On the Road to the 85th Legislative Session and Discussion of TACC (Texas Association of Community Colleges) and CCATT (Community College Association of Texas Trustees)
Philosophy and Message

• PHILOSOPHY
  • Relationships
  • Information
  • Results

• MESSAGE TO LEGISLATORS
  • New leadership team at Blinn College who is:
    • Accessible
    • Responsive
    • Transparent
• **FOCUS FIRST ON THE HOUSE**
  • Preparation for the Interim
    • Charges - November 4, 2015
    • House of Representatives Visits
      • House Members of the House Committee on Higher Education (9 visits)
      • House Members of House Appropriations Subcommittee on Article III (7 visits)
  • Texas House of Representatives Hearings Attended
    • February 11, 2016 – House Higher Education Committee Hearing
      • Blinn District President/CEO, Dr. Mary Hensley testifies
    • March 8, 2016 – House Higher Education Committee Hearing
    • March 24, 2016 – Joint Hearing with the House Committee on Higher Education and the Appropriations Subcommittee on Article III
• THEN MOVE TO THE SENATE
  • Preparation for the Interim
    • Charges – October 12, 2015
    • Senate Visits
      • Senate Members of Higher Education Committee (7 visits)
      • Senate Members Committee on Education (11 visits)
      • Senate Members of Finance Committee Article 3 Workgroup (5 visits)
    • Texas Senate Hearing Attended
      • March 29, 2016 – Joint Hearing with the Senate Higher Education Committee and the Senate Education Committee

• Working with Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC)
Outreach

• Legislative Website

• Preparation of the Board’s Guiding Principals for the 85th Legislative session to be presented for consideration in July and/or August, 2016.

• Legislative Luncheon
  • November 2016 (Date TBD)
Legislative Timeline
2016-2017

• Bill pre-filing period
  • November 2016-January 2017

• 85th Legislature convenes
  • January 10, 2017

• 85th Legislature adjourns
  • May 29, 2017
Representing all 50 Independent Community College Districts in Texas
Formally Established in 1947 (First Created in 1929)
Association Meets Quarterly
Current Leadership:
- Chair: Dr. Johnette McKown, President of McLennan Community College
- Chair-Elect: Dr. Greg Williams, President of Odessa College
- Sec. / Treasurer: Dr. Brenda Hellyer, Chancellor of San Jacinto College
- Past Chair: Dr. Richard Rhodes, President of Austin Community College
- TACC President & CEO: Mr. Jacob Fraire
- TACC Senior VP & COO: Dr. Steve Johnson

Executive Committee (13 members):
- 6 state regional members
- 3 at-Large members
- 4 TACC officers
• Two-thirds of House was in 1\textsuperscript{st} or 2\textsuperscript{nd} term
• One-third of the Senate was in 1\textsuperscript{st} or 2\textsuperscript{nd} term
• New Chair of both House Appropriations and House Higher Education
• New Chair of Senate Finance
• New leadership – both Lt. Governor & Governor
• Budget Surplus...but a desire to limit growth in the state budget
• Property Tax Cuts key policy priority
Budget Priorities and Decisions of the 84th Session

Overall State Spending Increased

• **2.9%** ($5.802 billion in All Funds)
  • However, $1.2 billion in Tax Cuts - mostly tax swap for property tax reduction by increasing Homestead Exemption

Higher Education Over All Spending Increased

• **7.9%** (+ $1.46 billion – mostly General Revenue)
  • Community Colleges: **-1.4 % decrease**
  • General Academics: **7.6 % increase**
  • Health Related Institutions: **8.4 % increase**
  • Tuition Revenue Bonds: **$250 million** in state funding ($3.1 billion in Bonds)
  • Overall State Student Financial Aid Programs: **4.9 % increase**
State Budget: Community Colleges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Instructional Funding</th>
<th>Budget 2014-15</th>
<th>Introduced Base Bill</th>
<th>Final Budget 2016-17</th>
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<tr>
<td>Core Operations</td>
<td>$50,000,000</td>
<td>$50,000,000</td>
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<td>Student Success Points</td>
<td>$172,015,292</td>
<td>$164,095,535</td>
<td>$169,168,401</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact Hours</td>
<td>$1,547,844,778</td>
<td>$1,476,859,817</td>
<td>$1,522,515,612 (+ $3,963,138 HH)</td>
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<td>$1,769,860,070</td>
<td>$1,690,955,352</td>
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- 4.5 % from 2014-15
- 1.4 % from 2014-15
Looking Forward:

