



Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

April 29, 2014

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HIGHER EDUCATION NEWSWIRE

[Gov. Perry Appoints 11 Student Regents Across the State](#)
Office of the Governor-Rick Perry - April 22, 2014

[House Bill 5 brings opportunity for tech colleges](#)
Valley Morning Star - April 21, 2014

[Ahead of Higher Ed: Texas hopes to close the gaps](#)
The Daily Cougar - April 17, 2014

[GenTX Day 2014 Theme Announced, 'PicTour Contest!' Encourages Communities Statewide to Organize College Tours on Friday, May 2 and Recognize College-Bound Seniors](#)
PRWeb - April 16, 2014

[Is There A 'College Bubble' Coming?](#)
KTRH NewsRadio 740 - April 16, 2014

[PicTour Contest to celebrate college-bound seniors and inspire "undecideds"](#)
Educate Texas - April 15, 2014

[Education almanac examines earnings by college degree](#)
Chron.com - April 08, 2014

[Earnings Data Included in Latest Higher Ed Almanac](#)
The Texas Tribune - April 08, 2014

[Is College Really Worth It?](#)
Educate Texas - April 7, 2014

[In Texas, Early College High Schools Proliferate](#)
Community College Week - March 30, 2014

[Top education officials visit Amarillo](#)
Amarillo Globe-News - March 27, 2014

[Amarillo education concerns heard by state officials](#)
NewsChannel 10 - March 26, 2014

[Texas Coalition Brings State into National LEAP Program](#)
Campus Technology - March 20, 2014

HIGHER ED HUB



[TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD](#)



[Texas explores education ideas](#)

Denton Record Chronicle (AP) - March 10, 2014

THECB BUZZ

[Texas Aims to Reduce Student Debt](#)

THECB

As student debt nationwide has nearly tripled over the past decade, Texas is working to reduce the burden on students seeking to obtain education and training beyond high school. This week the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) announced a reduction in its College Access Loan (CAL) origination fees charged to cover the cost of processing each loan. For those students who qualify for the CAL program, loan origination fees of zero, three and five percent were approved for the 2014-15 school year.

"Thanks to the prudent management of our College Access Loan program, we are able to increase loan access to more Texas students while helping to save them money," said Texas Higher Education Commissioner Raymund Paredes. "For the upcoming school year, we have \$194 million available through this loan program. Our goal is to make higher education more accessible and affordable for Texas students as they pursue education and training beyond high school."

More information: <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/TXAimstoReduceStudentDebt>

[Closing the Gaps by 2015 Plan Surpasses Several Goals](#)

THECB

The THECB has released a new report highlighting the various initiatives and strategies implemented over the course of the 15-year master plan for higher education: Closing the Gaps (CTG) by 2015.

"Texas has much to celebrate but there is a lot of work yet to accomplish over the next 18 months to fully achieve our higher education goals," said Deputy Commissioner for Academic Planning and Policy David Gardner, who testified at the Senate committee meeting. "The good news is that we are well on our way to meeting the overarching Closing the Gaps goals thanks to the sustained commitment of Governor Perry, the Texas Legislature, Texas higher education institutions, and local community organizations."

According to Dr. Gardner, the new report makes clear that the progress on Closing the Gaps did not happen by accident, but rather is the result of sustained collaboration and investment from the state and institutions.

Report: http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/ClosingtheGaps2015_StrategiesReport

Press Release: <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/CTG2015SurpassesSeveralGoals>

[2014 Texas Public Higher Education Almanac](#) THECB

For those who ask “Is college really worth it?” the THECB has added a statewide earnings profile to its fourth annual Texas Public Higher Education Almanac that launched this month as part of the agency’s core mission to promote transparency and accountability among Texas public institutions of higher education.

The new earnings profile includes workforce earnings data highlighting individual first-year and long-term earnings for certain degree programs as well as a range of credential levels. The earnings data is intended to help illustrate the value of higher education, from marketable skills training and credentials to professional degrees.

