

David W. Gardner

Deputy Commissioner for Academic Planning
and Policy/Chief Academic Officer

As Deputy Commissioner for Academic Planning and Policy and Chief Academic Officer, David W. Gardner leads the Coordinating Board's Planning and Accountability Division, the Academic Affairs and Research Division, and the Division of P-16 Initiatives. His primary responsibilities include coordination of the Board's efforts toward *Closing the Gaps* through academic excellence and research at Texas institutions of higher education.

Previously, Gardner served the agency as the Associate Commissioner for Academic Excellence and Research and as the Assistant Commissioner for Planning and Information Resources. Gardner provided leadership for statewide initiatives such as Texas' higher education plan *Closing the Gaps by 2015*, the college and university electronic library resource sharing consortium, the Texas Accountability System for Higher Education, and the Texas Public Education Information Resource, which includes information on all students enrolled in Texas public schools, as well as public and private higher education institutions in Texas.

Prior to joining the Coordinating Board staff in 1985, Gardner was on the faculty at Hofstra University where he taught in the master's and doctoral programs in the Administration and Policy Studies Department. While at Hofstra, he was director of the master's program, chaired the university's planning committee, and served on the graduate council and the scholarships committee. He has been a visiting professor at Texas A&M University, and is currently an Adjunct Professor of Higher Education at The University of Texas at Austin.

Gardner received his Ph.D. and Master's degrees from Texas A&M University and his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Houston.

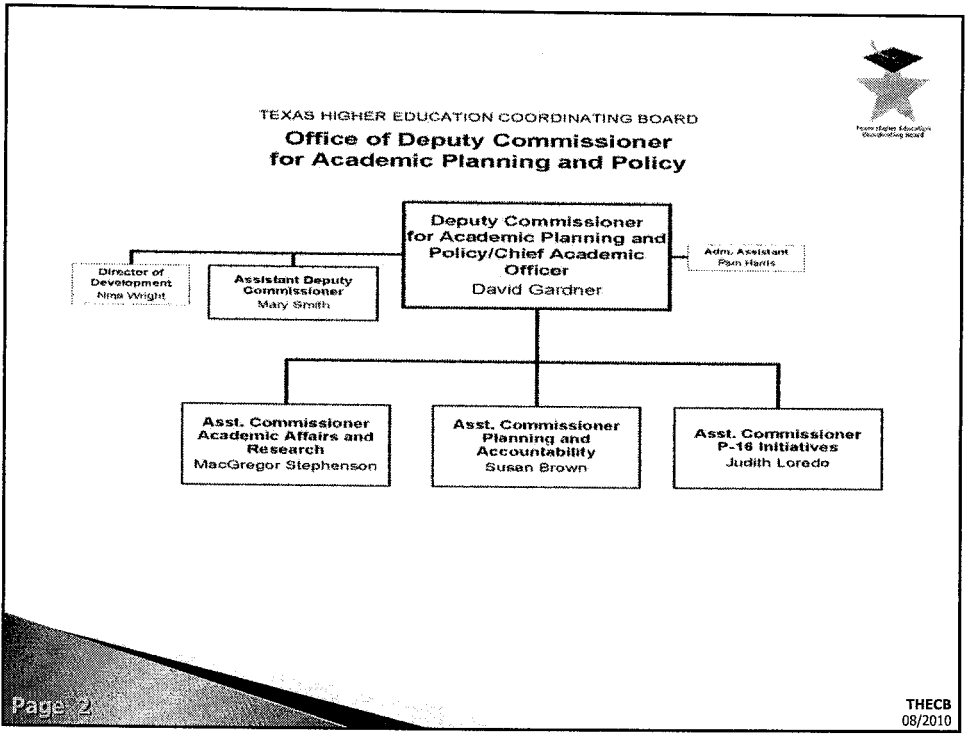


Texas Higher Education
Coordinating Board

Structure and Operation of the Coordinating Board – Academic Planning and Policy

Presentation for Joint Hearing of
**Senate Committee on Higher Education and
House Committee on Higher Education**
Interim Charge #6: Evaluate THECB

August 19, 2010



Reorganization in Order to Reach *Closing the Gaps* Goals



- **THECB went through a reorganization about four years ago with the explicit purpose of reaching the *Closing the Gaps* goals.**
 - ✓ Created new divisions to increase efficiency and standardization
 - ✓ Hired key staff with experience in the public school sector
 - ✓ Hired key staff for programming evaluation

Academic Affairs and Research Overview of Responsibilities



Academic Programs

- Promotes and monitors academic integrity of public institutions.
- Reviews degree programs.
- Provides continual assessment of academic programs and statewide policies.

Professional Programs

- Provides oversight of programs that traditionally lead to the practice of an occupation or profession.
- Assesses institutional effectiveness of community and technical colleges workforce education programs.

