

# Texas Success: Community Colleges Leading the Way

## Texas community colleges continue to be innovators that drive student success and economic growth.

- Community colleges **lead the way** in higher education through innovative approaches. We are flexible and respond quickly to the needs of the communities, businesses and industries we serve. We have been change-agents and leaders in educating and training our state's workforce for decades.
- Texas community colleges have seen **real results** from our critical focus on increasing student success and achievement:
  - » The number of students completing credentials (certificates and associate degrees) at a Texas community college has increased by 47% since 2010, putting more Texans to work in jobs that pay well.
  - » The number of students transferring to universities from community colleges has increased by 28% since 2010.
  - » And community colleges now serve more than 120,000 high school students each school year through dual credit opportunities across the state.

## Texas community colleges are the linchpins to achieving the goals of the state's new 60x30TX strategic plan for higher education.

- The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has been working with stakeholders across the state to develop **one of the best higher education strategic plans in the United States**. The plan's goal: at least 60 percent of Texans ages 25-34 will earn a higher education credential by 2030 (60x30TX).
- This ambitious plan acknowledges the critical role community colleges play; **we will do the heavy lifting** so that Texas can achieve the goals of 60x30TX. As a result, Texas must invest in community colleges. An investment in community colleges is ultimately an investment in the future prosperity of Texas.
- Community colleges are best suited to address the goals defined by 60x30TX because **we are the leaders in directly addressing student success**, driven in part by performance-based funding.

## Supporting Texas community colleges is an investment in local leaders of change and positive student outcomes.

- Texas community colleges are asking for an **increase of just over \$87 million** in additional state funding.
  - » We seek this investment because we are continuously transforming our institutions to provide low-cost tuition and fees for students, helping them graduate with less debt, and moving them into workforce jobs. This is the right investment in Texas and the future of these Texans.
- Texas community colleges continuously demonstrate innovative ways of **preparing students for the workforce** and are **rethinking what defines student success** by exploring efficiencies in how we run our institutions.
- We are **committed to performance-based funding** that is modeled on an institution competing against itself for increased state support. During the 83rd and 84th sessions, we asked legislators to allocate 10% of our overall funding to performance-based funding, leaving the remaining 90% for contact hour funding.
- Performance-based funding drives innovations in student success and serves as our guiding principle. We believe in this outcomes-based model so firmly that we are asking that **performance funding be decoupled from contact hour funding**, focusing community colleges on preparing well-trained, credentialed Texans for our workforce.

## #TXsuccess

**As go Texas community colleges, so goes the state.  
And as goes Texas, so goes the nation.**