

# Academic Planning and Policy E-News

Academic Quality and Workforce | College Readiness  
and Success | Strategic Planning and Funding



Texas Higher  
Education  
Coordinating Board

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

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## Board Unanimously Adopts 60x30TX Higher Education Plan for Texas



Texas is doing better but still falling further behind. The state needs to educate more students relative to their proportion of the population (e.g., Hispanics, economically disadvantaged students), and needs to do it quickly for Texas to remain nationally and internationally competitive. That was the message delivered by Woody Hunt, Chair of the Texas Higher Education Strategic Planning Committee (TxHESPC), to the board members of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) at their July 23 quarterly meeting. Mr. Hunt made the case for the next higher education strategic plan, 60x30TX, proposed by the TxHESPC. After Hunt's presentation, Dr. Larry Faulkner, Vice Chair of the TxHESPC, presented the four goals of the new plan.

During the discussion that followed the two presentations, board member David Teuscher called the plan bold and asked if students who had stopped out of college with many completed semester hours were part of the plan. Hunt pointed to a strategy and to a separate paragraph that addresses adults returning to college after "stopping out," or not completing their degrees.

Board member Sada Cumber asked how the plan might go about engaging students' and parents' sense of personal responsibility when it comes to pursuing and completing higher education. In response to Cumber, Faulkner said that personal responsibility is important but added that higher education and institutions in Texas will need to work better with K-12 education to help bridge students' and parents' understanding about higher education.

Board member Dora Alcala stated that the TxHESPC had "hit the nail on the head" with regard to educating more students from all backgrounds. She told the story of how she and her four siblings had earned advanced degrees, despite their parents' second- and third-grade educations. "Si, se puede," she said.

After discussing the data and goals of the next strategic plan, board members of the THECB unanimously adopted 60x30TX and its four goals:

## Calendar

### *Next Board Meeting*

Oct. 22, 2015

## APP Links

[Higher Ed Data](#)

[Higher Ed Strategic Plan](#)

[Higher Education Almanac](#)

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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@theeb.state.tx.us](mailto:ramona.reeves@theeb.state.tx.us) or (512) 427-6434.

- 60x30, which sets 60 percent as the percentage of Texans ages 25-34 who need to hold a certificate or degree by 2030;
- Completion, which ramps up to 550,000 completions in that year at Texas higher education institutions by 2030;
- Marketable Skills, which asks Texas two- and four-year public institutions to identify, implement, and continuously update the skills acquired in all of their programs and convey this information to students; and
- Student Debt, which looks at students who graduate with debt and asks all stakeholders in higher education who play a role in affordability to keep debt to no more than 60 percent of first-year wages for those students who graduate with debt.

The final draft of the 60x30TX plan is available on the THECB's main [web page](#). The plan is being graphically designed and will be available in its final form in the fall.

Ramona Reeves | Writer/Editor | Academic Planning and Policy

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## **New Formula Advisory Committee Members Appointed**

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) appointed new members to the three Formula Advisory Committees (FACs) – one for each sector of higher education – at its July 23 meeting. The FACs help the THECB fulfill its statutory duty to periodically review and revise formulas for the use of the governor and the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) in making appropriation recommendations to the Legislature for all institutions of higher education.

The THECB is required to appoint representatives from a cross-section of institutions to the FACs. The Commissioner of Higher Education solicits recommendations for the committees' membership from the chancellor of each university system and from the presidents of the institutions. Members serve six-year terms. The following are the new members for each committee:

Community and Technical College FAC – Ms. Mary Wickland, Vice President for Finance, Lamar State College-Port Arthur; Mr. Michael Reeser, Chancellor, Texas State Technical College System; Dr. Pamela Anglin, President, Paris Junior College; Dr. Phil Rhodes, Vice President - Research, Effectiveness, and Information Technology, McLennan Community College; Dr. Jeremy McMillen, President, Grayson Community College; and Mr. David Lydic, Professor, Austin Community College.

General Academic Institutions FAC – Dr. J. Patrick O'Brien, President, West Texas A&M University; Dr. Karen Murray, Provost and Executive Vice President, Tarleton State University; Dr. James Marquart, Provost, Lamar University; Ms. Noel Sloan, Chief Financial Officer, Texas Tech University; Ms. Angie Wright, Chief Financial Officer, Angelo State University; Dr. Cesar Malave, Department Head, Industrial and Systems Engineering, Texas A&M University; and Dr. Harrison Keller, Vice Provost for Higher Education Policy and Research, The University of Texas at Austin.

Health-Related Institutions FAC – Mr. Weldon Gage, Vice President and Chief Financial officer, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center; Dr. Richard Lange, President, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso; Mr. John McCall, Associate Vice President for Business Affairs and Chief

Financial and Operating Officer, The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School; and Ms. Mirna Gonzalez, Vice President for Finance and Public Policy, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Medical School.

