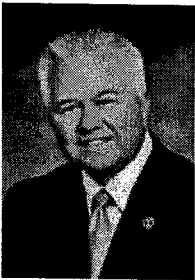


## **Speaker Introduction:**

**Michael D. McKinney, M.D.**  
**Chancellor, The Texas A&M University System**



Dr. Michael D. McKinney is chancellor of The Texas A&M University System. Since taking office in 2006, he has assembled a leadership team of top researchers, policy-makers, planners and implementers to guide the A&M System into a new era of cooperation, achievement and international prestige.

Dr. McKinney has championed the recruitment of the best and brightest faculty, staff and administrators at the system's 11 universities, seven state agencies and health science center. Under his leadership, the system's Office of Technology Commercialization has expanded the ways in which universities and the public can benefit from commercial alliances.

Another mark of his leadership can be seen in booming enrollment across the system, which has increased to nearly 115,000 students. That includes more than 22,000 graduates last year.

Dr. McKinney came to the A&M System from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, where he was senior executive vice president and chief operating officer. He is a former chief of staff to Governor Rick Perry, and was appointed commissioner of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission by former Governor George W. Bush. Dr. McKinney practiced medicine for 16 years in Centerville, Texas, and served in the State Legislature from 1984 to 1991.

He was recognized as one of the Ten Best Legislators and was speaker pro-tempore from 1989 to 1990. The University of Texas Medical Branch awarded him the Ashbel Smith Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2009, the highest alumni honor bestowed by the university's School of Medicine Alumni Association.

August 16, 2010

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Michael McKinney, chancellor of the Texas A&M University System, response to invited testimony as chairman of the Council of Public University Presidents and Chancellors (CPUPC, or “see-pup-see”). CPUPC is a very loose association of public independent universities and independent boards who have similar interest and frequently share best practices.

With regard to the structure and operation of the Coordinating Board, the recommendations provided below represent personal opinion as well as recommendations among members of the Council. Recommendations and observations include the following:

1. **The state should consider creating a single public education entity,** guided by directors appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. This would combine oversight responsibilities of public education and higher education into a single Pre-K thru 20-plus agency (including graduate school, professional education).
2. **Higher education policy should be set by the legislature.** Goal-setting should be done by the Governor and legislature.
  - **Higher education goals should be determined by the legislature** with the responsibility of achieving state-set goals up to the Coordinating Board, Regents and institutions working together. In regards to closing the gaps what the institutions need to do is clear but the “how” to succeed component remains an area for the Coordinating Board, Regents, System and institutional leaders, to identify and implement.

- Programs to achieve these goals must come from universities and the Regents.
  - The Coordinating Board should advise the legislature and governor on whether the proposed programs will meet the legislative goals.
3. **The state should have a central repository for higher education data.** In Texas, we have 38 public general academic institutions, six university systems each with a Board of Regents, and four independent public universities with their own Board of Regents. Data consistency is difficult to achieve with so many different sources of data (each institution, system-generated, and that generated by the Coordinating Board, as well as data collected and reported by other state agencies).
- **Data reporting must be reviewed in terms of the generation of useful information.** Reports that are not useful to management should be eliminated. Many reports required today were introduced years ago and may no longer be relevant to the recipient. Data reporting is a huge burden on the institutions, so any opportunity to eliminate or streamline the reporting process would be greatly appreciated.
  - **Required reports could be provided a sunset process,** with the opportunity for originators of the required reports (and recipients of the data) to indicate a desire to continue the report if the data is not readily available elsewhere. Usefulness of each report to be reaffirmed by the Coordinating Board and the legislature every 6 years.
  - **A list of approximately 500 required reports** has been assembled by university professionals who have worked diligently to identify opportunities to reduce the reporting burden by sun-setting cumbersome or duplicative reports.
4. **Institutional participation is vital to advancing efficiencies in higher education,** including statewide advisory committees, pilot program development, and work groups.