

**2018
Texas Higher Education
Star Awards**



November 30, 2018

18th Annual Texas Higher Education Star Awards

Presented by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

The Texas Higher Education Star Award was originally established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in 2001 to recognize exceptional contributions toward achieving one or more of the goals of the former long-range Texas higher education plan, *Closing the Gaps by 2015*, which brought Texas from 2000 to 2015. The state's new higher education plan, *60x30TX*, adopted by the Coordinating Board on July 23, 2015, builds on the success of *Closing the Gaps* and is designed to establish a globally competitive workforce in Texas by 2030. (See *60x30TX* at: <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/60x30TX>)

Criteria for the 2018 Star Award

Programs/projects/activities, groups/organizations, and partnerships must:

- demonstrate successful outcomes in areas of: (1) the educational attainment of the state's 25- to 34-year-old population; (2) student completion of a certificate or degree; (3) the number of programs with identified marketable skills; or (4) the implementation of programs or cost efficiencies that help to ensure that undergraduate student loan debt will not exceed 60 percent of first-year wages;
- clearly demonstrate improvement and excellence through the use of benchmarks and other comparison data that allow progress to be monitored and evaluated and that are attributable to the efforts of the program/organization/partnership; and
- clearly demonstrate an efficient cost/benefit ratio per student.

Each year, the Coordinating Board receives applications submitted from throughout Texas. After an initial review by a Coordinating Board staff committee, a select group of applicants are named finalists.

A nine-member Texas Higher Education Star Award Selection Committee includes three members of the Coordinating Board, three Texas business and community leaders, and three out-of-state education experts. Winners are chosen from this review committee's highest rankings.

Texas Higher Education 2018 Star Award Selection Committee

Coordinating Board Members

- **Arcilia C. Acosta**, Member, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
- **Fred Farias III, O.D.**, Vice-Chair, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
- **Stuart W. Stedman**, Chair, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Texas Business and Community Leaders

- **Laurie Bricker, M.Ed.**, Consultant, Houston, Texas
- **Charles R. Matthews, Ed.D.**, Trustee, College for All Texans Foundation Board, Aquilla, Texas
- **Michael Paris**, Executive Director, Paris Economic Development Corporation, Paris, Texas

Out-of-State Higher Education Experts

- **Dale Campbell, Ph.D.**, Professor and Director, Institute of Higher Education & FUTURES Bellwether College Consortium, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida
- **Marshall A. Hill, Ph.D.**, Executive Director, National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements, WICHE, Boulder, Colorado
- **Brian T. Prescott, Ph.D.**, Associate Vice President, National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), Boulder, Colorado

2018 Texas Higher Education Star Award Recipient



**HCC's Weekend College: A Template for
Degree Completion for Working Adults**
Houston Community College



2018 Texas Higher Education Star Award Finalists

Project Access

Alamo Colleges: Palo Alto College

Palo Alto College launched Project Access in August 2016, the first and only program of its kind in San Antonio offered to individuals with documented intellectual disabilities. The program is designed to support students in accessing postsecondary education and in developing skills for gainful employment. Using a cohort learning design, the credential for the program is the General Office Level 1 Certificate that is designed to be completed across three semesters of coursework. The General Office Certificate is the first level of training for working in the Administrative Support field and can lead to an Associate of Applied Science degree in Administrative Assistant.

Currently, there are 30 students who have enrolled in the program across all cohorts. As of fall 2018, Project Access will be adding its fourth cohort of students, serving approximately 40 students in total. All students participating in Project Access have had a semester-to-semester persistence rate of 100%. Students within the program have completed each semester with an average GPA above 3.0. The average cumulative GPA is 3.47. Within the first cohort of students who have been enrolled for the required three semesters to complete their credential, 100% have graduated; Cohorts 2 and 3 are also projected to have a graduation rate of 100%.

The cost for three semesters of the program with two concurrent cohorts includes a portion of staff and faculty salaries as well as a peer note taker, which totals \$44,714. Internship opportunities are being explored with local employers. In reviewing data, Alamo Colleges has the capacity to serve approximately 200-240 students with intellectual disabilities across Bexar County and the City of San Antonio.

For additional information, please contact: Ms. Cindy Morgan, Senior Coordinator for Disability Support Services, at cjibbs3@alamo.edu or (210) 486-3027.

