

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board announces Star Award finalists

Sept. 25, 2017, Austin, Texas – The Coordinating Board has announced the names of eight finalists for the 2017 Star Awards for exceptional contributions toward meeting one or more of the goals of the Texas higher education plan, 60x30TX. The Coordinating Board received 44 nominations and 41 applications for this year’s Star Award program.



This year’s finalists are:

- Austin Community College District – Accelerated Programmer Training
- Coastal Bend College – Pathways to Success for Students in Allied Health
- Odessa College – Eight-Week Terms: A Pathway to 60x30TX
- St. Philip’s College – Automotive Technology
- The University of Texas at Dallas – Undergraduate Success Scholars
- The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley – 15 to GRAD: Tuition Plan, Advising, & Outreach to Support 15 Hour Enrollment
- University of Houston – UH in 4
- University of Houston-Downtown – The Gateway Course Innovation Initiative

The Star Award program recognizes exceptional contributions toward meeting one or more of the goals of 60x30TX:

- Increasing the postsecondary educational attainment level of the state’s 25- to 34-year-old population (The Overarching Goal).
- Increasing the number of students completing a certificate, associate, bachelor’s, or master’s from an institution of higher education in Texas (Completion Goal).
- Increasing the number of programs with identified marketable skills at Texas public institutions of higher education (Marketable Skills Goal).
- Implementing programs or cost efficiencies that help to ensure that undergraduate student loan debt will not exceed 60 percent of first-year wages (Student Debt Goal).

Star Award finalists will be publicly recognized for their efforts. The winner(s) will be announced on Dec. 1 during the annual Star Awards luncheon and ceremony that will be held in conjunction with the 2017 Texas Higher Education Leadership Conference on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 in Austin. The annual leadership conference brings together regents, trustees, chancellors, presidents, and other higher education leaders to discuss critical higher education issues such as the 60x30TX strategic plan. Interaction among higher education stakeholders will be a key part of the conference. The orientation/conference sessions on Nov. 30 will satisfy the training requirement for newly appointed regents and elected trustees (Texas Education Code, Section 61.084). Conference registration is available at <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/2017LeadershipConference>.

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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.