Texas community college districts are the state’s nimble higher education engine for quickly upskilling and returning large numbers of dislocated workers to careers that are vital to economic recovery. **Community colleges engage students with high-quality programs that lead to credentials with workforce value.** As the current provider of 92% of workforce credentials in Texas, community colleges are uniquely positioned to leverage labor market data, existing in-house expertise, and industry partnerships to develop new short-term and micro-credentials that put Texans back to work and fuel the state’s economic recovery.

**TRUE will:**
- Design sustainable talent pipelines to fill critical regional workforce needs and provide ongoing support to Texas businesses and the state’s economic recovery.
- Expand employer-informed micro-credentials and short-term certificates that will enable displaced and underemployed workers to lead fulfilling and economically self-sufficient lives by getting them work-ready in as little as a few weeks to six months.
- Identify high-demand, short-term credentials to be recognized as a part of the 60X30TX plan for higher education.

In the post-pandemic workforce, students and displaced workers will need to acquire in-demand skills for available occupations in their region. **TRUE** is a collaboration between colleges and business partners across the state to rapidly provide well-designed short-term credentials ensuring displaced and underemployed workers are armed with the skills and credentials needed to fill high-demand industry needs that have shifted due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As of 10/24/2020, **3.7 million** Texans have filed for unemployment relief since mid-March. Texas’ unemployment rate was **8.3%** in September, up from 3.5% in September 2019.

Texas community colleges seek a state investment of **$50M** to support implementation of the initiative across all regions of the state.