### About the Council

The Texas Student Success Council brings together diverse stakeholders to advance and advocate for policies that promote increased postsecondary student success and prepare students to compete in the 21st century economy. Convened by Educate Texas and chaired by Dr. William Serrata (President of El Paso Community College), the Council is composed of state and field stakeholders representing education (K-16), business and philanthropy, and has been fortunate to have the Chairs of the House and Senate Higher Education Committees, the Commissioner of Education and the Commissioner of Higher Education serving as Ex Officio members.

### Council Members

**K-12**
- Kim Alexander – Rouse Collegiate
- HD Chambers, Vice-Chair – Alief ISD
- Walter Jackson – Brenham ISD
- David Vinson* – Wylie ISD
- Brian Woods – Northside ISD

**Community College**
- Steve Head – Lone Star College
- Brenda Holley* – San Jacinto College
- Russell Lawrey-Hart* – Amarillo College
- Joe May – Dallas County Community College District
- Richard Rhodes – Austin Community College
- William Serrata, Chair – El Paso Community College

**University**
- Goy Bailey – University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- Katie Brook – University of Texas Austin
- James Halfmark, Vice-Chair – Texas A&M University System
- John Hayek* – Texas State University System
- Ray Martinez – Independent Colleges & Universities of Texas

**Business/Workforce**
- Tony Bennett – Texas Association of Manufacturers
- Dressel Ozuwai – Dallas Regional Chamber
- Justin Yancy* – Texas Business Leadership Council

**Philanthropy**
- Kristin Boyer – Trellis Foundation
- Adriana Cuellar Rojas – United Ways of Texas
- Charles Glover – Meadows Foundation
- Sue McMillin – Greater Texas Foundation
- Wynn Rosser – TIL Temple Foundation

**Ex Officio**
- Brandon Creighton – Senate Higher Education Committee
- Harrison Keller – Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
- Mike Morath – Texas Education Agency
- Chris Turner – House Higher Education Committee

### Affiliates Members

- Jennifer Esterline – Texas Education Grantmakers Advisory Consortium
- Cynthia Ferrell – Texas Success Center
- Carolyn Landell – Charles A. Dana Center
- Risa McGuire – Council for Public University Presidents and Chancellors
- Mark Milliron – CTEC Learning
- Linda Garcia – Center for Community College Student Engagement
- Jacob Freire – Texas Association of Community Colleges
- Kevin Brown – Texas Association of School Administrators
- * Work Group Co-Chair

### K-12 & Postsecondary Linkages

According to the Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce, 95% or 11.5 of the 11.6 million jobs created since the recession require education beyond high school. This is sobering in light of the fact that only 1 in 5 Texas eighth graders goes on to complete any postsecondary credential. If we are to ensure continued economic opportunity for all Texans, we must better align our school districts with their community college and university partners. These recommendations are aimed at encouraging stronger partnerships at the local, regional and state level.

1. Require school districts and institutions of higher education providing dual credit opportunities to district students to:
   - Create common advising strategies related to dual credit and college readiness.
   - Align endorsements, and dual credit courses within those endorsements, to postsecondary pathways at partnering institutions.
   - Identify tools, such as those created within the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative and others, to assist counselors, students and families in endorsement and dual credit course selection.

2. Provide clear guidance for students on which Texas general education courses, including those taken via dual credit, to take for particular fields.

### Texas Dual-Credit Students are...

- 2.2x more likely to enroll in a 2-year or 4-year college
- 2.0x more likely to persist in postsecondary education from the 1st to 2nd academic year
- 1.7x more likely to complete a post-secondary degree within 6 years

And while the number of dual-credit students has grown, dual-credit students still make up only 10% of the state’s secondary student population.

### Portability of Credits and Credentials

Texas taxpayers, students and families spend nearly $120 million on excess credits each year. Lack of alignment between our institutions of higher education results in increased time to degree and lower completion rates. These recommendations are aimed at addressing this by encouraging colleges and universities to work more collaboratively to improve credit mobility and increase transparency about degree pathways.

1. School districts, community colleges and universities should share data amongst each other, regionally sequence and map endorsements to degree plans for all students, and provide these maps publicly to students and families.

2. For the top 25 programs into which students are transferring, require universities to identify lower-division courses that apply to that program, the courses that also count for core requirements, and any additional lower-division requirements for that program.
EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE ALIGNMENT

According to data from the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, the share of jobs that are middle skill (those that require more than a high school diploma but less than a bachelor’s degree) is shrinking – from 61% in 1979 to 43% in 2016. To ensure Texas’ continued economic competitiveness and meet the goals of 60x30TX, the state should seek to promote the coordination of regional partnerships and collaboration between education and workforce partners. These recommendations are aimed at improving and deepening those connections.

1 The state should annually provide regional Labor Market Information (LMI) on skills gaps, which should inform prioritization of K-12 and postsecondary CTE programs and inform students and families of these opportunities.

2 Within the Tri-Agency Initiative, create a “Work-Based Learning Task Force”, staffed by a jointly-funded person at one of the agencies, to make recommendations to TEA, THECB and TWC to expand apprenticeship programs; criteria for their designation and that of supporting sector partnerships; alignment of public and private funding of programs; coordination of available and needed data; and barriers that may serve as obstacles, including liability laws and support services. Grant funds would also be administered to local and regional intermediaries to support sector partnerships in expanding apprenticeship programs to high-growth, high-demand industry sectors (i.e., advanced manufacturing, energy, healthcare, IT/cyber, business services, transportation, hospitality).

3 Support P-TECH/ICIA campuses in designing and piloting optional new “P-TECH Plus Apprenticeship” or “Career Academy Plus Apprenticeship” models.

61% IN 1979 → 43% IN 2016

THE SHARE OF JOBS THAT ARE MIDDLE SKILL IS SHRINKING.

For more information, please email edtxpolicy@cftexas.org.

Educate Texas, a catalyst for large-scale educational systems change, has partnered with public and private entities for more than a decade to achieve the goal of improving the public and higher education systems in Texas so that every student is prepared for success in school, in the workforce and in life. As a trusted thought partner and resource, both to state policymakers and educational leaders, Educate Texas works to drive conversations and effect change in various college and career readiness, higher education program and policy areas. Additionally, Educate Texas serves as the convener of statewide groups that bring together diverse stakeholders to build awareness and dialogue about the strengths and challenges for key statewide impact areas.