

MEDIA ADVISORY

Governor appoints three Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board officials to Incentive Funding Task Force

Jan. 31, 2008 – AUSTIN – The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) announced today that two members of the Board and the Commissioner of Higher Education have been appointed to serve on the governor’s Task Force on Higher Education Incentive Funding.

Chairman of the Board for the THECB, Robert Shepard, Vice Chairman, A.W. “Whit” Riter III, and Commissioner of Higher Education, Dr. Raymund Paredes, have all been selected to serve with a group of at least four other advisors from around the state who will collectively make recommendations to the governor, lieutenant governor and speaker of the House regarding guidelines for implementing higher education incentive funding programs.

Announcing the appointments, Gov. Perry explained his reasoning for creating the task force. “Establishing an innovative incentive-based performance funding system is essential to furthering Texas’ goal of having institutions of higher education prepare students for the demands and opportunities of the 21st century marketplace. We must change the paradigm from funding institutions solely based on students enrolled to funding based more on the quality of students produced,” he said in a recent press release.

Commissioner Paredes echoed that sentiment. “As we work towards closing the gaps in education for all Texans by 2015, it is imperative that we create incentives for institutions of higher learning as well as for students to ensure we are rewarding those who are meeting Texas’ increasing standards of excellence in higher education,” he said.

The task force will be responsible for submitting a report that outlines their recommendations no later than July 15, 2008. Those recommendations are expected to focus on ways to structure higher education funding to reward student learning and institutional outcomes that are aligned with state and regional priorities, the use of the \$100 million in incentive funding appropriated by the 80th Legislature, and ways to establish a system of incentive funding for all public institutions of higher education for consideration by the Texas Legislature during the 81st session.

Other members of the task force appointed by the governor are Kern Wildenthal of Dallas, Bernie Francis of Carrollton, Woody L. Hunt of El Paso and Roberto Zárata of San Antonio. All appointments were made possible by Executive Order RP 67.

For more information, or to arrange interviews on any of the above topics, please contact De J. Lozada at (512) 427-6119 or call the External Relations department at (512) 427-6111.