



## AGENDA FOR THE 85TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2017

### IMPACT

Texas Community Colleges are vital to the economic well-being of the State of Texas, and Del Mar College is critical to the South Texas region. Texas Community Colleges will play a central role in achieving the Texas Strategic Plan for Higher Education, 60X30TX.

### REGIONAL AND LOCAL

Each of the 50 Community College Districts serves as a central partner with school districts, universities, business, and industry to build successful pathways from public schools to postsecondary education to workforce for their respective communities.

### FUNDING

In order for the State of Texas to meet its higher education goals as put forth by the 60X30TX plan, community colleges will be asked to do much of the heavy lifting. Community colleges are the starting point for the overwhelming majority of Texans entering higher education or enhancing their workforce readiness. Because of this vital role, increasing the state's investment in community colleges is essential in the upcoming Legislative Session. With this in mind, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Formula Advisory Committee recommended \$1.94 billion in General Revenue for community colleges over the next biennium. However, given slowdowns in some sectors of the Texas economy, difficult decisions will have to be made to balance the state's budget and maintain the fiscal responsibility that has kept our state strong. Accordingly, the Texas Community College Association (TACC) respectfully requests \$1.83 billion in General Revenue to fund Core Operations, Student Success, and Instruction across the 50 districts in the following funding amounts:

**Core Operations: \$75,000,000**  
**(\$25 million increase from 2016-17)**

All 50 college districts have basic operating costs. The \$500,000 per district per year level of funding was established by the 83rd Legislature. Increasing the core by \$250,000 per district per year will help support all institutions, especially small and rural institutions.

**Student Success: \$186,621,616**  
**(\$17 million increase from 2016-17)**

Texas Community Colleges continue to advance programs and strategies that improve student success on multiple metrics. In order for the Student Success Points system to effectively reward institutions for improvements in student success, the points need to be funded at a minimum of \$185 per point.

**Instruction: \$1,567,146,597**  
**(\$45 million increase from 2016-17)**

The largest portion of state revenue provides community colleges with funds for instruction. The ability of community colleges to meet workforce skills demands, increase dual credit courses, and expand educational opportunities for all students is directly tied to instructional funding appropriated by the Legislature.

### **Texas Association of Community Colleges Request for 2018-19 Biennium**

**TOTAL Core, Student Success, & Instruction, 2018-19**  
**\$1,828,768,214**

**TOTAL Core, Student Success, & Instruction, 2016-17**  
**\$1,741,684,013**

**Additional General Revenue Request of Texas  
Community Colleges**  
**\$87,084,201**

Texas Association of Community Colleges Agenda  
Ratified by the  
Del Mar College Board of Regents

December 13, 2016

DATE

Trey McCampbell, Board Chair

# 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.**