



Excellence **Cynthia Ferrell Pathways Star of Excellence Award**

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The Cynthia Ferrell Pathways Star of Excellence Award celebrates exemplary commitment to Texas students through inspiration, motivation, collaboration, and engagement. The award recognizes a change agent who has had a positive impact on removing barriers to student success and elevating the student experience at the college.

Dr. Ferrell was the Executive Director of the Texas Success Center from 2014 - 2024 and provided opportunity and leadership for all who worked for and with her. A passionate and empathetic leader committed to Texas community colleges, their students, and the communities they serve, Cynthia built a strong infrastructure for transformation and continuous improvement to benefit each student who walked through the doors of a Texas community college. Her great vision for the impact of the Texas Success Center was a partnership with the 50 Texas community colleges that led to an increase in the number of students accomplishing their goals to attain their dreams of a better life for themselves and their families.

Who is eligible?

- **Anyone employed at a Texas community college at any level who:**
 - Advances a culture of student success by applying the Talent Strong Texas Pathways model
 - Champions student post-completion outcomes
 - Promotes significant change at the student level
 - Supports student wellness to meet the needs of each student
 - Fosters a sense of belonging from the first contact
 - Improves teaching and learning



Criteria for selection

- **Is a Change-Maker**
 - Leadership at any level: Exhibits strong leadership qualities and skills, whether through formal leadership roles or informal influence that have improved the student experience.
- **Provides a positive impact on others in the college community**
 - Impact and Influence: Has a meaningful impact on the college community, students, faculty, or staff through actions, initiatives, or advocacy efforts that promote positive change or ownership of change for improved student learning and success.
- **Exhibits empathy**
 - Empathy: Understands and can connect with students on a personal level, recognize and provide support to address their individual challenges. Helps students navigate obstacles and overcome barriers to learning and success.
- **Cares**
 - Cares: Creates a welcoming and inclusive environment where students feel they belong and are comfortable seeking assistance and guidance.
- **Motivates**
 - Motivates: Inspires students to set and achieve ambitious goals, fostering a growth mindset and a sense of empowerment and agency in their academic and personal.
- **Advocates**
 - Advocate: Advocate for students' needs and interests inside or outside the classroom, working to remove barriers to success and ensure that all students have equitable access to opportunities and resources.

Process

Each college district CEO participating in Talent Strong Texas Pathways may nominate one individual.

- **Nomination:**
 - Nomination that includes evidence of impact
 - 2 letters of recommendation
- **Timeline 2024:**
 - **Launch call for nominations at Fall Pathways orientation webinar September 6**
 - Deadline to submit nominations is **October 2**
 - Winner and CEO notified by **October 18**
 - Award received at fall institute **November 15**

Please submit your nomination on this form by October 2.

Scan the QR code or click this link : shorturl.at/T5MFa



Scan here!