

## TABPHE White Paper 2019

### ***Legislative Issues Impacting Higher Education: Regarding Equity, Access & Affordable Education***

***TABPHE Mission:*** *The Texas Association of Black Personnel in Higher Education (TABPHE) is a statewide, voluntary, educational association that represents all levels of higher education and serves as a voice for Black faculty, staff, students and administrators in order to ensure a better educational system for all. TABPHE provides an avenue for professional development opportunities that enrich higher education personnel and improve the quality of their professional growth.*

***TABPHE's vision*** *is to ensure that the higher educational system in the state of Texas provides equitable opportunities and advancement for Black personnel, while fostering a positive environment for Black students to successfully matriculate.*

### **TABPHE Legislative Priorities**

**We support** the 60x30 Texas Initiative which states that by 2030, 60 percent or more of all new jobs will require some level of higher education. Currently, only 42 percent of young Texans between the ages of 25 and 34 have an associate's degree or higher. Colleges and universities are charged to address the needs of workforce demands for the Southwestern Region of the United States.

#### **We support** House Bill 2223

House Bill 2223, sponsored by Representative Helen Giddings (Dallas), passed the 85th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, and was signed by Governor Abbott in June 2017 to accelerate underprepared students' persistence and successful completions. HB 2223 requires that a certain percentage of underprepared students enrolled in developmental education be reported as enrolled in a corequisite model, which allows the student to enroll in the entry-level college course, but requires co-enrollment in a developmental education course/intervention designed to support the student's successful completion of the college-level course. Any Texas public institution of higher education with underprepared students is subject to the requirements of HB 2223. HB2223 supports statewide efforts to provide accelerated guided pathways for students in higher education.

#### **We support** House Bill 5

House Bill 5 requires that school districts partner with at least one institution of higher education to develop and provide courses in college preparatory mathematics and English language arts to prepare students for success in entry-level college courses. The courses must be designed for students in the 12th grade who have demonstrated (through assessments or coursework) that they are not ready to "perform entry-level college coursework." A student who "successfully completes" such a course is exempt from the requirements of the Texas Success Initiative in that content area at the partnering higher education institution. HB5 supports efforts to retain and accelerate students to complete the Core Transfer Curriculum, Associate Degrees and requirements for career and technical degrees.

In consultation with secondary and postsecondary stakeholders, the Coordinating Board has developed a series of guidelines for school districts and institutions of higher education to consider as they develop local college preparatory courses.

**We support** increasing opportunities for dual-credit opportunities. House Bill 1638 requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to collaboratively develop statewide goals for dual-credit programs in Texas. These goals provide guidance to institutions of higher education (IHEs) and independent school districts (ISDs) on components that must be in place to ensure quality dual-credit programs are provided to Texas high school students. These statewide goals address enrollment in and acceleration through postsecondary education, performance in college-level coursework, and strong academic advising.

**We support** SB 424, sponsored by Senator Royce West, that asks for special consideration in disciplinary actions that involve a public-school student who is in foster care or who is homeless.

**We support** HB 580, sponsored by Representative Shawn Thierry, that provides grant funding to school districts that enroll students in career and technology education (CTE) courses. This bill will allow eligible schools to partner with private employers offering job training and paid internships to students enrolled in CTE courses.

**We support** HB 187, sponsored by Representative Ron Reynolds, that relates to strengthening business opportunities for African-American small businesses and raises the minimum wage to \$15.00 an hour. This bill addresses the economic disparities that have plagued our communities for generations and creates opportunities that lift Texans out of poverty and into the middle class and beyond.

**We support** SB 298, sponsored by Senator Borris Miles, that relates to the dissemination of information about historically underutilized businesses (HUB) and the expansion of the small business development center network.

**We support** HB 1469, sponsored by Representative Shawn Thierry, that amends the Texas Labor Code, which currently applies to public community and technical colleges and the Texas A&M Engineering Extension, to include school districts and open enrollment charters as eligible for Skills Development funds for workforce development training programs. This bill reduces administrative burdens for developing timely workforce training programs; allows for recovery of costs for training in high-demand occupations from state funds; includes school districts and open enrollment charters as entities eligible for participation in Skills Development Fund start-up or emergency funds for training programs for businesses; requires a review by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to assess customized training programs for effectiveness and empowers Teacher Education Agency (TEA) to assist THECB in reviewing high school programs.

***For further information on TABPHE, please go to our website at [www.tabphe.org](http://www.tabphe.org) or call the TABPHE Executive Director, Dr. Rod Fluker at (512) 852-4344; mail at: TABPHE State Office, 401 Congress, Suite 1540, Austin, Texas, 78701***