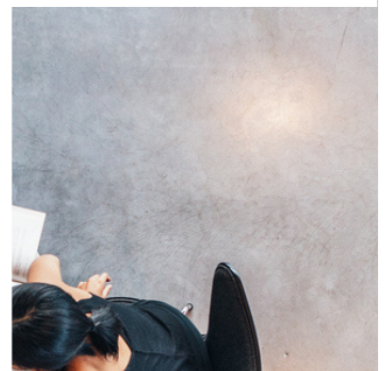




# ANNUAL REPORT

2024





## WHO WE ARE

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For more than seventy years, the Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC) has advanced educational opportunities across the state through strategic advocacy and impactful policy change. Over the decades, TACC has cultivated strong partnerships with a broad spectrum of stakeholders—ranging from chambers of commerce and industry leaders to state agencies and employers. These collaborations have bolstered TACC’s influence and strengthened its role as a trusted voice among state leadership and key policymakers at the Texas Capitol.

During Fiscal Year 2024 (FY 2024), an interim period between legislative sessions, TACC concentrated its efforts on the critical work of policy implementation and preparing for the challenges and opportunities of the next legislative session. This proactive approach ensured that the momentum from previous successes, such as House Bill 8, continued to drive progress on behalf of our Texas community colleges.

The FY 2024 TACC Annual Report highlights the significant achievements and milestones reached by the entire association, including the Texas Success Center and the Community College Association of Texas Trustees. This report not only celebrates our progress but also looks ahead to the future as we innovate, grow, and continue to champion the postsecondary achievements of our 48 member colleges and, most importantly, the students we proudly serve.

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## AWARDING....

**93%**

of all career and technical education certificates in the state of Texas.

