



Academic Planning and Policy

APP E-NEWS

P-16 Initiatives | Planning and Accountability | Workforce, Academic Affairs and Research
Office of Academic Planning and Policy David W. Gardner, Deputy Commissioner

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

Twelve Emergency Rules to be Considered at the July 25 Quarterly Board Meeting

Twelve emergency rules resulting from the 83rd Texas Legislative Session will be considered by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) at the July 25 Board Meeting. These include rules concerning bacterial meningitis vaccinations, dual credit requirements, review of low-producing programs, academic program review and approval, and new graduate medical education grants. To view all of the emergency rules up for consideration at the next Board Meeting, please download the Board Agenda [here](#); the emergency rules begin on PDF page 225 and end on PDF page 309.

Sarah Rondinelli | Program Specialist, Development Office | Academic Planning and Policy

New Texas Success Initiative Assessment Launches Fall 2013

The new Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment will launch this fall. Content experts from Texas community colleges, universities, school districts, and Adult Basic Education programs have completed the Item Review and Standard Setting processes, resulting in a recommendation of the statewide standard for college readiness that was approved by the THECB at the April 2013 Board Meeting. Also included in the approved standard was the cut score for developmental education. Students not exempt from the TSI Assessment requirement will begin taking the new TSI Assessment in fall 2013 and will be classified as either college ready (enabling those students to enroll in entry-level credit courses) or not college ready (enabling those students to enroll in various accelerated, contextualized, and innovative options addressing their academic weaknesses).

With the implementation of the new TSI Assessment, a number of changes to TSI rules will mean new ways of assessing and placing students, including 1) a requirement which eliminates the possibility of students taking the test without first understanding its importance or without having an opportunity to practice answering test questions; 2) a requirement that institutions use not only the cut score but also a diagnostic profile that considers other factors such as high school grade point average, prior coursework, and levels of motivation when recommending the best placement option for the student; and 3) providing opportunities for students who are near college ready to co-enroll in entry-level coursework and developmental education interventions supporting successful completion of the credit course. THECB staff is facilitating monthly webinars across the state informing all stakeholders of the progress of the upcoming changes as well as providing support for the retooling and redesign efforts. To register for an upcoming webinar, please visit <http://irt.austincc.edu/IDS/THECB/>.

Suzanne Morales-Vale | Director, Developmental and Adult Education | P-16 Initiatives

Upcoming Meetings

Next Quarterly Board Meeting:
Thursday, July 25, 2013
8:30am

See all upcoming meetings:
THECB Events

Links to Useful Sites

2013 Higher Education Almanac

Compare College TX

Higher Education
Accountability System

Higher Education Data

Finance and Resource Planning

Workforce, Academic Affairs
and Research Division

P-16 Initiatives Division

THECB Employment

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Texas Higher Education Leadership Conference and Annual State of Higher Education Luncheon/Annual Texas Higher Education Star Awards Ceremony

The Coordinating Board's 2013 Texas Higher Education Leadership Conference will be held November 21-22 at the DoubleTree Austin Hotel (6505 IH-35N in Austin). The conference is designed to bring together regents, trustees, chancellors, presidents, and other public and higher education leaders to share information on topics of interest. The focus of this year's conference is *Closing the Gaps by 2015 and Beyond*.

The conference will begin on Thursday, November 21, with an orientation for new governing board members and other interested education leaders. These sessions will satisfy the training requirement for newly appointed regents and elected trustees (Texas Education Code, Section 61.084) and will be followed by a reception and dinner. The conference will continue on Friday, November 22, with sessions of interest for higher education leaders and will conclude with the Annual State of Higher Education Luncheon and Star Awards Ceremony which will feature our 2013 Star Award finalists and a keynote address by Dr. Raymund Paredes, Commissioner of Higher Education. Additional information and online registration will be forthcoming.

Mary E. Smith | Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Academic Planning and Policy

Strategic Efforts Underway to Meet the Goals of *Closing the Gaps by 2015*

With two years remaining to meet the goals of the state's higher education plan, *Closing the Gaps by 2015 (CTG 2015)*, the THECB has launched an intense effort to ensure that the participation goal of enrolling 630,000 more students over the 2000 baseline year and the success goal of annually awarding 210,000 undergraduate credentials will be met. To facilitate these strategic planning efforts, a CTG Planning Room was designed at the THECB which features instant access to the most up-to-date higher education data. THECB staff meet weekly to review data and determine how best to assist institutions in achieving their participation and success goals.