2018 Texas Higher Education Star Award Finalists

HCC's Weekend College: A Template for Degree Completion for Working Adults

Houston Community College

Houston Community College's (HCC) Weekend College ("Saturdays Only") is designed to improve graduation rates for students pursuing a major in business, one of the most popular majors at HCC, and to lower student debt. The program is designed for working students and has become a recruiting tool for the college. Courses are 50% in class and 50% online; in class instruction is offered all day on Saturday at HCC's Central College to fulfill requirements two business degrees and two certificates – AA in Business, AAS in Business Management, Certificate in Business Management, and the Core Curriculum Completion Certificate. All four programs are mapped from beginning to end on a course map showing the term and semester of the offering, and whether the course is offered in the morning or afternoon. Students complete two classes at a time in a format of 8-week terms, making them eligible for Pell grants and other forms of financial assistance, and able to complete 30 semester credit hours (SCH) per year. Using cohort instruction, students are offered personalized advising and support.

Enrollment has been increasing since the first group started in Fall 2016. The percentage of students in the program who complete courses with grades of A-C are higher than the percentage of other students in the same areas of study who complete courses with grades of A-C (Spring 2018: 80% versus 71% respectively). While cohort size is still small (105 students in the four program areas), completion rates are high, ranging from 50% to 80%. Students pay nothing additional beyond tuition/fees and institutional materials. Tuition/fees for an in-district student for the full two-year program is \$4,000.

For additional information, please contact: Dr. Cheryl Peters, Executive Director of Honors and Weekend College, at cheryl.peters@hccs.edu or (713) 718-5203.

2018 Texas Higher Education Star Award Finalists

Teach Denton: Supporting Teacher Pathways and Teacher Effectiveness at Texas Woman's University

Teach Denton Integrated Collaborative

The Teach Denton Integrated Collaborative with Denton ISD, Texas Woman's University (TWU), North Central Texas College (NCTC), and iTeachTEXAS focuses on increasing the number of Denton ISD students who go on to complete either, or both, an associate or bachelor's degree and certify to teach. This collaborative project began in 2014 when Texas Woman's University's Education Preparation Program (EPP) and College of Professional Education established a partnership with Denton ISD Education & Training Program to mutually support both the development of high quality teachers in the growing Denton ISD and to increase the number of students seeking to continue their education at Texas Woman's University.

K-12 students who demonstrate natural traits for becoming a teacher are identified early in elementary school by Denton ISD faculty, explicitly told they seem to have a talent for teaching, and receive mentoring through high school. Successful high school students who are completers of the Denton ISD's Education & Training program continue their educator preparation directly at TWU (BA/BS) or via NCTC (AA/AAT) for transfer to TWU. The goal is for these students to return to Denton ISD to teach in high need areas upon completion of their university training. Completers of this program receive preferential hiring consideration in Denton ISD. TWU provides a course waiver, bilingual education grant funds to help cover tuition with a study abroad experience for students seeking bilingual education certification, test preparation resources, and mentoring beyond graduation (New Teacher Academy).

At this point in the collaborative, two high-school classes have graduated from Denton ISD's Education & Training program. This amounts to 78 potential future teachers. Scholarships and waivers have been provided to each of these graduates. A longitudinal study of the impact of this teacher pathway on the recruitment, preparation, and retention of these teachers within their first two years of teaching in the field is underway; however, the Superintendent of Schools, Denton Independent School District, is already documenting increased interest in becoming a teacher by Denton ISD's K-12 students.

For additional information, please contact: Dr. Lisa Huffman, Dean of College of Professional Education, at lhuffman1@twu.edu or (940) 898-2205.

2018 Texas Higher Education Star Award Finalists

Service-Learning at Home and Abroad

Texas A&M International University

Over the last six years, Texas A&M International University (TAMIU) has worked to institutionalize service-learning pedagogy. The goal of service-learning at TAMIU is to target personal, civic, and academic learning by providing hands-on, experiential learning opportunities to a large number of low-income, first generation, Hispanic students. To date, 179 service-learning courses have been developed, engaging over 4,200 students. One of the most successful service-learning programs is a study-abroad course in the Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) major.

