

2017 Texas Public Higher Education Almanac highlights progress toward 60x30TX goals

Austin, Texas, April 28, 2017 — The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board launched its seventh annual *Texas Public Higher Education Almanac* today as part of the agency's core function to promote transparency and accountability among Texas public institutions of higher education. The [2017 Almanac](#) provides higher education facts and performance data that allow users to compare Texas public higher education institutions. The data provide a snapshot of Texas' progress in achieving goals of the state's higher education plan, [60x30TX](#). The *Almanac* draws from data found in the agency's accountability system -- long recognized as a "best practice" national model for higher education performance data.

"Over the past seven years the Almanac has effectively communicated Texas higher education data," said Commissioner of Higher Education Raymund Paredes. "Educational improvement in Texas is steady but is too slow to reach the goals of 60x30TX. Texas needs more economically disadvantaged students, especially males, to achieve a postsecondary credential. We need more high school graduates to enroll in college relative to projected workforce needs. We must increase the six-year university graduation rate. To achieve our goals, we must embrace boldness and innovation and quicken the pace on our way to 2030."

2017 Key data and information

- The percent of Texans age 25-34 holding a certificate or degree has increased from 40.3% at the beginning of 60x30TX to 41% one year later. (p.8)
- The annual number of certificates, associate, bachelor's and master's awarded at all Texas higher education institutions has increased by **7.5 percent** since the beginning of 60x30TX. (p. 9)
- Texas graduates who achieved a **bachelor's degree** in 2014, and were subsequently employed in Texas, earned an average of **\$42,569** during their first year after graduation; Texas graduates who achieved an **associate's degree** or **certificate** in 2014, and were subsequently employed in Texas, earned an average of **\$34,057** and **\$36,011** respectively during their first year after graduation. (p. 12)
- Student loan debt as a percentage of first-year wage has not increased in the one year since the beginning of 60x30TX (60%). (p.10)
- **Nationally**, Texas has the **third lowest average tuition** at public, two-year institutions (\$1,948). (p. 6)
- Texas **ranks 22nd nationally** in average tuition at public, four-year institutions (\$7,870). (p. 6)
- **59 percent** of full-time students enrolled at a public four-year university earned a postsecondary degree within six years. (p. 27)
- Of every 100 first-time degree seeking students enrolled (full- or part-time) at a public university, **58** students earned a postsecondary degree within six years; **11** students were still enrolled at an institution at the six-year mark. (p. 14)

- Of every 100 first-time degree seeking students enrolled (full- or part-time) at a public community college, **27** students earned postsecondary degree or certificate within six years; **8** students were still enrolled at an institution at the six-year mark. (p. 14)
- Of every 100 students who started at a two-year college and transferred to a university, **54** students earned a postsecondary degree within four years of transfer. (p. 16)
- On average, a full-time public university student needed **4.7 years** and completed **136 credit hours** to attain a bachelor's degree that requires four years and 120 credit hours. (p. 11)
- Of every 100 students enrolled in the eighth grade in Texas in academic year 2004-05, **74** graduated from high school, **54** enrolled in higher education in Texas, and **21** received a higher education degree or certificate in Texas by August 2016. Within this group, only **12** percent of the economically disadvantaged students received a degree or certificate, compared to **31** percent of those not economically disadvantaged. (p. 15)

This year's Almanac was funded by the College for All Texans Foundation, made possible through private donations for the design, printing and delivery. Investment in the almanac reflects a continued commitment to help ensure data-driven policy discussions and decisions in Texas.

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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.