One such strategy has been to conduct webinars and face-to-face meetings with enrollment managers from community colleges and four-year universities. Two onsite meetings with representatives from both community colleges and universities were held at the THECB offices in April. Presentations about efforts to meet the participation and success goals are also scheduled at statewide meetings during the summer with organizations whose missions are related to enrollment and retention. The agendas for all of these meetings include sessions during which sample data will be provided, as will information on how to access THECB data so institution staff can monitor how they are doing with respect to meeting their goals for *Closing the Gaps*. Questions will be posed to participants to gain a better understanding of obstacles they face in maintaining and/or increasing enrollment. The information gained from these meetings will provide THECB staff with the opportunity to identify the potential for increasing enrollments and credential completions in fall 2013. THECB staff plans to conduct follow up meetings with institutions throughout the year. For more information about *CTG 2015*, please visit www.thecb.state.tx.us/ClosingTheGaps.

Judy Loredó | Assistant Commissioner for P-16 Initiatives

Coordinating Board Launches Online Almanac Tool, CompareCollegeTX.com

On May 15, the THECB released an online companion to the *Texas Public Higher Education Almanac*, Compare College TX (www.CompareCollegeTX.com). Funded by the College for all Texans Foundation with a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the interactive tool allows users to compare Texas public higher education institutions side by side on a wide variety of facts and performance measures reported in the Almanac. In collaboration with College Measures, the tool also provides first-year earnings data for graduates by degree level and major for every Texas public institution of higher education. Texas is the first state to compile such an extensive set of data and turn it into an interactive and engaging resource for families and education advisors as well as legislators and policy-makers. Most importantly, this comprehensive, mobile-friendly tool allows users to have easy access to the information from their smart phones and other mobile devices. For an online tutorial of Compare College TX, please visit www.higherednewstx.com.

Dominic Chavez | Senior Director, External Relations

2013-2014 Perkins Basic Grants

The THECB annually allocates Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act (Perkins IV) funds to the state's public two-year colleges. Perkins Basic Grants are awarded annually to provide support for career and technical programs at Texas public community and technical colleges. Each eligible institution is allocated funding based on the total number of students enrolled in technical programs and receiving Pell grants. All 50 community college districts, three Lamar State Colleges, and each college in the Texas State Technical College System receive a basic grant. An eligible institution must qualify for a grant of at least \$50,000 to receive an allocation. If an institution does not meet the established threshold, then adjustments are available to allow those institutions that may not achieve the necessary enrollment of students to qualify for a basic grant. The federal sequestration of March 2013 reduced funding for the 2013-2014 Perkins Basic grants by 8.7 percent from the 2012-2013 funding level. For more information about Perkins Basic grants, please visit www.theccb.state.tx.us/perkins.

Donna Carlin | Assistant Director, Community and Technical Colleges | Workforce, Academic Affairs and Research

Council for Continuous Improvement and Innovation Will Consider Plans for Moving Beyond *Closing the Gaps*

At its April meeting, the Council for Continuous Improvement and Innovation in Texas Higher Education (CCII) began the process of identifying, reviewing, and recommending best practices for the continuous improvement of educational outcomes and the components necessary for Texas to be internationally competitive. At the April meeting, Dr. Nasser Paydar, Executive Vice Chancellor/Chief Academic Officer and Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, provided the Council an overview of some key characteristics of an alternative performance model and shared his experiences implementing Responsibility Center Management at Indiana University East. Additionally, Texas university system representatives provided the Council an overview of systems of accountability and how these are being used by higher education institutions to enhance performance. The CCII will hold its next quarterly meeting on July 24, 2013, from 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. at the Coordinating Board's offices in Austin. The meeting will be webcast. Discussions at this upcoming July meeting will include the use of key performance indicators at Texas community colleges and plans for moving beyond *Closing the Gaps by 2015*. For more information, please visit the CCII website at www.theccb.state.tx.us/ContinuousImprovement.

