



<http://ntrp16.org/>

**North Texas Regional P-16 Council Meeting Minutes  
September 17, 2019  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Dallas County Community College District Office  
1601 S. Lamar St.  
Dallas, TX 75215**

**ATTENDEES**

Members present: Patonia Bell, Kelree Brasseaux, Telisa Brown, V. Barbara Bush, Elizabeth Caudill, Rey de los Santos, Kristyn Edney, Tracey Fleniken, Tiffany Gilmore, Mary Harris, Christine Hubbard, Jean Keller, Barbara Lerner, Karrabi Malin, Anna Mays, Gwendolyn Moore, Bobby Morris, Usamah Muhammad-Rodgers, Amanda Nickerson, Quortina Phipps, Richard Vela, Karen Walker, Rosalyn Walker

Invited Guests: Martha Fernandez, DCCCD; Bonita Vinson, NCTC; Melanie Coulson, TCU; Monica Paul, Wylie ISD; Natasha Waters, Grand Prairie ISD

**A. Greetings, Introductions and Refreshments**

Jean Keller welcomed everyone and thanked Anna Mays and the Dallas County Community College District Office for the hospitality and wonderful refreshments.

**B. Approval of April 30, 2019, Council Meeting Minutes**

The minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously.

**C. Regional Data**

V. Barbara Bush presented regional data from Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) 60x30TX measures of enrollment, retention, and completion. What do the data presented mean to us as educators? What are their implications?

- The data tell stories of shifts predicted for many years. For example, four-year institutions are enrolling more transfer than FTIC students.
- We are seeing the importance of community college preparatory work and that the Metroplex Region is creative in providing equal opportunity.
- Data are the basis for the formulas that fund higher education in Texas.

**D. Panel: Outcomes and Impact of the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session**

Panelists: **Elizabeth Caudill**, Managing Director, Higher Education & Workforce, Dallas Regional Chamber of Commerce

**Martha Fernandez**, Senior Manager of Government Affairs, Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD)

**Christine Hubbard**, President, North Texas Community College Consortium

**Usamah Muhammad-Rodgers**, Assistant Superintendent, Postsecondary Partnerships and Programs, Dallas ISD.

Facilitator, **Anna Mays**, Associate Vice President of Educational Policy for Student Success, DCCCD.

1. Anna distributed these resources and acknowledged *The Texas Tribune* as an information source.
  - Texas Association of Community Colleges, *Bills Enacted by the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature*
  - Dallas Regional Chamber, Higher Education Growth, Innovation, Leadership
  - Dallas Regional Chamber, Public Education Finance Growth, Innovation, Leadership
  
2. Martha introduced herself as “the transfer queen.” It has taken 3 sessions/6 years to pass SB 25 – Relating to measures to facilitate the transfer, academic progress, and timely graduation of students in public higher education.
  - SB 25 enacts several measures to facilitate transfer:
    - a. Recommended Course Sequences. This provision better aligns courses and decreases incidence of extra hours associated with transfer.
    - b. Reporting of Nontransferable Credit to promote efficiency.
    - c. Articulation Agreements (no longer viewed as voluntary.)
    - d. Degree Plans are to be filed after completion of 30 hours of credit, with dual credit students filing after completion of 15 hours of dual credit to assure that their value is assessed early.
    - e. Study of the Core Curriculum (to assure consistency among institutions). The bill specifies the make-up of the study committee to include a majority of institutions with at least 25% transfer students. The study will examine relationship of the core to meta-majors and consider the feasibility of the “split” core.
  - Implementation of SB 25 will be in the 2020-2021 school year.
  - One priority, the Meningitis Bill, a hurdle for students, did not pass this session.
  - A common admission application helps to assure data sharing that includes both high school dual credit and multiple college records.
  - HB 3652 creates a state repository for open educational resources by THECB.
  - Anna pointed out that senior institutions are more concerned about guided pathways than the core curriculum.
  - Christine said we are seeing statewide commitment to guided pathways, which requires collaboration among junior and senior institutions.

- Barbara Lerner discussed the importance of curriculum rules that help students to stay on course.

