excellent programs that worked toward achieving the goals of Closing the Gaps. Can you talk about the Star Awards in the context of the new plan?

MS: The board recently revised the guidelines for the 2016 Star Awards. The Star Awards represent how institutions pursue their own missions yet are also creative about pursuing the goals of the higher education strategic plan for the state. So, just as an example, from 2001 to 2015, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board had 920 applications, 180 Star Award finalists, and 74 winners, and all of those had different ways of addressing the goals and the targets of *Closing the Gaps by 2015* – some very innovative plans that we would not have necessarily thought of ourselves. We are hoping this will happen again with the new *60x30TX* plan because the process of applying [for a Star Award] is basically the same, with the exception that, of course, the goals of the plan are different. Therefore, we are encouraging people to apply based on how their programs or initiatives have contributed to the goals of 60x30TX.

The paragraph says "one size does not fit every institution" and speaks to "local creativity." How has this played out in Star Award applications? Do you see a broad range of activities that echo what this paragraph is saying?

MS: The range can be as great at Lone Star College-University Park that won in 2015 by building and disseminating a mobile computing application to students to help them chart their course through college and career all the way to six partnering institutions in 2005 trying to make the most of their limited resources as part of the Gulf Coast Consortia, which pooled resources to build collaborative research teams and help train biomedical students. Both projects helped achieve the goals of the higher education plan, but both were completely different. For me, when the strategic planning committee was writing the plan and the staff was helping inform the process, we really couldn't think of all the strategies for reaching the goals of the plan that might be possible for different regions and different types of institutions in the state. We really are relying on the creative mechanism of institutions and their staff and faculty to figure out the methods that will work the best for the students they have in the region where they are providing education opportunities.

For 60x30TX, might Star Award applications in the coming years include partnerships between institutions of higher education and industry?

MS: As a matter of fact, one of the options in the Star Award application is "partnerships that are helping to meet one or more goals of *60x30TX*, including partnerships among higher education institutions, private and public schools and districts, industry, and community organizations." We are beginning to get nominations. Since we have a new plan, we have relaxed the requirement of showing three years of success. For this year, institutions need to be able to demonstrate their outcomes, but not necessarily three years' worth, on how their project or program is contributing to reaching one of the goals of the plan.