

Academic Planning and Policy E-News

Academic Quality and Workforce | College Readiness and Success | Strategic Planning and Funding



Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Office of Academic Planning and Policy, David W. Gardner, Deputy Commissioner

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Long-Range Planning Committee Focuses on Competency-Based Education, Plan Targets

Members of the Texas Higher Education Strategic Planning Committee (TxHESPC) learned more about competency-based education from Dr. Van L. Davis, Associate Vice President for Higher Education Policy and Research, Blackboard, Inc., during the 12th meeting of the TxHESPC on April 9.

Davis said that competency-based education could be a strategy for helping meet the goals of the next long-range Texas higher education plan. Competencies are knowledge, abilities, and skills, and Davis stressed that competency-based education is about mastery, not seat time. The focus is on learning, regardless of how long (or how little) time it takes. According to Davis, competency-based programs are more flexible, enable a focus on individualized learning, include intensive advising, and enable faculty to remain in control of the curriculum.

The TxHESPC learned that competency-based students are often nontraditional students who are returning to college after not completing a degree. Generally speaking, Davis said, those students have a job, are engaged with technology, want quick responses, and are very interested in a direct pathway toward their degree.

Examples of competency-based programs in Texas include Texas State Technical College's certificate programs and the [Texas Affordable Baccalaureate](#) in Organizational Leadership offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce and South Texas College.

In addition to the briefing and Q&A with Davis, the TxHESPC continued deliberating on the potential targets for measuring the progress toward the goals of the new 2030 higher education plan. The next meeting of the TxHESPC is scheduled for [May 14, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.](#) at the Coordinating Board offices and will feature continued discussions about possible strategies to help reach the targets and goals of the new Texas higher education plan.

Barring technical difficulties, the TxHESPC's meetings are open to the public and broadcast live on the Coordinating Board's website. The presentations and minutes for all TxHESPC meetings are available on the [TxHESPC's website](#).

During the deliberations' process and prior to adopting the new 2030 higher education strategic plan in July 2015, the Coordinating Board encourages public input via [College Town Hall-Texas](#). **In the coming week, a draft of the next Texas long-range strategic plan will be shared widely via email with institutions and other stakeholders.**

--Mary E. Smith | Assistant Deputy Commissioner | Academic Planning and Policy

Minority Male RFA Notice of Intent Deadline April 20

Calendar

Next Texas Higher Education Strategic Planning Meeting

[May 14, 2015, 10 a.m.](#)

Next Board Meeting

[April 23, 2015, 8:30 a.m.](#)

In This Issue

Minority Male RFA - NOI
Due April 20

2015 Texas Higher Education Almanac Released

Jobs for the Future, THECB, Accelerate TX Capacity Building Series

UEAC Meets, Discusses Student Transfer Data and Next Long-Range Plan

APP Links

[Higher Ed Data](#)

[Higher Ed Strategic Plan](#)

[Higher Education Almanac](#)

[Accountability System](#)

[College Readiness and Success](#)

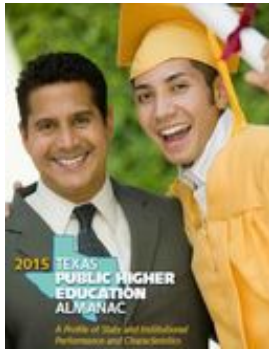
To meet the state's higher education participation and success goals, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) is providing an opportunity to Texas institutions of higher education that serve African American and Hispanic students. Those institutions may apply for funding for evidence-based, scalable, peer-to-peer (or near-peer-to-peer) interventions that support minority male students in meeting their postsecondary goals.

The deadline for submitting the Notice of Intent (NOI) is April 20, 2015. The deadline for submitting completed applications is May 18, 2015. Applications will not be considered without a NOI.

Visit [Request for Applications \(RFA\) for the Minority Male Initiatives \(MMI\)](#) on the Coordinating Board's website for more information.

