



Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

1200 East Anderson Lane • P.O. Box 12788, Austin, Texas 78711-2788 • www.thecb.state.tx.us

Strategic planning committee contemplates future higher education needs

March 3, 2014 – Austin, Texas – As the *Closing the Gaps by 2015* strategic plan winds to a close, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) is looking to the future to determine the state’s next strategic plan that inspires and advances student success and positions Texas as a leader in an increasingly complex world economy.

The THECB announces that the newly appointed Higher Education Strategic Planning Committee will hold its kickoff meeting today beginning at 10 a.m. in the agency’s board room in Austin. Following the election of the committee co-chairs and an overview of committee processes, the Higher Education Strategic Planning Committee will begin discussions on moving beyond 2015 and determining how higher education should best contribute to the future success of Texas. Meetings are open to the public and will be broadcast live at the THECB’s website: <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us>.

“By 2020, 65 percent of all U.S. jobs will require postsecondary education or skills training,” said Texas Higher Education Commissioner Raymund Paredes. “As one of the fastest growing states in the U.S., we need to determine goals and strategies that continue moving Texas forward with innovative, quality-driven opportunities that increase student participation and success in higher education.”

The Higher Education Strategic Planning Committee will deliberate on a variety of higher education-related topics over the next year before it makes a focused recommendation on the next strategic plan for higher education in Texas. During the deliberations process, the THECB will solicit public input via stakeholder meetings and online tools such as College Town Hall-Texas.

College Town Hall-Texas is an interactive, THECB-hosted website (www.collegetownhalltx.com) that provides an opportunity to share ideas, respond to new initiatives and join the dialogue on the future of higher education in the state. The public will be able to help shape future higher education policy as Texas sets its sights on becoming a national and international leader.

In addition to public input, committee members were appointed to represent the various regions of Texas and bring a wealth of experience and ideas from a variety of business and education organizations.

<u>Business</u>	<u>University</u>	<u>Community college</u>
Woody Hunt (El Paso)	James H. Dickerson (New Braunfels)	James Anderson (Killeen)
Steve Lyle (Dallas)	Larry R. Faulkner (Austin)	Martin Basaldua (Kingwood)
Donald (Dee) Margo (El Paso)	Bernie Francis (Carrollton)	Ramon Dovalina (Loredo)
	Robert Furgason (Corpus Christi)	Wright L. Lassiter Jr. (Dallas)
	Lionel Sosa (San Antonio)	Jerry Massey (Richmond)
	Jerry Turner (Austin)	
<u>Independent (private) college</u>	<u>Career schools</u>	<u>ISD/Other</u>
Jerry Bawcam (Belton)	Terry Seufert (Tomball)	Laurie Bricker (Houston)
E.D. (Doug) Hodo (Boerne)		Cathy Obriotti Green (San Antonio)
		Shirley Richardson (Temple)

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THECB Mission Statement

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s mission is to work with the legislature, governor, governing boards, higher education institutions, and other entities to help Texas meet the goals of the state’s higher education plan, Closing the Gaps by 2015, and thereby provide the people of Texas the widest access to higher education of the highest quality in the most efficient manner.