



UNIVERSITY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR UNIVERSITIES

WHAT WE KNOW FROM OUR EXPERIENCES

- Out of the 50 states, Texas ranked 28th in bachelor's degree attainment and 44th in associate degree attainment.
- Of the 100 largest metro areas, Houston ranks 57th in the share of its residents with college degrees (28.4%) compared to 8th ranked Austin (39.4%) and 35th ranked Dallas-Fort Worth (31.1%)
- With respect to the Closing the Gaps by 2015: The Texas Higher Education Plan, current results indicate the state is well below the target for participation of Hispanics in higher education. In addition, in terms of the number of bachelor's, associate's, and certificates awarded, the state is behind in the areas of technology, teachers initially certified, and math and science teachers initially certified.
- The educational attainment of those age 25 and over with respect to a bachelor's degree or higher was 27.46% for Harris County and 26.14% for Galveston County while it was 38.71% for Fort Bend County.
- Within a 10 mile radius of Clear Lake, 28.98% of those age 25 and over had achieved a bachelor's degree or higher although for the Hispanic segment of the population in this area the figure was 11.59%.
- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rates by level of education for individuals age 25 and above in April 2012 were 12.5% for those with less than a high school diploma, 7.9% for those with a high school diploma but no college, 7.6% for those with an associate degree or some college, and 4.0% for those with a bachelor's degree.
- In the Gulf Coast region, the median wage was \$43,281 for those with a bachelor's degree; \$34,259 for those with an associate's degree, and \$25,383 for those with a high school diploma.

Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON – CLEAR LAKE, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BRANCH, RICE UNIVERSITY, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AT GALVESTON, EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY

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point 1

LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS "OVER THE HORIZON" THAT WE ENDORSE

- **Restoration of State Appropriations** to higher education to the levels appropriated in fiscal years 2010 and 2011.
- **Create Incentives for Leveraging Resources:** For example, expand incentive funding to include best practices in K-16 partnerships.

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point 2

NEAR-TERM LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS THAT WE ENDORSE

- 1. Align Formula, Growth, and Inflation:** Adopt the Texas Public General Academic Formula Advisory Committee's recommendation of increasing base formula funding to cover the costs of enrollment growth and inflation. Restore formula funding impacted by the Stimulus bill.
- 2. Support Students:** Provide continued growth in funding for TEXAS Grants. Continue incentive funding for at risk students and critical field disciplines.
- 3. Align Bonding to Growth and Modernization:** Provide funding for Tuition Revenue Bonds for construction of educational facilities to meet enrollment growth and to address significantly aging infrastructure.

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