The Multicultural/Multilingual Issues in Speech Language Pathology is an international service-learning course that has taken place for the past five years in the country of Belize during the winter inter-session. Since its establishment in 2013, students participating in the study abroad program have received institutional study abroad scholarships that cover about 40% of the program cost, making the trip more affordable for all students in the CSD major. As part of the program, students perform 50 hours or more of service during the study-abroad experience, which helps them develop a unique perspective and professional skill set. Students complete service-learning activities with various community organizations, are challenged to apply what they learn academically to real life situations, and are exposed to other cultures that will better prepare them to work with culturally and linguistically diverse populations. Program participants complete a post-study abroad program survey. Post-study abroad program survey results reveal that 15% of respondents stated that they agree and 85% stated that they strongly agree that the experience prepared them to adapt to diverse environments. Currently, students that have participated in the program have a 100% graduation rate.

For additional information, please contact: Dr. Melissa Garcia, Assistant Professional for Communication Sciences and Disorders, at mpgarcia@tamiu.edu or (956) 326-3139.

2018 Texas Higher Education Star Award Finalists

Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences Degree Program (BAAS)

The University of Texas at Tyler

The University of Texas at Tyler (UT-Tyler) redesigned the Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences (BAAS) degree program as a comprehensive degree completion initiative to serve individuals in East Texas who have some college credit but no degree. As the only fully online completion degree program at UT-Tyler, the BAAS was created specifically for working professionals to finish their degree. Initially launched in 2015, the BAAS program has seen significant enrollment growth, from 97 students in spring of 2015 to 246 students in spring of 2018. From the 2015-2017 academic years, 151 BAAS degrees have been awarded. For the 2017-2018 academic years, including prospective summer graduates, UT-Tyler anticipates 102 additional BAAS degrees to be awarded. This would bring the three-year total of degrees awarded to BAAS students from 2015-2018 to 253.

The redesign was led by an Advisory Board consisting of faculty from each academic college, department chairs, and administrative and professional staff. The BAAS Professional Core was developed to enhance the relevance of the degree to the workforce. The Professional Core consists of 18 semester credit hours (SCH) of coursework where the academic content and learning experiences are infused with 21st century job skills, enabling students to become proficient in marketable skills that cut across all majors. In addition to the development of the Professional Core, the Advisory Board created five Thematic Concentration areas that enable students to customize their educational experiences to reflect their specific academic and professional goals. These concentrations are: Business Occupations, Human Behavior, Health Studies, Healthcare Management, and General Studies. A strategic course rotation has been developed to allow students to begin the program year-round with consistent and predictable course offerings.

The BAAS degree program is launching, "Patriot Reconnect," a strategic marketing initiative to recruit previous UT-Tyler students who have discontinued their degree within the last 10 calendar years. Over 550 non-completers with a minimum of 90 earned credit hours, core complete status, and at least a 2.0 GPA will be the audience for a targeted digital marketing campaign. This will be the first of many initiatives aimed at reengaging discontinued students at UT-Tyler. UT-Tyler has a commitment to recruit 500 students into the program by fall 2019.

For additional information, please contact: Dr. Colleen Swain, Associate Provost for Undergraduate and Online Education, at cswain@uttyler.edu or (903) 565-5898.

Texas Higher Education Star Awards Past Recipients

2017

Accelerated Programmer Training

Austin Community College District

Eight-Week Terms: A Pathway to 60x30TX

Odessa College

UH in 4

University of Houston

The Gateway Course Innovation Initiative

University of Houston-Downtown

2016

Texas Affordable Baccalaureate Program

Texas A&M University–Commerce

2015

The Education and Career Positioning System

– Linking Student Pathways to Careers

Lone Star College–University Park

2014

Gulf Coast Partners Achieving Student Success

Lee College and Goose Creek Consolidated I.S.D.

San Antonio College GED-to-College Transition Program

San Antonio College Services for Women & Non-Traditional Students and San Antonio I.S.D.