## CONTRIBUTING....

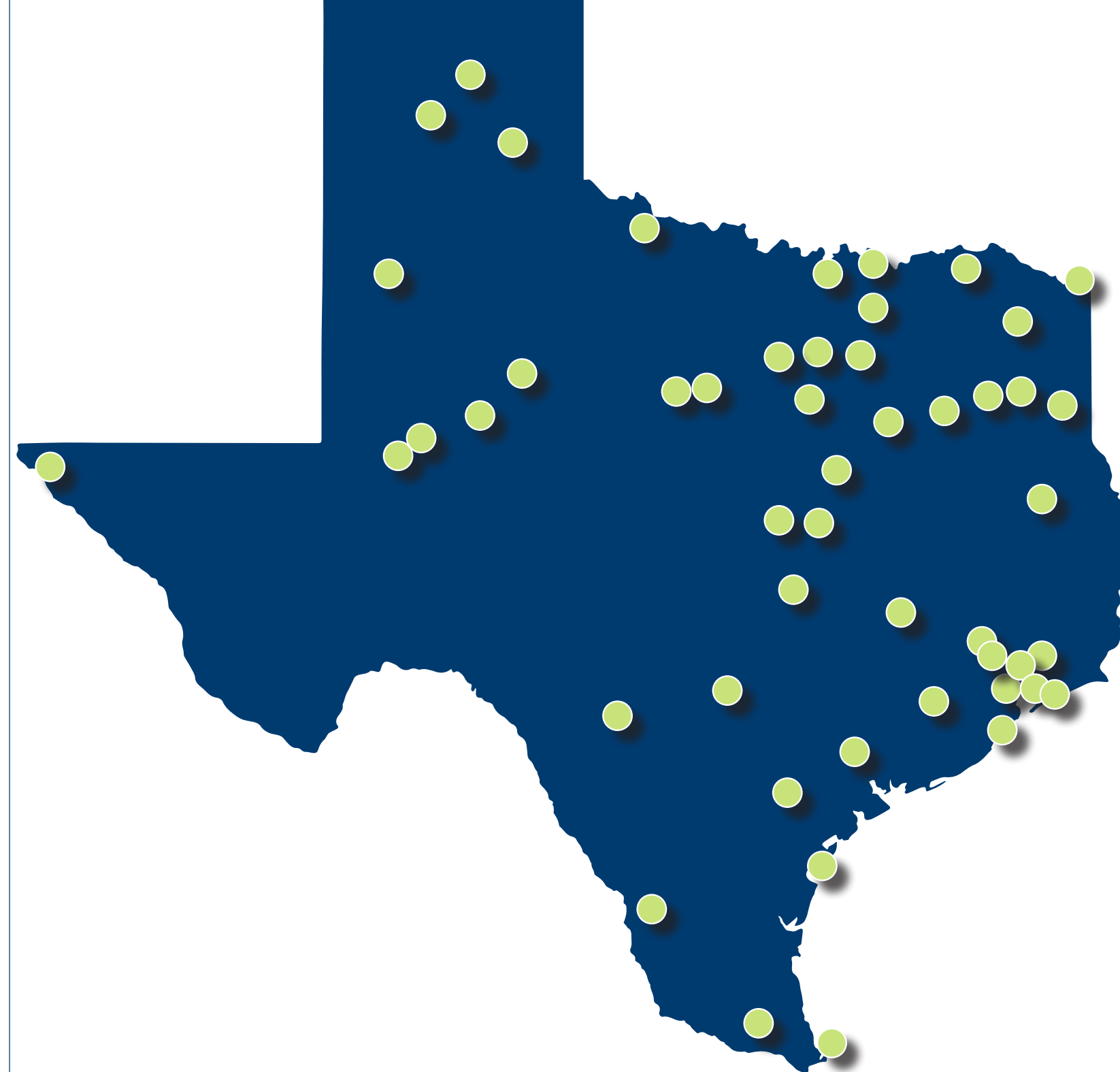
**\$9.8B**

annually to the state's economy.

## SUPPORTING....

**78K**

jobs across the state.