Research and Grant Programs

- Provides oversight of competitive scientific research, workforce and medical education programs at public and independent colleges.
- Collects, maintains and publishes university and health-related institution data.
- Evaluates special item-funded research programs at Texas higher education institutions.
- Reviews institutional restricted research projects.
- Prepares annual research expenditures reporting for general academic and health-related institutions.
- Administers tobacco settlement funds.

General Programs

- Administers and monitors Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education programs to post-secondary institutions.

Academic Affairs and Research Key Programs



- **Improving the transfer process**
 - ✓ Statewide Mechanical Engineering Compact
 - ✓ Replicate the process of developing mechanical engineering transfer agreements across 16 other disciplines in critical fields
- **Improving opportunities for student success**
 - ✓ Reverse Transfer
 - ✓ Adult Degree Completion Program
- **Improving educator instruction**
 - ✓ Texas Professional Development Modules
- **Working to ensure development of programs that meet higher education needs**
 - ✓ Doctoral Program Review
- **Working to ensure funding for research and programs on public health issues**
 - ✓ Minority Health Research and Education Grant Program (MHGP)

Planning and Accountability Overview of Responsibilities



Education Data Center

- Ensures accurate and timely institutionally reported data is available to the agency for purposes of higher education analysis and reporting.

Educational Data Analysis Support Center

- Supports the Information Access Initiative Project.
- Coordinates, provides data to, and confirms results from TPEIR Initiative.
- Manages data, evaluates programs, and researches policy for the Education Research Centers created by the 79th Legislature, 3rd Called Session, HB 1.

Planning

- Responsible for the continued development of the accountability system, the agency's strategic plan, and the Board's planning efforts, including *Closing the Gaps by 2015*.
- Reviews and recommends changes to the formula for allocating legislative funding to higher education.
- Conducts facilities review for higher education institutions.

Planning and Accountability Key Programs



- **Making data more relevant to users**
 - ✓ Accountability System
 - ✓ Data Website Redesign
- **Making data more accessible**
 - ✓ Institutional Online Resumes
- **Providing annual updates on Texas' progress on *Closing the Gaps by 2015***
 - ✓ Closing the Gaps Progress Reports
- **Analyzing the resources and the capacity needed to meet *Closing the Gaps* and higher education needs**
 - ✓ Development of Formula Funding recommendations
 - ✓ Facilities review
 - ✓ Utilization to Space Usage Efficiency Report

P-16 Initiatives Overview of Responsibilities



College Readiness

- Coordinates and strengthens academic programming between public and higher education.
- Develops and implements projects related to college readiness standards.

Educator Quality

- Strengthens and supports research-based practices that lead to improvement of educator preparation programs.
- Oversees various federal and state funded grants aimed at improving the preparation and quality of our Texas educator workforce.

P-16 Outreach

- Coordinates and supports outreach efforts between and among educational entities, community organizations, and businesses at the regional and local levels to promote a college-going culture.
- Provides assistance to P-16 Regional Councils and other policies and programs designed to address the needs of economically disadvantaged or at-risk students.

P-16 Initiatives Key Programs



- **Working to ensure successful transition between high school and postsecondary education**
 - ✓ College and Career Readiness Standards
 - ✓ Higher Education Bridging Programs
 - ✓ AVID Texas Postsecondary Project
 - ✓ Texas College Advising Corps
- **Working to ensure that Texas students are prepared academically to succeed in higher education**
 - ✓ Developmental Education Reform
 - ✓ Texas Success Initiative
- **Working to create a college-going culture**
 - ✓ P-16 Regional Councils
 - ✓ College Access Challenge Grant
 - ✓ GenTX Campaign
 - ✓ African American Male Mentorship Program
- **Supporting improvements in educator preparation**
 - ✓ Math, Science, and Technology (MST) Teacher Academies
 - ✓ Centers for Teacher Education Programs (CTEP)
 - ✓ Texas Educator Preparation Demonstration Sites

Development Office provides support in seeking additional resources across divisions



- **Academic Affairs and Research**
 - ✓ \$1.2 million grant over 4 years from Lumina Foundation for Education for statewide voluntary articulation agreements
 - ✓ Seeking match for College Access Challenge Grant funding Adult Degree Completion Program
- **Planning & Accountability**
 - ✓ \$1 million over 2 years from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for improvement in data-driven decision making and support for the Education Research Center's state-level staff
 - ✓ Data Fellows Program for community college and school district staff training on available postsecondary data
- **P-16 Initiatives**
 - ✓ \$1.2 million over 2 years from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for college access centers
 - ✓ Seeking match for College Access Challenge Grant funding for GenTX and other outreach
 - ✓ Efforts underway to find additional private funding for developmental education projects to overcome impact of budget cuts

Advisory Committees on Policy and Program Development



- **THECB convenes committees to advise the Board on policy and program development for education programs and practices.**
- **Committees are composed of members of higher education, public education, and community and industry.**
- **Examples:**
 - ✓ Formula Funding Advisory Committee
 - ✓ Undergraduate Advisory Committee
 - ✓ Advisory Committee on Higher Education Cost Efficiencies
 - ✓ Advisory Committee on Research Programs