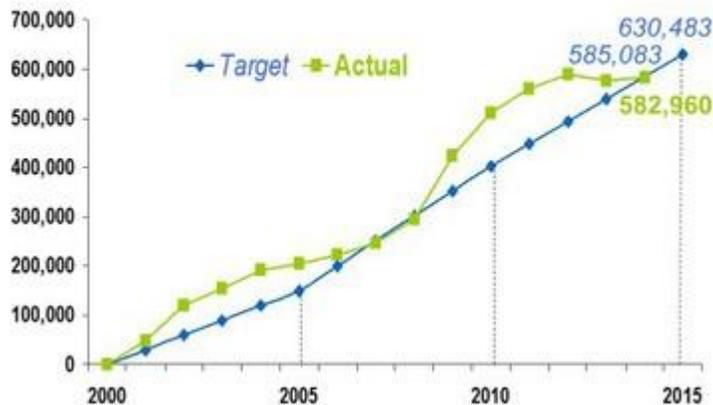
For the upcoming biennium, the FACs will meet monthly starting in August 2015. They will make recommendations to the Commissioner of Higher Education in January 2016. The commissioner then will make recommendations to the Committee on Affordability, Accountability and Planning (CAAP) in March 2016, and the CAAP will make recommendations to board members of the THECB in April 2016. Board members recommendations are due to the governor and the LBB on June 1, 2016.

David Young | Senior Director | Strategic Planning and Funding

### Report Shows Gains in Success and National Rankings

According to the latest progress report, Texas has met the majority of the goals and targets of *Closing the Gaps by 2015*, the state's current higher education plan. The report was presented to board members of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for consideration of approval on July 23 and the board approved the report. This is the next-to-last *Closing the Gaps* progress report before the agency transitions to its new 15-year plan, *60x30TX*.

Total Enrollment Growth since Fall 2000 at Public, Independent, and Career Institutions



The state achieved the overarching success goal – to confer 210,000 undergraduate awards – four years early in Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 and has met six of the nine targets related to this goal. Texas can reach the statewide participation goal in fall 2015, if about 47,500 more students enroll than in fall 2014. That increase is feasible, since enrollment has grown by nearly 42,000 per year since 2000. African Americans exceeded their participation target in fall 2009, but Hispanic student enrollments, despite large increases since 2000, remain substantially below the 2015 target for this growing population.

The progress report cites many recognitions of excellence (the third *Closing*

*the Gaps* goal): a no. 1 ranking among public research universities for The University of Texas at Austin (tied with eight other institutions), based on the most recent data compiled by the Center for Measuring University Performance (CMUP), a leading organization that measures research excellence; a no. 8 ranking for The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, among 90 U.S. research medical schools, by *U.S. News & World Report*; a no. 7 ranking in the resources and education area for Texas A&M University by CMUP; a no. 1 ranking for the University of Houston's online education program by *U.S. News & World Report*; and national recognition for Vernon College's Surgical Technology Program.

The state is not likely to meet the fourth goal of garnering 6.5 percent of nationwide federal science and engineering R&D obligations to higher education institutions because its share was 5.2 percent in FY 2012, the most recent year of available data. The state, however, achieved a related target in FY 2008 – 7 years early – when public institutions spent over \$3 billion on R&D. Expenditures reached \$3.86 billion in FY 2014.

Doug Bond | Program Director | Strategic Planning and Funding

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### **Work-Study Student Mentorship Program RFA, Notice of Intent Deadline August 7**

To meet the state's 60x30TX plan goals and targets, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) is providing an opportunity to Texas institutions of higher education that provide mentoring or tutoring services to high school and college students. The 84th Texas Legislature appropriated \$5 million for the biennium to support the Work-Study Student Mentorship Program, first implemented in fall 2007.

Data tracked by College Readiness and Success staff at the THECB show that providing grants to student mentors and tutors increases the number of students who pursue and persist in higher education. The funds not only increase graduation rates for students being mentored or tutored, but also increase graduation rates for student mentors.

The deadline for submitting the Notice of Intent (NOI) is August 7. The deadline for submitting completed applications is August 21. Applications will not be considered without a NOI.

Visit Request for Applications (RFA) for the Work-Study Mentorship Program in the Research and Project Grants Section of the Coordinating Board's website for more information.

Natalie Coffey | Director, Recruitment and  
Retention | College Readiness and Success

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### **Learning Outcomes Project Aligns Lower-Division Courses Statewide**

As part of an effort to improve the Lower-Division Academic Course Guide Manual (ACGM) and statewide course transfer, Academic Quality and Workforce staff are working on a project to develop student learning

outcomes for lower-division courses taught across the state. The ACGM is the official list of courses approved for general academic transfer that public community, state, and technical colleges in Texas may offer for state funding.

Public universities and community, state, and technical colleges nominate discipline-specific faculty to serve on workgroups for this project. The faculty workgroups review a large sample of course syllabi from public institutions of higher education, identify the common elements, and create updated course descriptions and sets of student learning outcomes for each course under consideration. The task of aligning course content benefits students, faculty, institutions, and the state by creating efficiencies and providing clarity.

This year the workgroups have been revising architecture, computer science, and mathematics courses as part of the Learning Outcomes Project. The three faculty workgroups for those disciplines met in separate all-day sessions in June to work on the revisions. The workgroups for computer science and mathematics completed their work, and the architecture workgroup will meet again to finish their revisions.

In the fall, Academic Quality and Workforce staff will post the draft of revised courses for comments. The discipline workgroups will review the comments and may make changes to the descriptions and learning outcomes based on the comments. The final draft materials will be considered by the ACGM Advisory Committee at their fall meeting. The advisory committee will make recommendations concerning the adoption of the materials for the next ACGM update.

For questions about the project or the ACGM, contact Rebecca Leslie at [Rebecca.Leslie@theccb.state.tx.us](mailto:Rebecca.Leslie@theccb.state.tx.us) or 512-427-6231.

Rebecca Leslie | Program Director | Academic Quality and Workforce



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