The 2014 Almanac provides higher education facts and performance data that allow users to compare Texas public higher education institutions. The data provide a snapshot of how Texas is doing educationally and highlight progress relative to the state’s higher education plan, Closing the Gaps by 2015.

Press Release: www.thecb.state.tx.us/2014AlmanacPressRelease

[Strategic Planning Committee Begins Work on Next Texas Higher Ed Plan](#) THECB

The Texas Higher Education Strategic Planning Committee has begun meeting to discuss the next long-term education strategic plan as Closing the Gaps by 2015 winds to a close.

The Committee is composed of representatives from various regions of the state who bring a wealth of experience and ideas from a variety of business and education organizations.

During the deliberations process, the THECB is soliciting public input via stakeholder meetings and online tools such as College Town Hall-Texas (www.collegetownhalltx.com), an interactive, THECB-hosted website that provides an opportunity to share ideas and join in the dialogue on the future for Texas higher education.

A schedule of upcoming meetings is below. All meetings will be webcast and will be held from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM unless otherwise noted.

Meeting Dates:

May 22

June 18

July 14

August 19

September 10 (9:00 AM to 1:00 PM)

October 9

November 13

More information: http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/TxHESP_Meeting_Information

[GENTX DAY 2014 THEME ANNOUNCED, 'PICTOUR CONTEST!' ENCOURAGES COMMUNITIES STATEWIDE TO ORGANIZE COLLEGE TOURS AND RECOGNIZE COLLEGE-BOUND SENIORS](#)
THECB

On Friday, May 2, the growing college-going movement known as Generation TX (pronounced "Generation Texas") will once again rally communities to join together on GenTX Day in support of a statewide daylong celebration to inspire students to pursue and achieve a higher education.

This year, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), creators of the Generation Texas movement, have announced a theme called the 2014 GenTX Day PicTour Contest! The fourth annual campaign is designed as a call to action for GenTX Day enthusiasts across Texas to do two things in their communities:

1. Organize a college tour that gives students (especially those seniors undecided about a future path after high school) an interactive, real-world college experience that inspires them to visualize a career goal and take the steps to achieve it; and
2. Capture the defining moments of college-signing decisions made by high school seniors to celebrate each community's progress.

The GenTX Day PicTour Contest involves several photo contests and prize giveaways for Texas students, higher education institutions and community organizations who will be doing college tours or college signings as part of the official statewide 2014 GenTX Day theme.

More information: www.gentx.org

[Senate Releases New Higher Ed Interim Charges](#)
THECB

Lt. Governor, David Dewhurst announced some additional interim charges to be considered by the Senate Higher Education Committee during the interim. They are as follows:

- Examine and make recommendations regarding improvements in teacher preparation and certification programs to address any misalignment with school district shortages and

problems with retaining new teachers.

- Review and make recommendations regarding the use of dual credit coursework and other secondary school programs for college credit, including the academic rigor of such programs and predictive value for college success.
- Examine and make recommendations regarding alignment between high school coursework and expectations in freshman level college coursework. Study the impact of particular coursework, specifically mathematics (including Algebra II) and science courses, as predictors of college readiness and success.

Full list of all Senate Higher Education Committee charges:
<http://www.senate.state.tx.us/>

[State's Education and Workforce Leaders Hold Regional Forums To Gather Input On Workforce Demands](#)
THECB

In March, Higher Education Commissioner Raymund Paredes, Texas Commissioner of Education Michael Williams and Texas Workforce Commission Chairman Andres Alcantar, visited with Amarillo, Lubbock and Midland area business and education leaders as part of a series of regional forums intended to gather input on the state's education and workforce demands.

The three state leaders are working to identify alternate pathways for students to gain marketable skills; encourage local innovation that helps meet current and future educational and workforce demands; and help establish a framework for closer collaboration between public education, higher education and workforce development entities to ensure Texas is poised to compete in the global economy.