**50** COMMUNITY COLLEGES

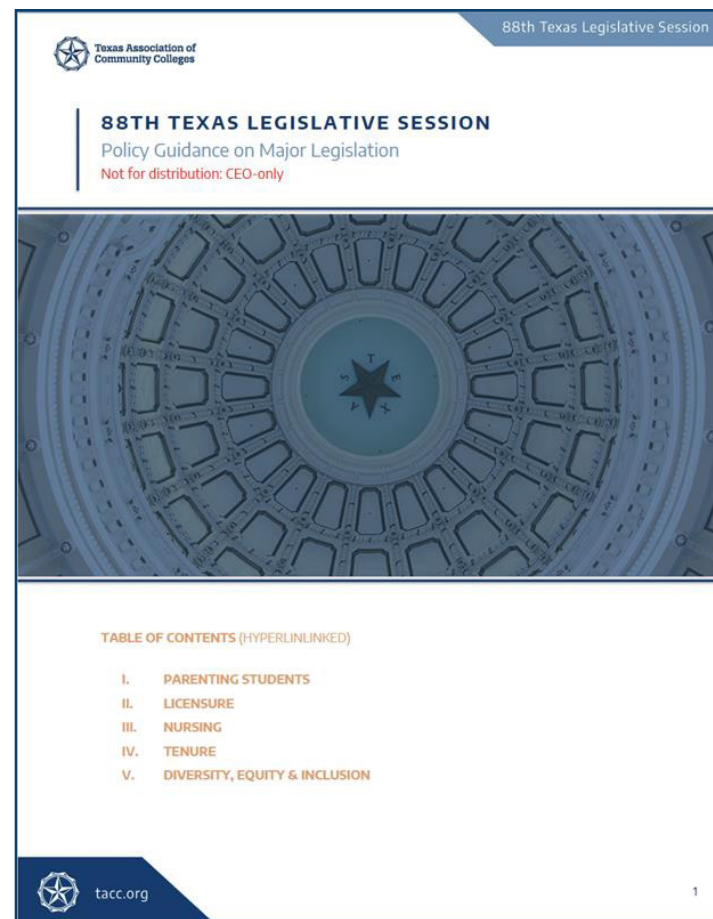
**250** DIFFERENT COUNTIES

**640,582** STUDENT LIVES

# ADVOCACY

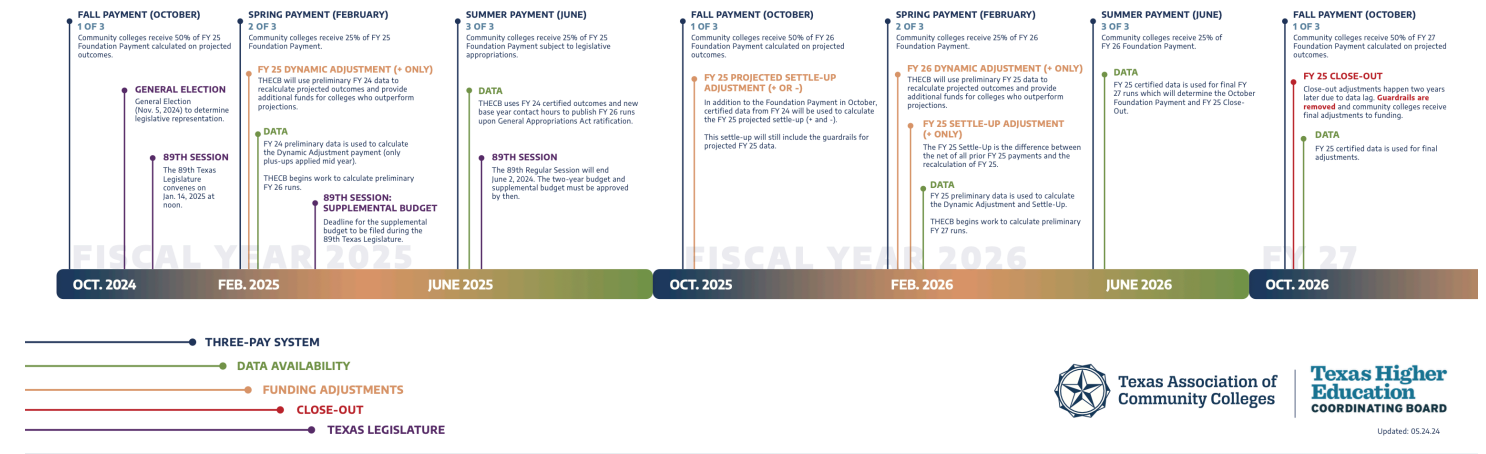
In the wake of the historic 88th Texas Legislative Session, TACC has remained steadfast in its mission to ensure the successful implementation of House Bill 8 (HB 8) while laying the groundwork for future legislative advocacy. With HB 8 securing a dynamic new funding model that aligns with the state’s long-term postsecondary goals as outlined in Building a Talent Strong Texas, our efforts have shifted from legislative victory to strategic action.

As part of this strategic action and to provide continued support and clarity to our member colleges, TACC developed and issued a comprehensive policy guidance document during the interim period. This document, a new initiative for the association, was designed to offer clear guidance on significant legislation passed during the 88th Legislative Session, such as Senate Bill 17 and Senate Bill 18. By proactively addressing the implications of these new laws, TACC demonstrated its unwavering commitment to serving our members beyond the legislative session, ensuring they have the resources and information needed to navigate and implement these critical changes effectively.



