



# Academic Planning and Policy E-NEWS

ACADEMIC PLANNING AND POLICY: Academic Affairs & Research – Planning & Accountability – P-16 Initiatives

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 2

MARCH 2011

*The Coordinating Board is guided by the Texas higher education plan, Closing the Gaps by 2015, to close the educational gaps in student participation, student success, institutional excellence, and research.*

## **Tri-Agency Adult Basic Education Innovation Grants Intent to Apply Deadline is March 21**

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), the Texas Education Agency (TEA), and the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) are collaborating to issue a career pathways innovation grant for adult basic education (ABE) students. The grant specifically addresses the Texas Workforce Investment Council's Five-year Strategic Plan, Advancing Texas, which requires TWC, TEA, and THECB to pilot and assess the effectiveness and scalability of programs that focus on preparing educationally disadvantaged, unemployed and underemployed adult, native and nonnative speakers of English in target geographical regions in the state for career-path employment and post-secondary education in high-demand, targeted occupations, or employer-driven regional needs in Texas. Grants awarded under this competition will focus on entry-level job skills training, and Level 1 certificate training at community colleges and public technical institutions. The Intent to Apply deadline is March 21, 2011. Additional information is available online at: [www.theccb.state.tx.us/index.cfm?objectid=B5F7622E-F8EE-1CBC-100F33A206870E9A](http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/index.cfm?objectid=B5F7622E-F8EE-1CBC-100F33A206870E9A).

Linda Muñoz, Senior Program Director, Developmental & Adult Education, Division of P-16 Initiatives

## **Final face-to-face meeting of 2010 Tuning Oversight Council for Engineering scheduled April 29 in Austin**

The 2010 Tuning Oversight Council for Engineering, which is made up of higher education faculty representing 30 higher education institutions from across the state, has completed final drafts of Tuning work for the disciplines of Civil, Electrical, Industrial, and Mechanical Engineering. Comments will be solicited from engineering faculty members from across the state via online survey in late March and early April. Lower-division course-level alignment work for these four engineering disciplines is continuing and is anticipated to be completed by late April so that faculty comments on this "fine-tuning" work may be solicited statewide in May. Additional information is available online at: [www.theccb.state.tx.us/tuningtexas](http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/tuningtexas) > Tuning Oversight Council for Engineering.

Mary E. Smith, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Academic Planning and Policy

## **Peer Review Facilities Audits successful at increasing understanding of data**

The facilities audit process continues in the Division of Planning and Accountability with great success. One of the ideas behind the Peer Review Team (PRT) concept was that greater amounts of collaboration and cooperation would exist between institutions across the state. We are happy to report that the cooperative effort has resulted in greater fidelity and understanding of the facilities data. This understanding is essential, as the data influence funding decisions, facilities development decisions, and the ability to leverage efficiencies to maximize the use of these valuable resources.

In Fiscal Year 2010, 12 audits were performed, two of which were remedial audits. Of the other 10 audits conducted, eight passed while two will require additional work and remedial audit. In FY 2011, nine audits are scheduled, of which four are complete, with one of them requiring remediation. We are on track to complete the assessment of all General Academic Institutions by July 2013.

To further refine the process and share lessons learned, the Coordinating Board will reconvene the working group that developed the PRT process in summer of 2012. This meeting will serve to further the effort, resulting in greater advances and understanding for all institutions.

Tom Keaton, Director of Finance and Resource Planning, Division of Planning and Accountability

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Coordinating Board  
Quarterly Meetings  
[Information](#)

Board Committee Meetings  
[Information](#)

## USEFUL LINKS

Academic Affairs and  
Research  
[AAR Website](#)

Finance and Resource  
Planning  
[Finance/Resource Website](#)

Texas Higher Education  
Accountability System  
[Accountability Website](#)

P-16 Initiatives  
[P-16 Website](#)

College for All Texans  
[CFAT Website](#)

Employment Opportunities  
at the Coordinating Board  
[CB Jobs](#)

### **First face-to-face meeting of 2011 Tuning Oversight Council for Engineering and Science held on February 25**

With grant support from Lumina Foundation for Education, the Coordinating Board (THECB) hosted on February 25 the first meeting of the 2011 Tuning Oversight Council for Engineering and Science (2011 TOCES), the voluntary faculty advisory council that will assist the THECB in continuing to integrate the “Tuning” process into course-level alignment work. The 2011 Tuning Oversight Council will consist of four voluntary faculty advisory committees: (1) Biomedical Engineering, (2) Chemical Engineering, (3) Biology, and (4) Chemistry.