Earlier this year, the three agency leaders announced a joint effort to create the career and technical education (CTE) Early College High Schools (ECHS) initiative. Each agency committed \$1 million to support partnerships between local school districts and institutions of higher education to create career and technical education opportunities that help students simultaneously earn a high school diploma and a postsecondary credential aligned with a critical community workforce need.

Amarillo and Lubbock Press Release:
<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/EducationandWorkforceLeadersVisitAmarillo>

Midland Press Release:
<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/EducationandWorkforceLeadersVisitMidland>

THECB REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

[Senate Higher Education Discusses Closing the Gaps](#)
THECB



THECB Deputy Commissioner David Gardner provided testimony to the Senate Higher Education Committee on April 15 related to where Texas stands on Closing the Gaps goals and targets. THECB Higher Education Strategic Planning Committee members also provided testimony regarding the process underway to develop the framework for the next long-range higher education plan.

Archived video of the presentation can be found here:
<http://www.senate.state.tx.us/avarchive/>

Dr. Gardner's presentation, "Closing the Gaps by 2015 and Beyond: Building blocks for a globally competitive economy" can be found here:
<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/83rdInterimHearings&Presentations>

[Senate Education Discusses HB 5](#)
THECB

The Senate Education Committee met on April 14 to hear invited testimony on the implementation of HB 5. THECB Deputy Commissioner David Gardner provided updated data related to Closing the Gaps and the need for postsecondary education for future jobs. He also updated the Committee on the continued collaboration among the THECB, TEA and Texas Workforce Commission.

Archived video of the hearing can be found here:
<http://www.senate.state.tx.us/avarchive/>

Dr. Gardner's presentation, "Meeting the Demands of the Future Workforce: Building blocks for a globally competitive economy", can be found here:
<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/83rdInterimHearings&Presentations>

[House Public Education Discusses New TSI Assessment](#)
THECB

Higher Education Commissioner Paredes testified at the House Public Education hearing on March 25 regarding the new Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment.

His presentation, entitled, "New Texas Success Initiative Assessment: Creating a single statewide college-readiness standard" can be found here:
<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/83rdInterimHearings&Presentations>

Archived video of the hearing can be found here: <http://www.house.state.tx.us/video-audio/>

[Commissioner Paredes Meets With Texas Congressional Delegation](#)
THECB

Commissioner Paredes traveled to Washington in March to brief members of the Texas



Congressional Delegation on the state of higher education in Texas.

The Commissioner provided an overview of Texas higher education data and information regarding the Texas Affordable Baccalaureate (TAB) program.

The Commissioner also discussed other higher education related issues with the Texas Delegation, including aligning public and higher education and the workforce, the THECB collaboration with TWC and TEA on the CTE-focused Early College High School Initiative, and the new high school curriculum under HB 5.

THECB MEETING AND EVENTS

[Negotiated Rulemaking Committee on Toward EXcellence, Access and Success \(TEXAS\) Grant Program](#)

THECB

When: April 30, 2014; 09:30 AM

Where: THECB Board Room, 1200 East Anderson Lane, Austin, TX 78752

[Certification Advisory Council \(CAC\) Meeting](#)

THECB

When: May 1, 2014; 10:00 AM

Where: THECB Board Room, 1200 East Anderson Lane, Austin, TX 78752

[Negotiated Rulemaking Committee on Capital Projects](#)

THECB

When: May 6, 2014; 09:30 AM

Where: THECB Board Room, 1200 East Anderson Lane, Austin, TX 78752

[Advisory Committee on Research Programs](#)

THECB

When: May 14, 2014; 11:00 AM

Where: THECB Board Room, 1200 East Anderson Lane, Austin, TX 78752

[Committee on Affordability, Accountability and Planning \(CAAP\)](#)

THECB

When: June 25, 2014; 9:00 AM

Where: THECB Board Room, 1200 East Anderson Lane, Austin, TX 78752

[Committee on Academic and Workforce Success \(CAWS\)](#)

THECB

When: June 25, 2014; 11:00 AM or upon adj. of CAAP meeting

Where: THECB Board Room, 1200 East Anderson Lane, Austin, TX 78752