3. Elizabeth led discussion of HB1, the General Appropriation Bill for Higher Education (although a few other bills mention funding, also.) She pointed out that the Dallas Chamber is invested in assuring talented workers for area employers, as well as making sure students are educated for high wage jobs. By investing in people, the city can contribute to quality of growth. From information prepared by the Chamber, legislators were surprised to learn how many IHEs are in the region, how many degrees are offered, and the extent of regional investment in research. They were also informed about the urgent need for revision of the K-12 financial system. Elizabeth said there is need for tuition revenue bonds, not passed this session, but slated for request every year until they pass.

- 72% of students who graduate from a regional post-secondary institution stay in the region. The region has the 6<sup>th</sup> highest retention rate in college education in the nation.
- This legislative session the kids won! HB 3 provided additional funding for early childhood and K-12 education, and increased teacher salaries (See below.)
  - a. Students will be required to complete FAFSA for high school graduation.
  - b. Districts will be reimbursed for students taking the ACT and SAT.
  - c. Districts will receive incentivized funding for students who test well on the ACT, SAT, or TSIA and enroll in college.
  - d. Plans target early childhood literacy, math skills, and college, career, and military readiness.
  - e. Funding will also be available for Pathways in Technology Early College High Schools. (P-TECH)

4. Usamah pointed out that the biggest take-away from the session was HB 3, sweeping K-12 finance legislation that provided:

- Increased funding for early childhood education
- Incentives for college, career and military readiness
- Incentives related to DISD initiatives in early childhood education, P-TECH, and other aspects of the Dallas Promise, which was very favorably viewed.
- More outcomes-based funding
- Support for more innovative use of funding to offset costs of wrap-around funding
- Consistency with 60x30TX and support for best practices in transfer

5. Christine reviewed additional legislation important to community colleges.

- HB 3808 provides for work study and the Texas Work Program that provides paid internships for students at educational institutions. This closes the pipeline for many low-income students.
- HB 277 provides that, effective January 2020, every degree program on the Apply Texas website will link to the gainful employment information about that degree as now required by THECB.

- In support of 60x30TX, underserved students and students who may have dropped out and will be taking the high school equivalency exam must be provided with a way to exempt the TSIA and have a path to higher education.
- Regarding course sequencing, once the legislation is fully implemented, it should eliminate individual articulation agreements and data sharing agreements and lead to a new standard operating procedure.

6. Martha said that we are headed toward a unified education system from preschool to workforce. Christine pointed out that current revisions to the TSIA support this concept. HB1 allocates a larger percentage of higher education funding to Student Success Points.

7. Elizabeth said the session was dynamic and hard to follow. The need for collaboration and partnership was more evident than ever.

#### **E. Discussion, Reflection, and Action**

1. In response to a question about data-sharing, Anna said that although there is not a statewide plan, sharing of data is encouraged. Barbara Lerner said institutions will have to adopt new interpretations of FERPA.

2. Elizabeth said reverse transfer is supported by new legislation. Barbara Lerner saw this as redoubling the need for articulation agreements.

3. Usamah said the coming need for articulation agreements as relating to the WECM (Workforce Education Course Manual). The need for many four-year workforce degrees is coming. Christine agreed the landscape for BAAS degrees is changing rapidly. Students today often come to these degree programs without workforce skills or experience. Anna said this reinforces the need for internships and workforce partnerships.

4. Usamah pointed out that the emphasis of HB3 on workforce pushes career exploration to middle school to enable smarter choices. There is a mismatch between career opportunities and the curriculum.

- Christine observed the need for HB 3511, vetoed by the governor, that would enable the consolidation of advisory systems. This would assist with knowing what programs are needed in the future. Elizabeth said the Texas Workforce Commission has such a list, but it tends to be Houston focused. We are more diverse.
- Region 10 representatives pointed out the challenge for smaller districts of making workforce connections to industry partners. We need to provide for workforce needs of students instead of what teachers are certified for.
- District of Innovation status is one way to provide for alternatives.

5. Christine discussed the need of higher education to respond quickly to workforce and district needs. DISD can approve a WECM course faster than the state. There are currently 3 course numbers for accounting, but 8 are needed. There is need for collaboration.

- Usamah said industry should have the largest influence on the course of the curriculum.