Mary E. Smith | Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Academic Planning and Policy

Tuning Texas Project and the Development of Voluntary Statewide Transfer Compacts Moving Forward

Tuning in Texas now includes Tuning work in 12 disciplines in the fields of engineering, science, mathematics, and business. As of July 3, 2013, 18 universities and 64 community and technical colleges have agreed to participate in one or more of the voluntary statewide transfer agreements that have been finalized for Biomedical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Biology, and Chemistry, eliminating the need for potentially hundreds of institution-to-institution articulation agreements among these signatory institutions. Tuning packages, meeting materials, and recordings of presentations made during face-to-face meetings in Austin can be accessed at www.theccb.state.tx.us/TuningTexas. Information about the voluntary statewide transfer agreements and a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding are available at www.theccb.state.tx.us/Texas_Voluntary_Transfer_Compacts.

The Tuning work of the 2012 Tuning Oversight Council for Mathematics, Business, and Information Systems (2012 TOCMBI) is now in final form. During the week of April 8, 2013, nearly 7,000 faculty members teaching courses in Math, Business, Management Information Systems, or Computer Information Systems and Sciences received a personal email invitation and were given an opportunity to evaluate the final drafts of the work of the discipline-specific Tuning committees via online surveys in SurveyMonkey. The overall response rate to these surveys was 25.4 percent—1,734 professors provided valuable feedback to committee members prior to their finalization of their Tuning work. Key lower-division courses that undergraduate students should take to be successful in upper-division courses in each of these four disciplines have been identified and will be aligned during July 2013 by the 2012 TOCMBI's Subcommittee on Fine-Tuning for purposes of inclusion in the voluntary statewide transfer agreements pertaining to these disciplines. Final course descriptions and course learning outcomes for these courses will be considered by the Academic Course Guide Manual Committee in fall 2013, after a statewide 30-day comment period. Final draft Tuning documents from the 2012 TOCMBI are available at www.theccb.state.tx.us/TuningTexas.

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

Teacher Quality Grants Program Continues Work with Math & Science Teachers

This summer, more than 800 teachers from across Texas will be gathering at local universities to study their content areas in depth and learn instructional approaches that research shows will improve student achievement. Teachers will spend three to four weeks with math, science, and education faculty who have designed intensive, sustained professional development sessions directly related to their needs. Teachers will go on field trips, learn how to incorporate new technology into their classrooms, plan student-centered lessons for the upcoming year, and practice “high-yield instructional approaches.” These high-yield instructional approaches focus on better learning outcomes for all students and include project-based learning, hands-on activities that help students construct their own knowledge base, and use of real-world examples to engage students. Teachers will continue their learning into the academic year by focusing on how to better assess student learning, adapting their instructional approaches to meet students’ needs, and deepening their conceptual understanding of math and science content.

The Teacher Quality Grants program is supported through funds allocated to the THECB under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Title II, Part A and focuses on helping teachers in high-need schools help students meet state standards for core courses. Grantees are selected through a competitive review process using external reviewers. Teachers are entering the second year of current projects which will close in April 2014. Additional funds have been provided under NCLB and, pending THECB approval at the July 2013 Board Meeting, a request for applications will be released to fund additional projects into 2015.

Elizabeth Powers | Director, Teacher Quality | P-16 Initiatives

P-16 Institute Provides Tools for Participation and Success

The THECB hosted a P-16 Institute on June 17-18 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Austin. After a day of GenTX training on June 17, day two featured tools for increasing student participation and success. A total of 107 public and higher education administrators, workforce, community, and business leaders attended the last P-16 Institute of the 2012-13 academic year. A key highlight for many attendees was a presentation about ELITE (Establishing Leadership In and Through Education), a comprehensive program for incoming minority men at Sam Houston State University (SHSU). Dr. Bernice Strauss, Director of Academic Support Programs at SHSU, and five student mentors shared how ELITE promotes academic development and civic engagement and serves to increase the retention and completion rates for minority men at SHSU (www.shsu.edu/~sam_www/mentoring/sam_houston_elite.html). Other presentations included University Crossroads (www.universitycrossroads.org), SA-Ready (www.sa-ready.org/), and Compare College TX (www.comparecollegetx.com/).