A key element of TACC’s strategic action during this period was the strong partnership the TACC Advocacy & Policy Team maintained with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). The immediate implementation of HB 8 demanded diligence and precise coordination, and both teams worked closely together to establish clear communication channels. This collaboration was crucial in navigating the rulemaking process, ensuring that the new funding model was implemented effectively and aligned with the state’s goals. The joint efforts of TACC and THECB allowed for a seamless and successful rollout of this transformative legislation and created opportunities for the two organizations to collaborate on resources such as the one below:

## HOUSE BILL 8: COMMUNITY COLLEGE FINANCE DYNAMIC STRUCTURE



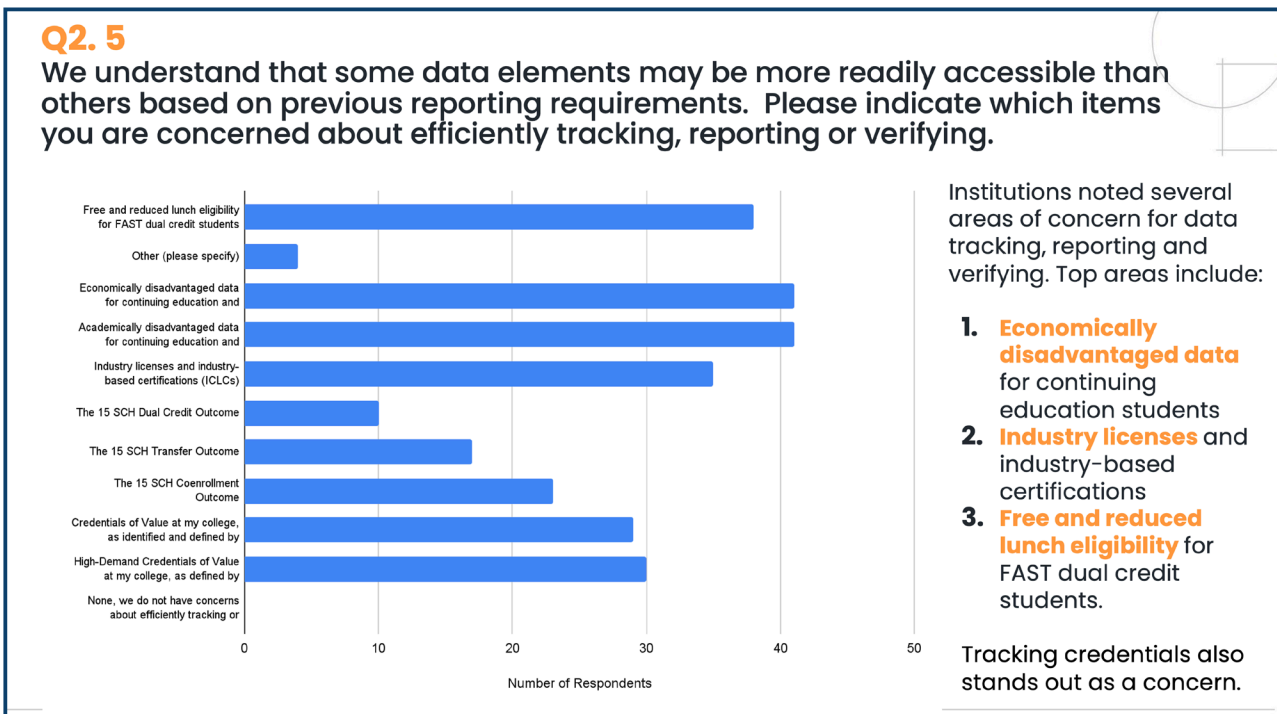
Further, during the interim months, Governor Abbott called four special sessions, which TACC closely monitored for potential impacts to the community college sector. As soon as the formal interim process began, the TACC Legislative Committee convened and recommended Interim Charges to key legislative offices to ensure that the community college sector was well-represented in all relevant policy discussions. This committee will continue its important work in the coming months as they finalize the association’s priorities for the upcoming legislative session.

Lastly, throughout the interim, the TACC Advocacy & Policy Team presented at various national and statewide higher education convenings, sharing insights and best practices from Texas’ innovative approaches. These engagements highlighted the significant progress made in Texas and positioned our sector as a leader in the national dialogue on community college finance and policy. As we look ahead to the upcoming legislative session, TACC remains committed to driving forward-thinking policies that will keep Texas at the forefront of higher education innovation.

