
INTERIM CHARGE ONE

In 2003, following the 78th Regular Legislative Session, the Joint Interim Committee on Higher Education was charged with:

Study the structure and organization of higher education in the state, including the administration and operations of public and independent institutions of higher education.

Excellence in higher education demands both educational quality and access. Quality without access is not quality; it's elitism. Access without quality is not access; it's mediocrity. Educational quality and access can be achieved as we strive to manage our system of higher education more efficiently, and as we make the necessary investments in higher education to meet the needs of the state's goal of *Closing the Gaps by 2015*.

Institutions of Higher Education:

There are 142 public and independent institutions of higher education in Texas:

- 50 public community college districts (with more than 70 campuses);
- 31 public four-year universities;
- 4 public two-year, upper division universities and centers;
- 4 campuses of the Texas State Technical College System (including three extension centers);
- 3 public two-year, lower-division Lamar state colleges;
- 38 independent four-year colleges and universities;
- 9 public health-related institutions;
- 1 independent medical school; and
- 2 independent junior colleges.

In Fiscal Year 2003, Texas public universities awarded 62,385 bachelor's degrees, 20,199 master's degrees, and 3,649 doctoral or professional degrees and Texas public community and technical colleges awarded 29,597 associate degrees and 20,410 certificates. ¹

Closing the Gaps:

Closing the Gaps by 2015 was adopted in October 2000 by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The plan, has four goals: to close the gaps in student participation, student success, excellence, and research. The plan includes strategies for reaching each of the goals and an annual performance measuring system. (See Appendix A).

Goal 1. Close the Gaps in Participation – By 2015, close the gaps in participation rates across Texas to add 500,000 more students.

Progress Toward 2005 Participation Targets²

| Annual Enrollment (Public and Independent Institutions) | Fall 2000 | Fall 2003 | Increase from 2000 to 2003 | Increase to Reach 2005 Targets | 2005 Targets | Percent of Targeted Increase for 2005 Achieved |
|---|-----------|-----------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Total | 1,019,879 | 1,176,937 | 157,058 | 149,121 | 1,169,000 | 105.3% |
| African American | 108,463 | 132,211 | 23,748 | 23,537 | 132,000 | 100.9% |
| Hispanic | 237,394 | 291,959 | 54,565 | 102,606 | 340,000 | 53.2% |
| White | 570,042 | 626,201 | 56,159 | 20,958 | 591,000 | 268% |

Goal 2. Close the Gaps in Success – By 2015, increase by 50 percent the number of degrees, certificates, and other identifiable student successes from high quality programs.

Progress Toward 2005 Success Targets³

| Type of Success | FY 2000 | FY 2003 | Increase from 2000 to 2003 | Increase to Reach 2005 Targets | 2005 Target | Percent of Targeted Increase for 2005 Achieved |
|---|---------|---------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|--|
| Certificates, Associate's and Bachelor's Degrees | 116,253 | 132,221 | 15,968 | 17,747 | 134,000 | 90% |
| Associate's Degrees | 25,509 | 30,492 | 4,983 | 2,491 | 28,000 | 200% |
| Bachelor's Degrees | 74,920 | 81,134 | 6,214 | 12,580 | 87,500 | 49.4% |
| Doctoral Degrees | 2,621 | 2,577 | (44) | 179 | 2,800 | (0.25)% |
| Certificates, Associate's and Bachelor's Degrees (African American) | 11,217 | 13,425 | 2,208 | 1,783 | 13,000 | 71.1% |
| Certificates, Associate's and Bachelor's Degrees (Hispanics) | 23,369 | 28,794 | 5,425 | 7,631 | 31,000 | 71.1% |
| Technology-Related Degrees | 12,411 | 14,577 | 2,166 | 6,589 | 19,000 | 32.9% |
| Allied Health and Nursing Degrees | 13,644 | 13,734 | 90 | NA | 13,500 | 102% |
| Teachers Certified | 11,529 | 20,528 | 8,999 | 7,471 | 19,000 | 120.5% |

Goal 3. Close the Gaps in Excellence – By 2015, substantially increase the number of nationally recognized programs or services at colleges and universities.

Progress Toward 2005 Excellence Targets⁴

| Increase the number of... | 2000 | 2003 | 2010 |
|---|------|------|------|
| Research institutions ranked in the top 10 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Public research universities in the top 10 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Public liberal arts universities ranked in the top 30 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Health Science Centers ranked among the top 10 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

Goal 4. Close the Gaps in Research -- By 2015, increase the level of federal science and engineering research funding to Texas institutions by 50 percent to \$1.3 billion.

**Progress Toward 2005 Research Targets
Federal Research and Development Dollars⁵**

| Increase funding to Texas universities and health-related institutions | FY 1998 | FY 2002 | Increase from FY 1998 to FY 2002 | Increase to Reach 2007 Targets | 2007 Target | Percent of Targeted Increase for 2007 Achieved |
|--|---------------|---------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|--|
| In federal research and development dollars | \$846 million | \$1.3 billion | \$454 million | \$154 million | \$1 billion | 295% |

**Progress Toward 2005 Research Targets
Research Expenditures⁶**

| Increase funding to Texas universities and health-related institutions | FY 1999 | FY 2003 | Increase from FY 1999 to FY 2003 | Increase to Reach 2007 Targets | 2007 Target | Percent of Targeted Increase for 2007 Achieved |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Total Research and development dollars | \$1.45 billion | \$2.17 billion | \$72 million | \$75 million | \$2.2 billion | 96% |

Report of the Joint Interim Committee on Higher Education to the 79th Legislature