

**TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION STAR AWARD
FOR HELPING TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS OF *60x30TX*
2018 APPLICATION PROCESS AND GUIDELINES**

Purpose

The Texas Higher Education Star Award was originally established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (Coordinating Board or THECB) in 2001 to recognize exceptional contributions toward achieving one or more of the goals of the former long-range Texas higher education plan, *Closing the Gaps by 2015*. The state's current long-range higher education plan, *60x30TX*, adopted by the board of the THECB in July 2015, builds on the success of *Closing the Gaps* and is designed to establish a globally competitive workforce in Texas by 2030.

The board of the THECB approved continuing the Star Award program at its quarterly meeting in April 2016, with revised guidelines to recognize exceptional contributions toward meeting one or more of the goals of *60x30TX* – Educated Population, Completion, Marketable Skills, and Manageable Student Debt. Finalists are recommended by a THECB staff review panel, and winners are selected by a review committee consisting of board members of the THECB, out-of-state higher education experts, and Texas community leaders. Recipients will receive a custom-designed award and public recognition for their efforts in the fall at the annual Texas Higher Education Leadership Conference. A maximum of seven awards are presented annually.

Changes for the 2018 Star Award Program

Update the timeline for the 2018 Texas Higher Education Star Award program.

Categories for the 2018 Star Award

1. Programs, projects, and activities at Texas institutions of higher education;
2. Groups and organizations in Texas (such as those that help promote student completion of a certificate or degree, or help reduce student loan debt); and
3. Partnerships (among higher education institutions, public/private schools/districts, businesses, or the community).

Eligibility for the 2018 Star Award

1. Programs, projects, and activities at Texas institutions of higher education that are helping to meet one or more of the goals of *60x30TX*, including those at:
 - Public and independent two- and four-year colleges and universities;
 - Public technical and state colleges;
 - Public and independent health science centers; and
 - Degree-granting career colleges and schools.
2. Groups and organizations in Texas that are helping to meet one or more of the goals of *60x30TX* (such as those that help promote student completion of a certificate or degree, or help reduce student loan debt), including:
 - Businesses; and
 - Community organizations.

Eligibility for the 2018 Star Award (Continued)

3. Partnerships in Texas that are helping to meet one or more of the goals of *60x30TX*, including partnerships among:
 - Public and independent higher education institutions as noted in eligibility category 1;
 - Public and private schools or districts;
 - Businesses; and
 - Community organizations.

Criteria for the 2018 Star Award

Programs/projects/activities, groups/organizations, and partnerships must:

1. Demonstrate successful outcomes in the following areas: (a) the educational attainment of the state's 25- to 34-year-old population; (b) student completion of a certificate or degree; (c) the number of programs with identified marketable skills; or (d) the implementation of programs or cost efficiencies that help to ensure that undergraduate student loan debt will not exceed 60 percent of first-year wages;
2. Clearly demonstrate improvement and excellence through the use of benchmarks and other comparison data that allow progress to be monitored and evaluated and that are attributable to the efforts of the program/organization/partnership; and
3. Clearly demonstrate an efficient cost/benefit ratio per student.

Review Process

Step One – Announcement and Call for Nominations

The 2018 Star Award program will be announced by May 7, 2018. THECB staff will send the announcement and call for Star Award nominations to the following groups:

1. Public and independent institutions of higher education (chancellors and presidents; chief academic officers; instructional officers; institutional research directors; deans of education; workforce deans; technical deans; registrars; reporting officials; continuing education officers; public relations officers; community, state, and technical college liaisons; and universities and health-related institutions institutional liaisons);
2. Degree-granting career colleges and schools (presidents and executive officers);
3. Local government and business organizations (African American Chambers of Commerce of Texas, Texas Association of Business, Texas Regional Council of Governments, County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas, Texas High School Project, Texas Association of Mexican-American Chambers of Commerce, Texas Municipal League, and Texas City Management Association); and
4. Chambers of Commerce of Texas' larger cities.

Step Two – Nominations

To be considered for the 2018 Star Award, completed nominations (including self-nominations) must be received electronically by the THECB by June 11, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. Nominations must be submitted electronically as a pdf file via email to: StarAward@theeb.state.tx.us.

Step Three – Notifications to Nominees

THECB staff will notify nominees that they have been nominated for a Star Award and that a formal application must be received by the THECB in order for the nominee to be considered for a Star Award.

Step Four – Applications for Star Award

A formal application form must be completed by (or for) each nominee for the Star Award. To be considered for the 2018 Star Award, completed applications must be received electronically by the THECB by July 16, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. Applications, including at least one letter of recommendation, must be submitted electronically as a pdf file via email to the following address: StarAward@theccb.state.tx.us.

Step Five – Internal Staff Review Panel Reviews All Applications

A THECB Internal Staff Review Panel will review all applications to determine if the requested information is complete and adheres to application requirements. The Internal Staff Review Panel will forward a list of recommended finalists to the Commissioner of Higher Education on the basis of criteria established for the 2018 Star Award. The Commissioner will recommend finalists to the Chair of the Coordinating Board. The Commissioner and the Chair of the Coordinating Board will make actual finalist determinations.

Step Six – External Committee Reviews All Finalists' Applications

An External Review Panel, consisting of three board members of the THECB, three Texas business and community leaders, and three out-of-state higher education experts, will review the applications of all finalists and determine which of these finalists will be honored with the Star Award on the basis of criteria established for the 2018 Star Award.

Step Seven – Notification to Finalists

THECB staff will notify finalists in late September 2018. Finalists will be invited to attend a special ceremony during which they will be honored and Star Award winners announced.

Step Eight – Awards Presentation

The 2018 Star Awards will be presented at the THECB's annual Texas Higher Education Leadership Conference, on a date still to be determined.

Timeline for the 2018 Texas Higher Education Star Award Program	
Dates in 2018	What Occurs
May 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nomination forms and supporting materials are posted to the THECB's website
May 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcement of the 2018 Star Award program Call for Star Award nominations
June 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nomination deadline
June 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominees notified
July 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application deadline
July 20 (on or about)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal Staff Review Panel Planning Meeting
July 20 – August 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal Staff Review Panel reviews all applications
August 3 (on or about)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal Staff Review Panel evaluations due Internal Staff Review Panel Meeting
August 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal Staff Review Panel recommends finalists to the Commissioner of Higher Education
August 10 – August 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commissioner recommends finalists to the Chair of the Coordinating Board; actual finalists are determined
August 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalists' applications are sent to the members of the External Review Committee
August 20 – September 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External Review Committee reviews all finalists' applications
September 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External Review Committee evaluations due
Week of September 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External Review Committee holds telephone conference on a date to be determined
September 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalists are notified and invited to attend the Texas Higher Education Star Awards Ceremony
Fall 2018 (date to be determined)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2018 Star Awards presented at the Texas Higher Education Leadership Conference