**Partnerships and Collaboration**

**Panel Question**

**Questions for the panel to prepare:**

1. Let’s start with your experiences. What are some of the experiences — or compelling arguments — that have influenced your thinking around the need to prepare more students for higher education and the workforce? What motivated you to get involved in being an advocate for change?

2. Can you talk a little bit about some of the specific ways that you have advocated for change and the successes and challenges you’ve faced before engaging in partnerships?

3. Can you talk a little bit about how you have worked with or how you initiated discussions with other organizations about these issues?

4. What have been some of the obstacles you have faced as you established your partnership? What would have made it an easier process?

5. How has your organization been impacted by your partnership? How has your partnership led to innovative practices in your work?

6. What would you recommend to educators and institutions interested in starting a similar partnership in their community?

7. So, a lot of what we’ve been talking about here is about real leadership and innovative partnerships that work to prepare more students for postsecondary education and careers. At the same time, the state of Texas has outlined a new higher education plan, 60 x 30 TX, that focuses on the goal of striving for 60 percent of the 25-to 34-year-olds in Texas to hold a certificate or degree by 2030. In your view, what are some of the systemic challenges and/or what role can similar institutions play in addressing this important goal?