# WHAT THE DATA TELLS US

This fiscal year, TACC produced various reports and resources to support community colleges in making data-informed decisions that would enhance the narrative surrounding community colleges in Texas. These efforts included both new and standard reporting and analysis, with a significant focus on assisting colleges with the successful implementation of House Bill 8. A key aspect of these efforts involved quantitative and qualitative data collection related to the colleges' technical assistance needs.

In collaboration with external consultants, TACC utilized philanthropic funds to conduct an in-depth analysis of the new data, reporting, and technology needs associated with the new funding model. All 48 member colleges participated in a comprehensive technical assistance survey, which identified data management and reporting enhancements, understanding fiscal impacts, and targeted training on aspects of the new funding model as critical needs for these institutions.



Building on the survey results and analysis, TACC's partner conducted five focus groups with leaders from 17 institutions. These discussions highlighted the effectiveness of THECB communication, resources, tools, and staff accessibility while also identifying areas where additional support is needed. A prominent theme from these discussions was the demand for more hands-on, in-person working sessions focused on providing clarity around data definitions, tracking, collection, and reporting in alignment with House Bill 8 and improving communication and training across different levels and roles within the colleges.

In response to these findings, TACC plans to move forward with stakeholder summits in the coming fall to offer training and learning opportunities for community colleges.

## ANNUAL RESOURCES

Our annual resources and reports are designed to equip member institutions with the comparative data necessary to benchmark their performance against the broader statewide sector. These resources include the Annual Fact Sheet, Fall Preliminary Enrollment Report, Local Revenues Report, Dual Credit Report, and Administrative Salaries Report. Each report is crucial in helping TACC identify emerging trends and assess potential policy implications, ensuring that community colleges are well-positioned to respond to evolving educational landscapes.



The **Fall Preliminary Enrollment Report** offers a comprehensive snapshot of statewide enrollment, providing detailed insights into peer and regional groups, student demographics, and student types. This report is invaluable for understanding enrollment patterns and demographic shifts across the state.



The **Local Revenues Report** concisely summarizes essential financial data, covering key areas such as tuition and fee rates, dual credit waivers, grants, scholarships, and property and branch taxes. This report is instrumental in assessing the financial health and sustainability of institutions within the sector.



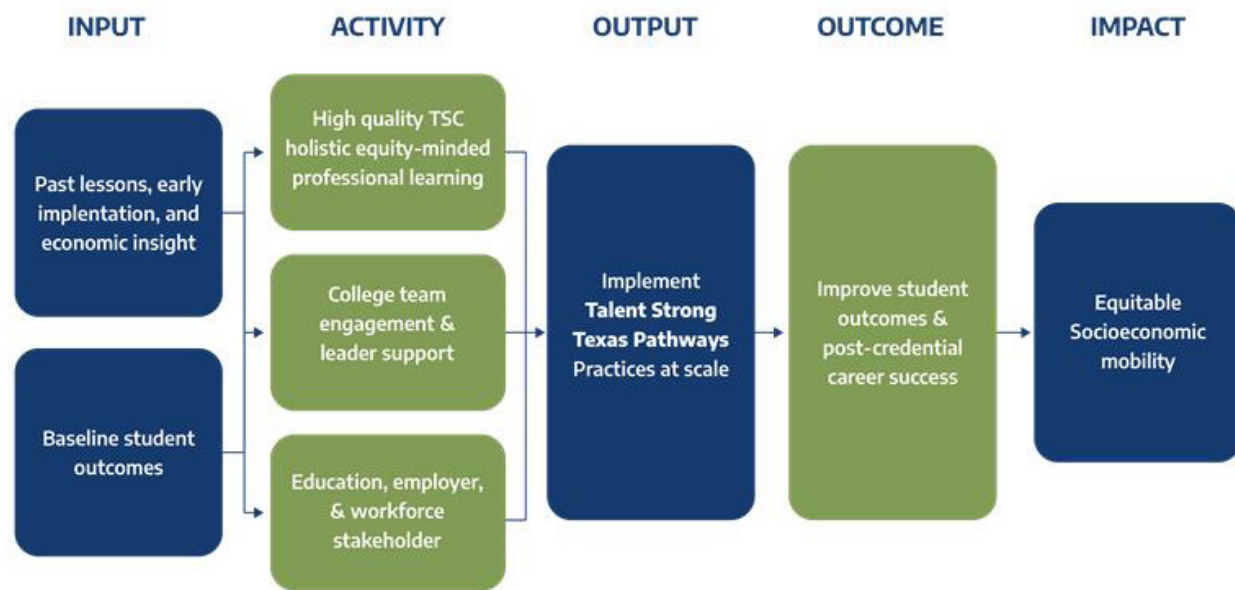
The **Dual Credit Tuition & Fees Report** presents an in-depth analysis of colleges participating in the FAST program. It outlines the extent to which the colleges cover students' tuition and fees and details the tuition and mandatory fee rates for dual credit students. This report provides critical insights into the accessibility and affordability of dual credit programs across the state.