Priscilla Martinez | Program Director, Success Unit | P-16 Initiatives

“FIRST GENERATION” Filmmaker Speaks to P-16 Councils

On June 17-18, the P-16 Initiatives Division, in collaboration with Stephen F. Austin State University, screened “FIRST GENERATION” for over 60 statewide P-16 Council members at the DoubleTree Hotel in Austin. An award-winning feature-length documentary narrated by Golden Globe nominee Blair Underwood, “FIRST GENERATION” tells the story of four high school students—an inner city athlete, a small town waitress, a Samoan warrior dancer, and the daughter of migrant field workers—who set out to break the cycle of poverty and bring hope to their families and communities by pursuing a college education (<http://www.firstgenerationfilm.com>). Shot over the course of three years and featuring some of our nation’s top educational experts (Richard Kahlenberg, The Century Foundation; J.B. Schramm, College Summit; Dr. Bill Tierney, University of Southern California), the 1.5-hour documentary explores the problem of college access faced by first generation and low-income students and how their success has major implications for the future of our nation. “FIRST GENERATION” is directed by Adam and Jaye Fenderson and sponsored in part by Lumina Foundation for Education whose mission is to increase the percentage of Americans with high quality degrees and credentials to 60 percent by 2025.

Priscilla Martinez | Program Director, Success Unit | P-16 Initiatives

Texans Unite On Generation Texas Day in a Strong Show of Support for College Enrollment

The third annual celebration of Generation Texas (GenTX) Day came to life on May 3 as students, educators, businesses, and nonprofits across the state joined together in a record level show of support to create a college-going and career-ready culture in Texas and their local communities. It proved an incredible culmination, with more than 35,000 students across 150 school districts visiting college campuses, attending college application drives, and participating in college preparatory fairs and workshops. One chief highlight of the day took place at the Texas State Capitol where students representing the GenTX movement received proclamations from both the Texas House and Senate Chambers with a ceremony led by State Representative Dan Branch.

GenTX Day also drew wide business and community support from across Texas, with companies, nonprofits, workforce agencies, and chambers of commerce joining the cause. Additionally, media partners across the state helped the campaign earn more than 1.8 million media impressions, with a combination of print, broadcast, radio, and television coverage in regions such as Central Texas, the Metroplex, Lower Rio Grande Valley, and East Texas. GenTX Day was fueled by a growing social media participation among P-16 councils, many of whose members have attended the THECB's social media trainings and are hitting the "tweet" waves more regularly. Compared to last year, there has been a 90 percent increase in social media usage among the P-16 councils. On GenTX Day specifically, 86 percent of P-16 councils used social media to spread the word and promote a college-going culture—a 66 percent increase in participation compared to last year's campaign. Please visit www.GenTX.org to see photos and video highlights of the third annual GenTX Day and to stay updated on the latest developments and upcoming activities for Generation Texas.

Priscilla Martinez | Program Director, Success Unit | P-16 Initiatives

Advise TX College Advising Corps Serves to Increase College Awareness and Access for Underserved Students

The Advise Texas College Advising Corps (Advise TX), an innovative college access program that aims to increase the number of low-income, first-generation college and underrepresented students who enter and complete higher education, provided support for the Generation Texas statewide movement on May 3. Advise TX advisers hosted college awareness activities and events across seven regions of the state. Events occurring during the statewide campaign reached approximately 6,600 middle and high school students. GenTX Day activities included college application drives, financial aid application drives, SAT/ACT test registrations, and college tours. Advise TX is a partner program of the National College Advising Corps. By hiring and training recent graduates of higher education partner institutions as full-time college advisers in underserved high schools, Advising Corps programs work throughout the country to provide the advising and support that students need to navigate college admissions and financial aid. In the 2012-13 school year, the Advising Corps employed 335 advisers who served at 389 high schools nationally. The Corps now has 18 programs in 14 states.

In Texas, the Advising Corps program is headquartered at the THECB, with chapters at Texas A&M University, Texas Christian University, Texas State University, The University of Texas at Austin, and Trinity University. The five institutional chapters are committed to the goal of improving equity in higher education and are the drivers of program success. Each institution recruits, selects, employs, trains, and supervises the college advisers in selected partner high schools across the state. The Advising Corps serves communities across the country to provide the guidance and encouragement that many students need to navigate the complex web of college admissions and secure financial aid. Advisers work one-on-one with students, helping them enroll in the postsecondary option that is their best fit (where they will be most likely to succeed and persist to a degree or meaningful credential), be it a four-year university, two-year college, or technical school. In 2012-2013, Advise TX served in 120 high schools and 60 school districts, reaching over 234,000 students. For more information about the Advise TX program, please visit www.AdviseTX.org.

Jennifer Pandya | Statewide Coordinator, Advise TX College Advising Corps | P-16 Initiatives