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## **TEXAS LAUNCHES THE FIRST COMPREHENSIVE ONLINE TOOL TO COMPARE THE STATE’S HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

*Earnings data now available for Texas families shopping for colleges with [CompareCollegeTX.com](http://CompareCollegeTX.com)*

AUSTIN – The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) today launched [Compare College TX](http://CompareCollegeTX.com) (CompareCollegeTX.com) an online, interactive tool designed to make the most relevant data about public higher education in Texas available to everyone. The online comparison tool, the first in Texas to have such a comprehensive set of information including earnings data, allows users to access and interact with information for every public university and community college across the state.

“Choosing a college is a big decision. Compare College TX will remove the guesswork by giving prospective students and their families important information including tuition and fees, graduation rates, and salaries for graduates by major. This transparency will help more students earn a certificate or degree and achieve their dreams,” said Texas Governor Rick Perry.

Funded by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the interactive tool allows users to compare Texas higher education institutions side by side on a wide variety of facts and performance measures including average tuition and fees, top degrees awarded, student demographics, four- and six-year graduation rates, the average time it takes graduates to earn a degree and student-to-faculty ratio, among other relevant data. In collaboration with College Measures, the tool provides wage data for graduates by degree level and major for every public institution in Texas.

“**Compare College TX** creates an invaluable resource for students and their families to research postsecondary education options and ultimately find the best fit for that individual student,” said Fred W. Heldenfels IV, Chairman of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. “This tool is another step we are taking in our work with students, parents, educators and advisors to encourage a college and career-ready culture and prepare students for the next step in education.”

Texas is the first state to turn this extensive data into an interactive and engaging resource for families and education advisors as well as legislators and policy-makers. Most importantly, a comprehensive, mobile-friendly version of the tool allows users to have easy access to the information from their smart phones and other mobile devices.

“The goal is to make sure everyone succeeds, and this technology is an important step in ensuring that success,” said Nicole Hurd, executive director and founder of the National College Advising Corps. “Now, you can compare schools based on your own needs and select a school that serves you well, and you can have the information with you wherever you are.”

In conjunction with **Compare College TX**, today the THECB also issued the third edition of the *Texas Public Higher Education Almanac*, which was developed to provide greater transparency for the performance of higher education institutions. The new online tool utilizes the data collected for the almanac plus additional data for greater transparency, with easier access to even more information to help students learn about and evaluate their higher education options.

Compare College TX completes the THECB's suite of online tools designed to help Texas students and their parents plan for college in four stages: inspiration, exploration, information, and application:



Generation TX ([gentx.org](http://gentx.org)) – inspires a college and career-ready culture in Texas public schools by increasing awareness and building support for the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards and helping students understand college and career-ready options after high school graduation

### Exploration



Compare College TX ([comparecollegetx.com](http://comparecollegetx.com)) – provides an interactive comparison of facts and performance measures including average tuition and fees, top degrees awarded, student demographics, four- and six-year graduation rates, student-to-faculty ratio and much more

### Information



College for All Texans ([collegeforalltexans.com](http://collegeforalltexans.com)) – gives counselors, future students and their parents tips for readying students for college, saving for school tuition, applying for financial aid, and more; and

### Application



Apply Texas ([applytexas.org](http://applytexas.org)) – provides one-stop access for applying to any public university in the state as well as participating community and private colleges.

For more information on Compare College TX, visit [comparecollegetx.com](http://comparecollegetx.com).

### About The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board provides leadership and coordination for the Texas higher education system. Since being created by the Texas Legislature in 1965, the Board has worked to achieve excellence for the college education of Texas students. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's mission is to work closely with policymakers and education stakeholders to develop and implement a higher education framework focused on initiatives to dramatically increase the number of postsecondary completions; keep college affordable and accessible for all Texans; and align higher education outcomes with current and future workforce needs. For more information, visit <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us>. Connect with us on [Twitter \(@TXHigherEdBoard\)](https://twitter.com/TXHigherEdBoard).

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