

*This email message is being sent on behalf of Raymund A. Paredes, Commissioner of Higher Education*

TO: Presidents and Chief Instructional Officers of Community and Technical Colleges  
Presidents and Chief Academic Officers of Universities and Health-Related Institutions

FROM: Raymund A. Paredes

DATE: July 25, 2011

**The Distance Education Advisory Committee (DEAC) currently has several vacancies. We now request nominations from those institutions that do not have a voting member on the DEAC. (A current membership list is attached.)**

Texas institutions have made progress in increasing access to higher education via distance education to individuals across Texas and beyond. Since 1998, DEAC has had the responsibility of providing feedback to institutions on their distance education policies, support services, and infrastructure. Recent committee work has included preliminary discussions of critical issues in distance education in Texas, revisions to state distance education policies and rules, and continued research on the potential role of distance education in the state's *Closing the Gaps* plan. In addition to those activities and the review of proposed doctoral programs offered at a distance, the DEAC will continue to engage in substantive policy research and discussion and the development of policy recommendations that could benefit the state, the institutions, and students.

The DEAC is comprised of up to 22 representatives from public Texas community and technical colleges, universities, and health-related institutions as well as one member from a Texas private university and one non-voting student representative. Institutional and regional balance is an important factor in the committee's make up. Members of the DEAC are appointed by the Commissioner. **Each institution may nominate one faculty member or administrator to serve for a three-year term on the committee.** We are especially interested in receiving nominations from community and technical colleges.

All institutions should include biographical information (or one to two page vita) for each nominee. Nominee information should be submitted to Dr. Gaye Bumsted Perry no later than August 29, 2011. You may email questions or nominations to [Gaye.BumstedPerry@theccb.state.tx.us](mailto:Gaye.BumstedPerry@theccb.state.tx.us).

We look forward to receiving your nominations and proceeding with this important work.