--Matt Lashlee | Program Director, Secondary/Postsecondary Alignment & Student Success | College Readiness and Success

Student Debt Data Included in 2015 Texas Public Higher Education Almanac



The fifth edition of the [Texas Public Higher Education Almanac](#) is now available. For the second year, the Almanac provides data on graduate earnings. New to the 2015 edition is information on student debt. Debt data are provided by level of degree and, for bachelor's degrees, by institution.

The Coordinating Board receives financial support to produce the Almanac from the College for All Texans Foundation and Houston Endowment, Inc.

--Jennifer Evrard | Program Specialist | Office of Academic Planning and Policy

Jobs for the Future Hosts Free Adult Education Capacity Building Series Via Webcasts

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and Jobs for the Future are coordinating a series of webinars on statewide capacity building for Accelerate TX programs in May and June. The first webinar took place in early April. The purpose of the webinars is to inform and engage community and technical colleges and their partners from adult education and literacy, regional workforce development boards, and campus developmental education programs on the development and implementation of integrated education and training programs under the Accelerate TX initiative.

Accelerate TX programs prepare educationally disadvantaged, unemployed, and underemployed adults for postsecondary education, credential attainment, and subsequent employment. Through Accelerate TX, the THECB is supporting the state's economic competitiveness by advancing underprepared residents into high demand occupations along career pathways that lead to higher levels of employment and education.

Jobs for the Future will host the webinars and send dial-in information a few days before each session listed below. For information about signing up for one or both webinars in May, contact Linda Muñoz

Finance and Resource Planning

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The APP E-NEWS is written and produced by the staff of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). For newsletter questions or comments, contact Ramona Reeves, Editor, at ramona.reeves@theccb.state.tx.us or [\(512\) 427-6434](tel:5124276434).



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May 1, 10 a.m.-noon CDT: Leveraging Resources to Support Underprepared Learners

- Learn about strategies to map and leverage campus and community resources to support the diverse needs (e.g., academic, social, financial) of underprepared learners.

May 29, 10 a.m.-noon CDT: Contextualizing Instruction to Career Pathways

- Explore strategies to increase students' academic skills and enhance their motivation by integrating occupational content and engaging instructional strategies into your adult education and developmental education courses.

--Linda Muñoz | Senior Program Director, Adult and Developmental Education | College Success and Readiness

UEAC Discusses Next Higher Education Plan, Reverse Transfer Initiative, and Pending Legislation

At the spring meeting held in Austin this month, the Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee (UEAC) invited two presenters to talk about new developments in reverse transfer. Dr. Lynette O'Keefe, Executive Director of the Texas Reverse Transfer Initiative (TRTI), provided a report on the statewide project baseline study, and Dr. David Burris, Professor at Sam Houston State University, explained a novel approach to solve the issue of transmitting student-sensitive data, in particular names and social security numbers.

The TRTI baseline study confirmed that transmitting student data for transfer students is a critical barrier to success, with 79 percent of participating institutions partially relying on manual identification. Dr. Burris proposed using the secure cryptographic method of "hash codes," which allows machine-based transcript identification by exclusively using data already stored at the institutions. Using this method frees the process from transmitting sensitive data. Dr. Burris is planning a pilot study, and members asked to receive updates.

The UEAC also discussed the next long-range strategic plan for Texas higher education and its four goals related to educational attainment, completion, marketable skills, and student debt. The discussion touched on aspects of data, strategies, and assessment – issues that will require focused work in coming years. UEAC members stressed the importance of interagency collaboration between the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Texas Education Agency, and Texas Workforce Commission.

The UEAC also discussed bills filed during the current legislative session pertaining to undergraduate education. Members expressed interest in pending legislation related to Program of Studies (POS) and the agency's work on the establishment and review of Field of Studies (FOS).

The UEAC will hold its next meeting in September. The committee will consider the success of the new Texas Core Curriculum's implementation at institutions, begun in fall 2014.

--Reinold Cornelius | Assistant Director, Undergraduate
Education | Academic Quality and Workforce