

## UH-Downtown to receive the THECB Recognition of Excellence on July 27

Austin, Texas, July 25, 2017 — The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board will acknowledge the University of Houston-Downtown's Supplemental Instruction (SI) program with a Recognition of Excellence during the July 27 board meeting, scheduled in the board room at 1200 E. Anderson Lane in Austin. The meeting will be webcast at <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/>. The Recognition of Excellence is slated to begin at 9:50 a.m. Dr. Juan Sánchez Muñoz, president of the University of Houston-Downtown, and Tanu Altomare, coordinator of supplemental instruction and peer tutor coordinator for the Center for Math and Statistics Support, will make a presentation on the SI program.

SI was created to improve student comprehension and knowledge of course content and critical thinking skills through collaborative, peer-facilitated study sessions to enhance the individual performance of undergraduate students. This, in turn, creates a positive impact on institutional retention and graduation rates. During fall 2016, 74 percent of students in courses offering supplemental instruction who attended SI study groups successfully completed their courses with a grade of A, B or C, compared to 59 percent of students who successfully completed the courses and did not participate in SI study groups.

SI leaders are UHD students who have taken and mastered the course to which they are assigned. They attend class weekly, acting as model students and as near-peers during class activities, and then hold free, voluntary, out-of-class study sessions twice a week. SI leaders identify gaps in content based on study sessions to assist the instructor with improving the quality of the course and tailor study sessions based on students' needs.

The Coordinating Board's Recognition of Excellence showcases models of excellence within the education community and highlights the outstanding work of the education faculty and administrators, and the outstanding institutional programs around Texas.

To schedule a media interview, please contact Kelly Carper Polden at 512-427-6119 or [kelly.polden@thecb.state.tx.us](mailto:kelly.polden@thecb.state.tx.us).

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**THECB Mission Statement**

*The mission of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is to provide leadership and coordination for the Texas higher education system and to promote access, affordability, quality, success, and cost efficiency through 60x30TX, resulting in a globally competitive workforce that positions Texas as an international leader.*