The **Administrative Salaries Report** offers a detailed summary of compensation for key administrative positions within colleges, including presidents, chief financial officers, chief academic officers, chief enrollment officers, chief information officers, and other senior roles. This report enables institutions to assess and align their compensation practices with sector standards, ensuring competitive and equitable salary structures.

# STUDENT SUCCESS WITH TSC

The Texas Success Center (TSC) continues to be a cornerstone in advancing student success across the state’s community colleges. Through strategic initiatives, robust professional development, and a commitment to ensuring that all students—particularly those historically underserved—have access to meaningful educational opportunities, TSC empowers institutions to achieve transformative outcomes. Significant milestones have marked the past year as TSC deepens its impact and drives forward the Talent Strong Texas Pathways initiative, fostering a future where every Texan has access to a credential of value.



The Talent Strong Texas Pathways Logic Model

**Scaling Student Success Initiatives:** This year, TSC worked with member colleges to implement the Talent Strong Texas Pathways framework, helping institutions align their programs with labor market needs and increase completion rates. By focusing on guided pathways, colleges are better equipped to streamline student experiences, particularly for those from first-generation, low-income, and underrepresented backgrounds.

**Supporting Implementation of House Bill 8:** TSC provided comprehensive support to community colleges as they navigated the implementation of House Bill 8, emphasizing performance-based funding tied to student outcomes. TSC’s guidance ensured that colleges were prepared to meet new state requirements while continuing to prioritize student success and institutional improvement.

**Strengthening Workforce Alignment:** Recognizing the evolving demands of the workforce, TSC expanded its efforts to bridge the gap between education and employment. Through partnerships with industry leaders and the development of sector-specific pathways, TSC has helped colleges tailor their programs to serve students better and meet the needs of Texas employers. This work includes business roundtables hosted in North Texas, El Paso, and San Antonio, where labor market challenges were examined with business leaders, high-demand occupations were discussed, and follow-up work with employers was conducted to inform the response of partner colleges in delivering needed solutions.



**Enhancing Leadership Development:** TSC’s Leadership Development Program has been instrumental in equipping college leaders with the skills needed to drive institutional change. Over the past year, TSC has offered a series of workshops, mentoring opportunities, and resources that have empowered leaders to tackle the unique challenges facing their institutions and communities.

**Data-Informed Decision Making:** TSC has continued to emphasize the importance of data in shaping student success strategies. By providing colleges with the tools and training necessary to analyze and act on data, TSC has enabled institutions to make informed decisions that positively impact student outcomes.

As we look ahead, TSC remains committed to helping community colleges in Texas adapt to the changing landscape of higher education. With a focus on innovation, collaboration, and unwavering support for all students, TSC will continue to lead the way in ensuring that every Texan can achieve their educational and career goals.

