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MARCH
2011

Higher Ed *Connection*

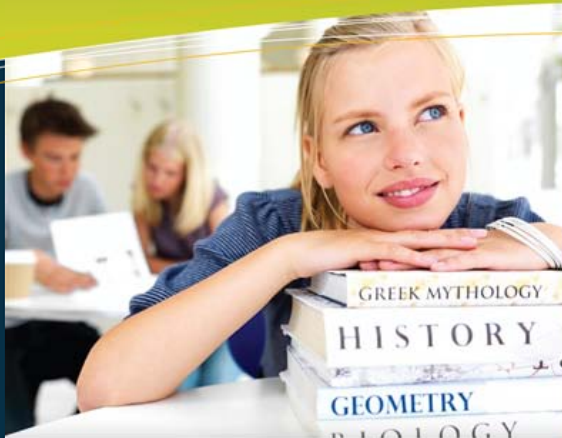
A community outreach service provided by Higher Education Servicing Corp.

Who We Are

Founded in 1978 as private, non-profit sister organizations, North Texas Higher Education Authority, Inc. (NTHEA) and Higher Education Servicing Corporation (HESC) have worked persistently to ensure student access to higher education by assisting lenders throughout Texas to provide billions of dollars in loans through the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP), donating hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of scholarships to schools, providing industry leading repayment benefits to borrowers, and, over the last decade, administering over 600 college preparation and financial literacy outreach programs to more than 100,000 students and parents throughout Texas.

OUR MOTTO

Inspiring students to achieve



this issue

- Choosing the ACT or SAT [1
- What is Generation Texas? [2
- Monthly Mentions [3
- Our Programs & Services [4

Administration's Higher Ed Goals Unattainable without K-16 Bridge

Courtesy of Huffington Post

The dearth of college counseling in the nation's public schools derails many students as they transition between high school and college.

Compared to their more privileged peers with similar academic qualifications, low-income, minority, first-generation, and other vulnerable students are less likely to attend college. When these vulnerable students pursue higher education, they are more likely to attend vocational schools, community colleges, for-profit universities, and less selective four-year colleges.

This phenomenon highlights a sorting process in the act of choosing among higher education options that further perpetuates socioeconomic inequality and limits the nation's global competitiveness.

Existing methods of addressing higher education disparities among vulnerable students, although helpful, merely preserve the status quo because they fail to adequately address structural inequality.

[CLICK HERE TO CONTINUE](#)

Additional Articles of Interest

Keeping Students on a Path to Graduation

Courtesy of eSchool News

Test Prep: Choosing the ACT or SAT¹

Courtesy of Peterson's

Bush Institute Launches Landmark Plan to Improve Middle Schools

Courtesy of Education News

TG Publishes update of State of Student Aid and Higher Ed in Texas

Courtesy of PR Web

Stakeholders Differ on College and Career Readiness

Courtesy of eSchool News

Find **inspiration**, great **resources** & a **supportive community** with **Generation TX:**

What is Generation Texas?²
A statewide, grass roots movement focused on creating a culture of college and career education that leads to the most successful generation ever.

www.GenTX.org

Monthly Mentions³

Keep your students up-to-date with these helpful college planning tips

a higher education by promoting a college-going culture through educational outreach activities, services and community partnerships.

CONTACT INFO

If you have questions about any of our services or would like to schedule an event, please feel free to contact Phillip Wambsganss at phillipw@nthea.com or (817) 265-9158 ext. 4160.

Counselor Connect

We want your feedback! Is there an article you've recently read that you'd like to see in our next newsletter? Or some news that you believe other counselors in the area would benefit from? Send us an [email](#) with all of the details and we may just use it in our May 2011 newsletter!

SR March

- Be on the lookout for acceptance letters – be sure to read all notification letters carefully
- Narrow your school choices and make campus visits
- If you completed your Free Application for Federal Aid (FAFSA), review your Student Aid Report (SAR) to make sure no mistakes were made – the financial aid office will use this information to determine your award package
- Stay on top of important financial aid deadlines and check with the financial aid offices to ensure all paperwork is complete
- If you're selected for verification by the financial aid office, don't panic - just provide the college with the documents they need
- If there are special circumstances affecting your family's financial situation, be sure to discuss them with the financial aid office
- Start looking for summer jobs

April

- Watch the mail for admissions decisions and award letters
- Compare financial aid award letters along with the cost of attendance at your target schools
- Talk to the financial aid office if you have questions about your awards
- Review all Acceptance Letters and follow any instructions provided
- Make your final school decision and mail deposits, as required – be aware of deposit and acceptance deadlines; most colleges require a response by May 1
- Notify all colleges that you won't be attending
- If you're on a waiting list, contact the admission office and let them know of your continued interest in the college - update them on your spring semester grades and activities
- Plan for registration, orientation, and housing
- Accept/reject any financial aid offered – you may be required to sign and return your award letter or go online to accept/reject the aid offered
- Register for Advanced Placement (AP) tests, if necessary - qualifying scores may earn you credit, advanced placement or both at most colleges

JR March

- Start planning campus visits – come up with a college visit checklist and questionnaire
- Narrow your college list to a reasonable number
- Prepare for Advanced Placement (AP) Exams
- Keep up college discussions with your family and counselors
- Start looking into the cost of each college you're interested in
- Contact the financial aid office for each college on your list to discuss payment options

April

- Select senior year classes—check with your counselor to ensure your courses meet necessary college requirements
- Start visiting colleges to get a feel for what works for you
- Take the SAT and/or ACT
- Take Advanced Placement (AP) tests, if necessary – qualifying scores may earn you credit, advanced placement or both at most colleges
- Plan summer activities such as volunteering, getting an interesting job or internship, or signing up for special summer learning programs

SO FR March & April

- Evaluate your personality, interests, and skills – doing this can help you determine the right college major
- Start talking to your family about college
- Explore occupations, salaries, and educational requirements
- Understand basic college curriculum requirements
- Participate in school and community activities
- Start investigating how much college will cost
- Sign up for college preparatory courses for next year
- Explore summer opportunities - learning programs, jobs, internships or volunteer positions



Committed to supporting students in their goal of attaining a higher education

By offering an array of educational outreach services we look to significantly expand the number of students and parents we serve each year and help develop a more prepared cohort of college ready students. The list to the right outlines all of our current outreach programs.

Feel free to [contact us](#) if you would like to know more about any of our programs or if you would like to book us for your next event or even have us host a program for your students!

Our Programs & Services⁴

- College Prep Programs
- Step-by-Step FAFSA Presentations
- Lunch & Learn Presentations
- Financial Literacy Programs
- High School Counselor Training
- High school GO Centers

North Texas Higher Education Authority, Inc. / Higher Education Servicing Corporation

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