THE 85TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

What we might expect
Policy Areas for the 85th Legislature

Tuition / Student Affordability / Debt
• Recent signals from Senate leadership to limit tuition increases

Property Tax Appraisal Reform / Caps
• Interest in reducing ability to raise local ad valorem taxes

Nursing Shortage
• Additional funding
• Community colleges offering BSN

Undocumented Student Tuition

Campus Carry
• Clarification of current statute
Comptroller’s Estimates Continue to Decline

- $6.4 billion surplus...post 84th Session
- Now is $4.22 billion as of Oct. 2015
- Could be near $0 by the 85th Session
- $10 Economic Stabilization Fund ($1 billion less than estimate)

Current Revenue Collections Continue to Decline

Total state tax collections (year-to-date) are more than $900 million less than FY15

Estimate was for revenues to be down -3.8%...actually down - 6.1%

Total state revenue would be lower - except for increase in Federal Medicaid funds
Budget Constraints

• More than **$9 billion less** available in revenue for 85th Legislature
  • Tax relief: Franchise and Property Tax
  • Other approved tax exemptions

• Public School Costs / Finance System Ruling
  • Growth in enrollments and costs
  • Additional state dollars into system?

• Increases in Medicaid caseload growth

• Further Slowing of State’s Economy
  • Lower price of oil
  • Further effect on sales tax
## Comparison of TACC and the THECB State Appropriations Recommendations for 2018-19:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016-17</th>
<th>2018-19</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Blinn portion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TACC:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td>11.50%</td>
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<td>Core Funding</td>
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<td>Success Points Funding 2.9%(Blinn)</td>
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<td>Contact Hour Funding 2.4%(Blinn)</td>
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<td>$200,200,000</td>
<td>$4,892,066</td>
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<td><strong>THECB:</strong></td>
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<td>9.10%</td>
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<td>Core Funding</td>
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<td>Contact Hour Funding 2.4%(Blinn)</td>
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Community College Association of Texas Trustees (CCATT)

- Represents Trustees at all 50 Community College Districts
- Founded on 2007
- Current Leadership:
  - Chair: Lydia Santibanez, Trustee at Temple College
  - Chair-Elect: Raymond Lewis, Trustee at Galveston College
  - Secretary: Bill Greenhill, Trustee at Tarrant County College
  - Past Chair: Marie Flickinger, Trustee at San Jacinto College
  - Director of Trustee Services: Jennifer Poteat
- Board of Director’s 13 Members
  - Based on Geography and College Size
- Annual Conference in June

www.blinn.edu
• **Advocacy / Lobbying as a communications process**
  • Advocacy is about defining the debate through communicating frames/narratives
  • Define your audience: elected official, member of the media, etc.
  • Define your message: keep it simple and concise

• **Data are fact, not truth**
  • Truth is what we think/believe about data

• **Use data...but convince & explain with narrative/story**
• The 4 “Ps” of Advocacy

- **Purpose**: Make sure you have a clear goal or “ask” before you go into a meeting or interaction...and then ask for what you need / want!

- **Persuasive**: Make your best case by explaining in a clear way your message...and stay “on message.”

- **Persistence**: Getting your message to resonate often takes multiple tries. Keep making the effort with the same **consistent** set of messages and narratives.

- **Passion**: If you can’t get excited about what you are advocating for...then how do you expect others to care? Make sure you convey the passion you feel about your cause.
THANK YOU