# THE TRUSTEE PERSPECTIVE

This year marked the end of the Focus Forward strategic plan adopted by the Community College Association of Texas Trustees (CCATT) in summer 2020. The CCATT Board of Directors held a strategic planning retreat at the end of June and is in the process of refining goals and objectives for the work ahead. With continued support from TACC and the dedicated involvement of trustees across the state, we are proud to celebrate the following milestones:

## TRUSTEE EDUCATION

Thanks to support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, CCATT hosted numerous events focused on data-informed governance including Trustee Leadership Seminars at San Jacinto College, Odessa College, Temple College, and North Central Texas College. In addition to promoting data literacy and evidence-based decision-making, these events included timely information about House Bill 8 implementation and the work of the Community College Standing Advisory Committee.



CCATT hosted the second annual New Trustee Orientation, and we are in the final stages of revising the Texas Trustee Handbook which was initially published in spring 2022. Additionally, CCATT and TACC partnered on a presentation at the national Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Leadership Congress about Restructuring State Appropriations to Empower Community College Success.

## TRUSTEE ENGAGEMENT

The 2023 CCATT Annual Conference in Fort Worth, TX was our largest event, involving almost double the number of trustees and regents who participated in the 2022 conference. The Engagement Committee continued their diligent outreach efforts throughout the year, highlighting various events and encouraging participation in CCATT's Annual Membership Survey.

CCATT's presence and collaboration at the national level also grew stronger. Both Susan Moore-Fontenot, Vice Chair of the Lee College Board of Regents, and Carol Scott, Chair of the Del Mar College Board of Regents, were elected to the ACCT Board of Directors in October. They join three other Texas Trustees on the national board and are the first two serving concurrently on the CCATT and ACCT boards.

## TRUSTEE ADVOCACY

At the ACCT National Legislative Summit, CCATT convened the Texas Delegation and coordinated group meetings with Senator John Cornyn and Senator Ted Cruz. In partnership with TACC, we hosted a reception on Capitol Hill where legislators and their staff were invited to network with Texas Trustees and college leadership.

CCATT will soon publish the Virtual Community College Data Advocacy Toolkit, designed to equip members with resources that enhance their ability to convey impactful stories backed by data. With a second investment from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation beginning in the new fiscal year, CCATT will continue to refine and develop resources for data-informed governance and advocacy.



Looking ahead, CCATT is committed to deepening our engagement with trustees, offering robust professional development opportunities, and ensuring that our members have the tools they need to lead effectively during this critical period of transformation for Texas community colleges.

# THE ROAD AHEAD

As we look to the future, the Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC) remains committed to advancing the mission of Texas community colleges and the students they serve. The past year has been marked by significant achievements, including the successful implementation of House Bill 8 and the development of new resources and tools to support our member institutions.

However, we recognize that the work is far from over.

The coming year presents challenges and opportunities as we continue to build on the foundation laid during the interim legislative period. Our focus will remain on ensuring that the new funding model drives meaningful outcomes for students and aligns with the state's long-term goals as outlined in Building a Talent Strong Texas. We will also continue to monitor and engage with legislative developments, advocating for policies that support the growth and success of community colleges across the state.

TACC will strongly emphasize collaboration, working closely with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, state leadership, and other key stakeholders to ensure that the needs of our institutions and students are met. This includes ongoing efforts to provide technical assistance, enhance data reporting and management, and deliver targeted training that equips our colleges to thrive in a rapidly evolving educational landscape.

As we move forward, TACC is also committed to amplifying the voices of our member colleges on the national stage, showcasing the innovative work being done in Texas, and positioning our state as a leader in higher education. The road ahead is one of continued growth, evolution, and success, and TACC is dedicated to leading the charge.

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**Together, we will ensure that Texas community colleges remain a vital force in shaping the future of our state, empowering students, strengthening communi-ties, and driving economic prosperity for all.**

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