



Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

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Texas Receives Grant to Boost Higher Education Productivity

Lumina Foundation awards \$1.8 million to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for statewide efforts to graduate more students within existing resources while ensuring quality.

Austin, Texas – Amid on-going efforts to improve student success in Texas post-secondary education, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board today announced Lumina Foundation for Education will spend up to \$1.8 million on a multi-year initiative that includes revising the state's higher education funding formula and simplifying student transfer between community colleges and universities. The grant, one of seven awarded nationally, is part of the foundation's effort to increase productivity by promoting significant changes in how states fund and deliver higher education.

"The Lumina Foundation's support for Texas' efforts to make higher education more efficient and cost effective is further affirmation that Texas is on the right path," said Gov. Rick Perry. "Together, through use of innovative strategies and common sense solutions, we are working to make higher education more accessible and affordable for every Texan."

"Student success is the most important priority for Texas higher education," said Raymund Paredes, Texas Commissioner of Higher Education. "While Texas has made substantial progress to enroll students in higher education through its Closing the Gaps by 2015 initiative, the Lumina award will help ensure that more enrolled students complete their studies and earn degrees and certificates prepared to help Texas face future challenges."

The grant, which will extend for up to four years, will focus on changing the state's formula for allocating funds to public colleges and universities to reward increases in course and degree completion instead of just increases in enrollment. Key lawmakers and higher education leaders say that such a change is necessary to graduate significantly more students with available dollars.

In addition, the grant will expand a statewide effort to make transferring between campuses simpler for students while maintaining the quality of student learning. This work, led by the Coordinating Board, will bring faculty together to define common learning outcomes for courses and degrees, reducing and even eliminating the need for students to re-take courses when they transfer. It will be the largest initiative of its kind in the U.S.

"This round of grants represents Lumina's next steps in advancing a national agenda for raising the level of productivity within higher education," said Jamie P. Merisotis, president and CEO of Lumina

Foundation. “Momentum is building to serve greater numbers of students by maximizing the use of existing resources and ensuring quality. These grants will move us toward a deeper understanding of how we can implement policies and practices that elicit more value from our shared investment in higher education.”

The grants are part of Lumina’s effort to increase the percentage of Americans with high-quality degrees and credentials to 60 percent by 2025 to meet economic demand. The state investments are designed to stimulate changes in policy and practice that can be emulated. States also receiving grants today include Arizona, Indiana, Maryland, Montana, Ohio and Tennessee.

In an effort to engage more states, the foundation also released [*Four Steps to Finishing First in Higher Education*](#), a practical guide for state policymakers and higher education leaders. These documents describe steps states can take to achieve greater efficiency.

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About the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

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. For more information, visit www.thecb.state.tx.us.

About Lumina Foundation

Lumina Foundation for Education is committed to enrolling and graduating more students from college — especially low-income students, students of color, first-generation students and adult learners. Our goal is to increase the percentage of Americans who hold high-quality degrees and credentials to 60 percent by 2025. Lumina pursues this goal in three ways: by identifying and supporting effective practice, through public policy advocacy, and by using our communications and convening power to build public will for change. For additional information about Productivity, visit [Lumina’s Web site](#) and www.makingopportunityaffordable.org.