Twenty-one universities and 16 community colleges nominated representatives for the 2011 TOCES. Faculty representatives were selected by THECB staff on the basis of the rationale submitted for each nominee; the nominee’s vita; and the need to balance regional, university system, and community college district representation. Nominations for student members were solicited from represented universities, and student representatives were selected by THECB staff on the basis of the same criteria used for faculty representatives. The final 2011 TOCES is comprised of: (a) 25 faculty members and 4 student members representing 21 universities; and (b) 17 community college faculty members representing 16 community colleges/districts. Specifically, the 42-member TOCES is made up of designees representing the following institutions: Alvin Community College, Austin Community College, Angelo State University, Blinn College, Central Texas College, Cisco College, Del Mar College, Grayson Community College, Houston Community College, Lamar University, Laredo Community College, Lee College, Lone Star College- Montgomery, Northwest Vista College, Prairie View A&M University, Sam Houston State University, San Jacinto College Central, South Texas College, Sul Ross State University, Tarrant County Community College NE, Texarkana College, Texas State University, Texas A&M University, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Texas Southern University, Texas Tech University, Texas Woman’s University, The University of Texas at Arlington, The University of Texas at Austin, The University of Texas at Dallas, The University of Texas at Brownsville/Texas Southmost College, The University of Texas at San Antonio, The University of Texas at Tyler, University of Houston, University of Houston Downtown, University of North Texas, and Weatherford College. Additional information is available online at: [www.theccb.state.tx.us/tuningtexas](http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/tuningtexas) > Tuning Oversight Council for Engineering and Science.

Mary E. Smith, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Academic Planning and Policy

### **Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee meeting held on February 25**

The Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee (UEAC) welcomed seven new members at its meeting on February 25. Agenda items included a review of the effect of federal changes to distance education course policy, and a number of items related to the UEAC’s effort to assist in the revision of the statewide Core Curriculum. Members approved motions concerning unique needs courses, a maximum allowable semester credit hours, general institutional guidelines for the selection and approval of Core Curriculum courses, and the need for broad disciplinary tracks (e.g., STEM, Business, etc.) within the Core Curriculum. Before the next meeting on April 8, 2011, UEAC members will be working in small groups to discuss the Government/Political Science sequence of courses and developing specific procedures for selection and approval of Core Curriculum courses.

The UEAC plans to conclude its Core Curriculum project and submit its recommendations to the Commissioner this spring. Additional information about the UEAC’s projects can be found at [www.theccb.state.tx.us/ueac](http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/ueac). A webcast of the meeting can be accessed by scrolling to the broadcast archive at <http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/apps/events/>.

Catherine Parsoneault, Senior Education Specialist for Academic Programs, Division of Academic Affairs and Research

### **Next Norman Hackerman Advanced Research Program Competition expected to begin this summer**

The Advisory Committee on Research Programs (ACORP), chaired by Nobel Laureate Robert Curl, met in Austin on March 8. ACORP members provide oversight of the Norman Hackerman Advanced Research Program (NHARP), a competitive peer-reviewed grant program, which was created in 1987 by the 70th Texas Legislature. The ACORP agenda included discussion and recommendations related to the upcoming 2011 NHARP Competition, which will be considered by the Board’s Strategic Planning and Policy Committee in July 2011, pending funding. In the last NHARP competition, held in 2009, 95 research projects from 24 Texas independent and public higher education institutions received grant funding, ranging from \$150,000 to \$200,000.

Stacey Silverman, Senior Director of Academic Research and Grant Programs, Division of Academic Affairs and Research

### **Distance Education Advisory Committee winter meeting held on February 28**

The Distance Education Advisory Committee (DEAC) held its winter meeting on February 28th in Austin. The DEAC conducts policy research and sponsors discussions affecting Texas distance education.

A major priority of the DEAC is to determine how distance education can provide access to high-quality undergraduate education, particularly in high-need fields. The DEAC presented a working draft of its White Paper on Texas Distance Education. Once finalized, this document will outline the DEAC’s views on the state of distance education in Texas. It will identify the major challenges facing distance education, especially online education. The DEAC also heard a presentation by Russ Poulin, Deputy Director of Research and Analysis at the Wiche Cooperative for Educational Technologies (WCET), on the U.S. Department of Education’s new rules on out-of-state online education. Institutions wishing more information about these rules can visit the WCET information page at <http://wcet.wiche.edu/advance/state-approval> or contact Dr. Van L. Davis at [van.davis@theccb.state.tx.us](mailto:van.davis@theccb.state.tx.us).

Van L. Davis, Director of Special Projects, Division of Academic Affairs and Research

**Newsletter Contact:** Mary E. Smith, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, at (512) 427-6213 or [mary.smith@theccb.state.tx.us](mailto:mary.smith@theccb.state.tx.us)