



Texas Coalition *for* Excellence *in* Higher Education

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 4, 2017

Jenifer Sarver
512-577-9099
Jenifer@SarverStrategies.com

COALITION CALLS ON LEGISLATURE TO VOTE FOR TEXAS' FUTURE, NOT SHORTCHANGE HIGHER EDUCATION

AUSTIN—Following the passage of the Senate version of the biennial budget, which included deep cuts to higher education, and in advance of the upcoming vote on the House version, the Texas Coalition for Excellence in Higher Education today issued the following statement:

“Six years ago our Coalition came together to fight back against shortsighted so-called ‘reform’ efforts that would have damaged our educational institutions, undermined our state’s academic standing, and stymied Texas’ ability to fuel life-saving innovations and discoveries. Today, some members of the Texas Legislature have proposed shortsighted budget cuts that would realize those negative effects.

“Higher education is more than a budget line item – it is the future of our state and all its residents. The positive effects of quality education and cutting-edge research touch every single Texan. Higher education transforms lives for the better; fuels medical, technology and intellectual discoveries; and prepares present and future generations to lead, invent, create, teach and hire. We cannot shortchange our state’s future by underfunding education.

“We applaud Speaker Straus and House leadership for recognizing that even in tight budgetary times, higher education remains a vital lifeblood for our state’s future. Because of past prudence, we have the funds necessary to help soften the budgetary blow to our state’s institutions. We call on all lawmakers to vote for the long-term and recognize the critically important impact higher education has on our state’s future.”

About The Coalition

The Texas Coalition for Excellence in Higher Education is a bipartisan group of concerned Texans who organized to publicly support and promote excellence in public higher education, and oppose policies and recommendations that are destructive to its quality and long-term sustainability. Our group includes former university presidents, chancellors and regents, as well as numerous business leaders, philanthropists and more than 400 prominent and engaged Texans. Formed in 2011, in response to a growing concern over recommendations being floated that could have long-term damaging effects on our institutions of higher learning, The Coalition continues to work to advance a thoughtful, constructive and transparent dialogue around higher education in Texas, seeking to improve the quality educational opportunities for all Texans.

For more information on the Coalition and information on higher education in Texas, please visit:
www.TexasEducationExcellence.org