



Texas Success Center Launch FAQs

Q: *What is the Texas Success Center (TSC)?*

A: The Texas Success Center (TSC) is part of a growing movement in the national completion agenda to help more community college students complete their academic goals. Building on the work of organizations, including Achieving the Dream, Completion By Design, and Texas Completes, the Success Centers are increasing collaboration across colleges; developing common data definitions; providing shared professional development opportunities; and bringing coherence to the multitude of success initiatives in each state. Four other states, Ohio, Michigan, Arkansas, and New Jersey also have success centers.

Q: *What is the mission of the Texas Success Center?*

A: The TSC will build the capacity of TACC member colleges to engage in and advance student success efforts at scale; build the capacity of TACC to evaluate, support and scale college student success efforts; and develop and propose public policy change to enhance student success.

Q: *How will the Texas Success Center operationalize its mission?*

A: The Texas Success Center core work involves:

- **Alignment** of different innovation and success initiatives into a more coherent and comprehensive approach, including development of data infrastructure and key measures of success;
- **Acceleration** of learning across institutions so that adoption of proven or evidence-based initiatives can be accelerated and information costs reduced; and
- **Advocacy** for policies that support the success agenda, in the legislature and in relevant state agencies.

Q: *What will be some of the Center's key outcomes during its first years of operation?*

A: The TSC's initial goals focus around these three areas:

- **Measuring and Funding Success:** develop data capacity at our member colleges along with a coherent set of student success metrics;
- **College Readiness:** expand college readiness work including supporting work with the Charles A. Dana Center and the New Mathways Project; and
- **Transfer issues:** continue progress on improving student transfer policies to Texas four-year institutions.

Additionally, the Center will work to maintain the engagement and commitment of trustees, administrators, and faculty by developing and hosting the Texas DREAM Institute. The inaugural Texas DREAM Institute is tentatively scheduled for fall 2014. This event will be a critical component for extending student success work identified as promising—and, it particular will be an important venue for disseminating ideas and innovations to Texas community colleges.

Q: *How is the Texas Success Center Organized?*

A: The TSC is affiliated with the Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC). The TSC staff reports to the TACC president. Oversight of the TSC is provided by an advisory board composed of Texas community college CEOs and outside experts.

Q: *How will the Texas Success Center be able to achieve such a bold and sweeping mission?*

A: The Texas Success Center will employ a leadership-team approach to its work, which enables engagement of a broad cross-section of professionals in a given topic area. This model brings together practitioners (faculty, staff, and administrators from Texas community colleges and four-year institutions) and experts (from policy and research groups, and other national student success initiatives) to lead each work group. The leadership teams will be divided into five broad areas (congruent/parallel with TACC's Texas Success legislative agenda): Workforce and Skills Alignment, Measuring and Funding Success, College Readiness, Transfer and Articulation, and Texans in Community Colleges. While the TSC advisory committee will develop charges for each of the five teams, the leadership teams will convene subgroups, develop practical and policy recommendations, and identify relevant professional development needed to implement and scale recommendations. The leadership teams will also identify the policy supports needed for innovations. These teams will be integral to the process of disseminating innovation back out to practitioners.

Q: *How will the Texas Success Center work with other entities, i.e., THECB, Texas legislature, Educate Texas, Texas Success Council, other Success Centers, etc.?*

A: Inherent in the Center's mission is collaboration and cooperation. The Center is committed to working with all partners including THECB, Educate Texas, the Student Success Council, and many other important partners. The TSC, TACC and its partners meet regularly to ensure cooperation and transparency across groups. Our collective goal is to augment each other's work and to achieve efficiencies by working collaboratively — not competitively.

Q: *How is the work of the Texas Success Center being supported?*

A: The Texas Success Center receives support from the Kresge Foundation, Greater Texas Foundation, Houston Endowment, Meadows Foundation, TG, and all fifty Texas community colleges.