Texas A&M – Blinn TEAM Program

Texas A&M University and Blinn College

Developmental Math Program

The University of Texas at El Paso

2013

Brookhaven College Counseling Center SkillsShops
Brookhaven College

Students Advancing Through Involvement in Research Student Talent Expansion Program (STAIRSTEP)
Lamar University

Temple College – Texas Bioscience Institute
Temple College

2012

Alamo Area Academies
Alamo Colleges

Dual Enrollment Medical Science Academy
South Texas College

UT Arlington-Academic Partnerships BSN Completion Program
The University of Texas at Arlington College of Nursing and Academic Partnerships

Gateway Project
West Texas A&M University

2011

In-House Online Tutoring
Houston Community College System

IDEA Public Schools
IDEA Public Schools

Students Together, Involving, Networking, and Guiding (STING)
The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College

Gateways to Excellence in Math and Science (GEMS)
The University of Texas at Dallas

UTMB Integrated Medical Curriculum
The University of Texas Medical Branch

Uplift Education
Uplift Education

2010

Learning Frameworks

Brazosport College

College of Nursing Undergraduate Nursing Weekend Program

Texas Woman's University T. Boone Pickens Institute of Health Sciences, Dallas Center

Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP)

Created by Senate Bill 940 of the 77th Texas Legislature

Modeling Excellence in Collaborative Teacher Education

University of Houston Downtown, Lone Star College-Kingwood, and Lone Star College-CyFair

2009

Mathematics Outreach Center

Amarillo College

College, Career & Technology Academy

South Texas College and Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District

TAMU-Commerce/Mesquite Independent School District Partnership

TAMU-Commerce and Mesquite Independent School District

Partnering for Teachers

Texas Woman's University and Dallas ISD

Late Intervention Program

The University of Texas at San Antonio

Providing Access to Success: Emerald Eagle Scholars Program

University of North Texas

2008

Online Teacher Preparation Program for Paraprofessionals

Stephen F. Austin State University

UTEP-EPCC Transfer Scholarship Program

The University of Texas at El Paso

Second Degree Accelerated BSN Program

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

Collegiate Challenge Program

Spring Branch Independent School District

University-wide Enrollment Management

University of North Texas

College of Education Partnership

South Plains College/Texas Tech University

Student Employment Initiative

The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College

2007

LULAC Parent/Child Scholarship Program

Alamo Community College District-San Antonio College

Developmental Education Initiative Title V Project

El Paso Community College

UT TeleCampus

The University of Texas System

Student Money Management Center

University of North Texas

2006

College Connection Program

Austin Community College

Academic Assistance and Resource Center

Stephen F. Austin State University

SureStart Program

Tarrant County College District

Chemistry Peer Leader Program

The University of Texas at El Paso

YES College Preparatory Schools

YES College Preparatory Schools

2005

Graduates and Completers Projects

Houston Community College System

Summer Bridge Program

North Harris Montgomery Community College District-North Harris College

Navarro College Partnership
Texas A&M University-Commerce

Center for Mexican American Studies (CMAS)
University of Houston

Model Institutions for Excellence Initiative
University of Texas at El Paso

Gulf Coast Consortia/Keck Center
University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston

2004

Community Link
Amarillo College

College Assistance Migrant Program
St. Edward's University

College of Science & Technology Scholars Academy at UH-D
University of Houston-Downtown

Law School Preparation Institute
The University of Texas at El Paso

2003

Community Education Centers
Alamo Community College District

Strategies for Success
Alamo Community College District – San Antonio College

Rising Star Program
Dallas County Community College District

The Academy for Collegiate Excellence and Student Success
Prairie View A&M University

Pathways to Success in Science
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

South Plains Nursing Education Community Coalition
Texas Tech Health Sciences Center, South Plains College, Lubbock Christian University, and Covenant School of Nursing, in partnership with University Medical Center, Covenant Health System, WorkSource of the South Plains, and American State Bank

Entering Student Program

The University of Texas at El Paso

Increasing the Success of the Most Economically Disadvantaged Students

West Texas A&M University

2002

Premedical Honors College

Baylor College of Medicine

The Monitored Probation Early Intervention Program

Lamar University

HomeGrown Teacher Education Program

San Jacinto College-North Campus

Nursing Success Program

Texas Woman's University

The Mother-Daughter Program

The University of Texas at El Paso

Texas Prefreshman Engineering Program

The University of Texas at San Antonio

University Scholars

The University of Texas-Pan American

2001

First-Year Learning Communities Program

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Virtual College of Texas

Texas Association of Community Colleges

Mathworks Summer Program

Texas State University-San Marcos

The University Writing Center

Texas Tech University

Jesse H. Jones Academic Institute

University of Houston-Downtown