

HOWARD



COLLEGE

**QUICK  
FACTS**

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**TACC 2013  
LEGISLATIVE  
PRIORITIES**

## **Community Colleges: The Future of Texas Today**

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Student success is the highest priority of every community college in Texas. The state's community colleges are driving rapid and expansive improvements in public education to meet current and anticipated workforce needs. Community colleges are economic and cultural engines in every part of the state, vital to their communities and key to advancing the individual aspirations of students. TACC recognizes that colleges must partner with the State of Texas to ensure that the success of our students remains the priority. To accomplish this, TACC proposes a 5-Point Campaign that asks state leaders to join us in this critical effort.

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## **Workforce and Skills Alignment**

Community colleges are educating students and building their skills in the industries critical to our state's prosperity. Texas' success depends on an educated workforce able to compete for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

- *Reform the Skills Development Fund to enhance the ability of community colleges to better serve students and workforce needs.*
  - *Define clear pathways between high school career and technical education and community college career and technical programs.*
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## **College Readiness**

It is imperative for K-12 schools to implement a college-ready curriculum to prepare students for more intensive educational demands.

- *Implement the New Mathways Project with support from the University of Texas at Austin Dana Center.*
  - *Develop & require a Student Success course for all entering students which is eligible for state funding.*
  - *Support Starlink in order to provide professional development for faculty to engage in student success initiatives.*
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## Measuring and Funding Success

Community colleges are committed to increasing student success in Texas regardless of the student's starting point or his/her destination. Current data reported by community colleges do not accurately represent performance. It is important to have metrics that accurately gauge how institutions are meeting multiple objectives. The most accurate measurements of student success are the following: completion of developmental education course to the completion of a degree/certificate and/or transfer to a four-year institution. To best accomplish the goal of student success, state funding should be broken down into three different components: Core College Operations, Contact Hours, and Student Success Points.

Affirm these state funding commitments:

- *Core College Operations: \$50 million*
  - *Contact Hours: \$1.72 billion*
  - *Student Success Points: \$196.9 million*
  - *Restore employee Health Insurance state funding to 60% of costs, return to 84% of costs in the 84th session*
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## **Transfer and Articulation**

We should make it easy for students to transfer to a college or university. Currently, varied requirements at colleges and universities make the transfer process complex, posing a barrier to matriculation and continued success. Currently, individual colleges and universities have varied requirements to obtain an Associates Degree coupled with a complex transfer process, which can prevent student success.

- *Define a universal pathway to an Associate Degree and further degree programs through a statewide-adopted common core curricula.*
- *Incentivize Associate Degree completion for students, and reward community colleges and universities commensurately.*

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## **Texans in Community Colleges**

Community colleges offer an array of educational opportunities for adults at all skill levels and from every corner of Texas.

- *Transfer oversight of Adult Basic Education (ABE) from the Texas Education Agency to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.*
  - *Fund ABE sufficiently.*
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