- Elisabeth replied that industry is not good at defining their need. We must work together.
- Anna pointed out that not every district can offer every program. We do not have to live under the 25% rule. We must determine what institutions are best set to offer programs due to equipment and expertise.

6. Other issues raised in discussion included the following.

- Richard Vela brought up faculty salaries and their relationship to industry.
- Rey de los Santos discussed the need for the support of counselors and the community as FAFSA comes to be required for graduation. Usamah suggested football games as one example of a good place to get out the word.
- Anna discussed the need for involvement of parents in CTE and what it means to select a career.
- Elisabeth asked if the P-16 Council has taken a Legislative position. Christine said that our individual institutions have. She pointed out the helpful work of the Gap Analysis Report. V. Barbara Bush said few groups have our cross-section of people. Rey pointed out that members that are non-profits look for information to help define a position. V. Barbara said we need to promote options. Rey responded that we can help to define ethical boundaries. Anna promoted informed choice.
- Usamah advocated more attention to Middle School for informed choice.
- V. Barbara affirmed Gear-Up. Bobby Morris described academic barriers experienced by first generation and low SES students and families. Usamah advocated to for a community-wide approach. Elisabeth provided an example of a friend who was stalled and needed more intensive advising. Barbara Lerner pointed out the focus of the current approach on efficiency.
- Christine said the courses taken by the student should be the most generally applicable. Any other possibility requires good advising. Quortina Phipps pointed out consequences for students who may have core courses but not in sequence to enter the major curriculum or who may have taken dual credit but not the best courses. Usamah said that ECHS may not offer the best courses but do put students in a college frame as they learn to persevere. Higher Education needs to stop being stuffy and come talk with school districts about transfer issues.
- Karrabi Malin pointed out that DACA affects us all. We must be informed voters as we work to assure that a richly talented population is supported. Elisabeth added that this is also a workforce issue and that business in Texas has supported a diverse workforce that includes Dreamers.

**F. Updates and Information Sharing**

1. Christine recommended the workshop for counselors and advisors to be held October 31 at Region 11.
2. Rey announced the participation of Latinos at the Texas State Fair.

3. Christine recommended the conferences sponsored by the North Texas Community College Consortium that may be viewed at <https://ntxccc.org/events/conferences-and-events-2019-20>

4. Rey described the collaboration of UT-Dallas and UNT Dallas with LULAC to offer permanent residents instruction in English focused on citizenship.

5. The Spanish Program at UNT offers Spanish in the community.

6. The College Board’s Equity Conference, A Dream Deferred, will be held in Chicago, March 11-12, 2020.

**G. Reports of the NTRP-16 Council**

1. Committees met briefly to talk about their work for the year.

2. Mary Harris reported on TXRAN grants of THECB to UNT and UT-Arlington. Both counties are continuing to offer a workshop series for high school, community college, and university faculty of mathematics. This year we plan to focus on use of data in making decisions about student advising, placement and instruction. Also, we recently completed a survey of community colleges in the region about the MOUs with high schools or school districts developed for collaboration in the offering and recognition of college preparatory courses in ELA and mathematics as authorized by HB3.

3. Jean Keller drew attention to the Council meeting dates, locations, and topics planned for this academic year.

**Please mark your calendar!**

**2019-2020 NTRP-16 Council Meeting Dates and Programs**

**9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Date	Place	Host	Topics	Program Facilitator
December 3, 2019	ESC Region 11 1451 S Cherry Ln White Settlement, TX	Lisa Harrison	Embracing Student Diversity and Inclusion	V. Barbara Bush
February 18, 2020	Region 10 ESC 904 Abrams Rd. Richardson, TX	Karen Walker	Successes and Challenges: 60X30TX North Texas Goals	Christine Hubbard
April 28, 2020	TCCD Trinity River Campus 300 Trinity Campus Circle Fort Worth, TX	Rosalyn Walker	Pathways to Completion: Alignment of PTech & ECHS with Four-year IHE	Tiffany Gilmore & Lisa Harrison

**F. Adjourn**

Jean Keller adjourned the meeting with thanks to Anna Mays and DCCCD hosting and organizing the meeting and to the panel of presenters.