



# Academic Planning and Policy E-NEWS

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

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 3

APRIL/MAY 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.*

## Two Substantive Changes Made to Texas Higher Education Star Award Categories for 2011

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board welcomes nominations by June 13 for the 2011 Texas Higher Education Star Award, with subsequent applications due by August 15. Star Awards will be presented at the 2011 Texas Higher Education Leadership Conference/State of Higher Education Luncheon scheduled to be held at the Renaissance Austin Hotel on November 3.

The Guidelines for the Texas Higher Education Star Award include two substantive changes to the Star Award categories for 2011. First, a category has been added for cost-efficiency efforts/projects that will recognize proven results that have the potential to be used at institutions across the state to reduce costs and improve educational outcomes. Second, given research evidence showing that excellence in teaching is a decisive factor in student achievement, the individual category has been modified to be specific to higher education faculty undergraduate teaching excellence.

Thus, for 2011, Star Award nominees and applicants will be considered in the following five categories:

1. Programs, projects, and activities at Texas institutions of higher education that are helping to close the higher education gaps in student participation, student success, academic excellence, and/or research. (Self-nominations welcome.)
2. Schools/districts, groups, and organizations in Texas that are helping to close the gaps in higher education student participation, student success, academic excellence, and/or research (such as those that help promote a college-going culture). (Self-nominations welcome.)
3. Partnerships (among higher education institutions, public/private schools/districts, businesses, or the community) that are helping close the gaps in higher education student participation, student success, academic excellence, and/or research. (Self-nominations welcome.)
4. Cost-efficiency efforts/projects at Texas institutions of higher education that have the potential to be used at institutions across the state to reduce costs and improve educational outcomes. (Chancellor/President's nomination required.)
5. Higher education faculty in Texas who demonstrate excellence in undergraduate teaching. (President's nomination required, or Chancellor's nomination required in the case of community college districts without campus presidents.)

More detailed information regarding this year's awards competition is available on the Coordinating Board's Star Award website located at: [www.theccb.state.tx.us/StarAward/](http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/StarAward/). This website also links to lists of all finalists and winners from previous years.

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

## Coordinating Board Management (CBM) System Edit Review and Training Coming soon

Delays in certifying institutional Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Management (CBM) system reports affect completion of time-sensitive reports. To improve reporting timeliness and accuracy, the Coordinating Board (CB) is undertaking two initiatives: a review of CBM reports and training sessions on topics selected by institutional representatives.

The CBM reports will be reviewed with an eye toward making those documents easier to understand, making edit summaries more complete and focused on elements that are often mis-reported, and identifying reporting errors in need of correction. The report reviews will be conducted by teams of CB staff and institutional personnel. Training sessions will be broadcast and posted online for easy access.

Doug Parker, Director, Educational Data Center, 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](#)

Star Awards 2011  
[Website](#)

College for All Texans  
[CFAT Website](#)

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

### **Coordinating Board Releases 2011 Texas Public Higher Education Almanac**

The Coordinating Board (CB) formally released the inaugural edition of the *Texas Public Higher Education Almanac*. The *Almanac* represents the next phase in promoting transparency, accountability, and the value of higher education to Texas taxpayers, including students and their families. Utilizing information submitted by two-year and four-year public institutions to the CB, the *Almanac* spotlights state and national data relating to postsecondary costs, access, and completion.

In conjunction with the *Almanac*, the Coordinating Board also released a *Student Success Handbook* that documents the best national and state practices at institutions of higher education designed to improve student success rates. The *Handbook* is intended to encourage the sharing of innovative practices and ideas throughout Texas.

Both the *Almanac* and *Handbook* are available online at the Coordinating Board's website at [www.thecb.state.tx.us/almanac](http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/almanac).

Susan E. Brown, Assistant Commissioner for Planning and Accountability

### **Tuning Oversight Council for Engineering Considers Faculty Feedback on Final Draft Tuning Deliverables**

On April 29, with grant support from Lumina Foundation for Education, the Coordinating Board (CB) hosted the final face-to-face meeting of the 2010 Tuning Oversight Council for Engineering (2010 TOCE), which is comprised of 47 engineering faculty members from across Texas representing 30 higher education institutions. The 2010 TOCE consists of four voluntary advisory committees: (1) Civil Engineering, (2) Electrical Engineering, (3) Industrial Engineering, and (4) Mechanical Engineering, each of which has been working to (A) tune the civil, electrical, industrial, and mechanical engineering disciplines; and (B) align lower-division courses among two- and four-year institutions to more fully and efficiently use the community college pathway to baccalaureate degrees in engineering. Through faculty surveys distributed electronically on April 18 to university engineering faculty members in these four engineering disciplines, CB staff gathered feedback from across Texas on the final draft work of the 2010 TOCE and its respective Tuning committees. The committees were provided survey results to date at their meeting in April and are currently considering this input from their faculty colleagues prior to finalizing their "Tuning deliverables" for the Coordinating Board. Once finalized, these documents will be provided to Lumina Foundation for Education in partial fulfillment of grant requirements and will be shared nationwide as part of Lumina's "Tuning USA" initiative. Additional information about this project is available online at [www.thecb.state.tx.us/tuningtexas](http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/tuningtexas). The finalized Tuning and lower-division course-level alignment work of the 2010 TOCE is expected to be posted on this site by the end of May.

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

### **State P-16 Council Discusses Developmental Education/Adult Basic Education on April 13**

The Coordinating Board (CB) hosted a State P-16 Council Meeting in Austin on Wednesday, April 13, 2011. This was the second State P-16 Council Meeting of this year chaired by Commissioner of Higher Education Raymund Paredes. Presentations included an update on the Generation TX Campaign, Developmental Education Demonstration Project Model, Update on Adult Basic Education Grants, and Preparing Adult Basic Education Students for Career-Path Employment.

The State P-16 Council, authorized in 2003 under Texas Education Code §61.076, is responsible for ensuring that long-range plans and educational programs for the state complement the functioning of the entire system of public education, extending from early childhood education through postgraduate study. Council members represent four Texas state agencies: the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), and the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), with three additional three members selected by the co-chairs to represent public education, business, and higher education.

The next State P-16 Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on July 20, 2011 at 2 p.m. in the CB Board Room in Austin.

Priscilla Martinez, Program Director for P-16 Outreach, Division of P-16 Initiatives

### **Texas Core Curriculum and Preferred Course Offerings Among Topics at Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee Meeting Held April 8**

The Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee (UEAC) met at the Coordinating Board on April 8. Agenda items included consideration of recommendations to endorse the Preferred Course Offerings for U.S. Government/Political Science, guidelines for the selection and approval of Texas Core Curriculum Courses, and recommendations regarding the Report on Revising the Texas Core Curriculum. UEAC members worked in small groups to discuss the Government/Political Science sequence of courses and develop 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.thecb.state.tx.us/ueac](http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/ueac). A webcast of the meeting can be accessed by scrolling to the broadcast archive at [www.thecb.state.tx.us/apps/events/](http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/apps/events/).

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

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