



## Texas College Access Network (TCAN)

Phase 1 Webinar

June 3, 2011





## Three questions to get us started...

Who  
are we?

- Alejandra Barbosa, THSP Operations & Program Manager
- Alma Garcia, THSP Learning Systems Program Officer

Why are  
we here?

- To THANK YOU for all your input!
- Share our findings from Texas College Access Network (TCAN) phase 1 research and stakeholder interviews
- Continue open dialogue, transparency, and collaboration for the development of TCAN

How will  
this webinar  
work?

- Please mute your line to avoid background noise
- Please submit any questions through Q&A tool, time permitting, we'll address any questions at the end of presentation

Focus of today's discussion



## Overview

- **Texas High School Project: Who we are**
- Need for a College Access Network
  - Regional Action Plan and College Access Inventory
- Texas College Access Network
  - Objectives and Long-Term Plan
- Phase 1 of project, process and research
  - Preliminary findings
- Role of college access stakeholders



## Our Mission

**To significantly improve the postsecondary readiness of low-income students with a focus on students in low performing schools**

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*The Texas High School Project develops practical insights and proven solutions that can be scaled in schools and districts throughout Texas based on our evidence and data analysis across the transition from middle school (8-9) through high school (9-12) and into postsecondary programs (four-year, two-year, and technical programs).*





THSP has aligned \$375M to date and has robust public & private partnerships.

### State of Texas

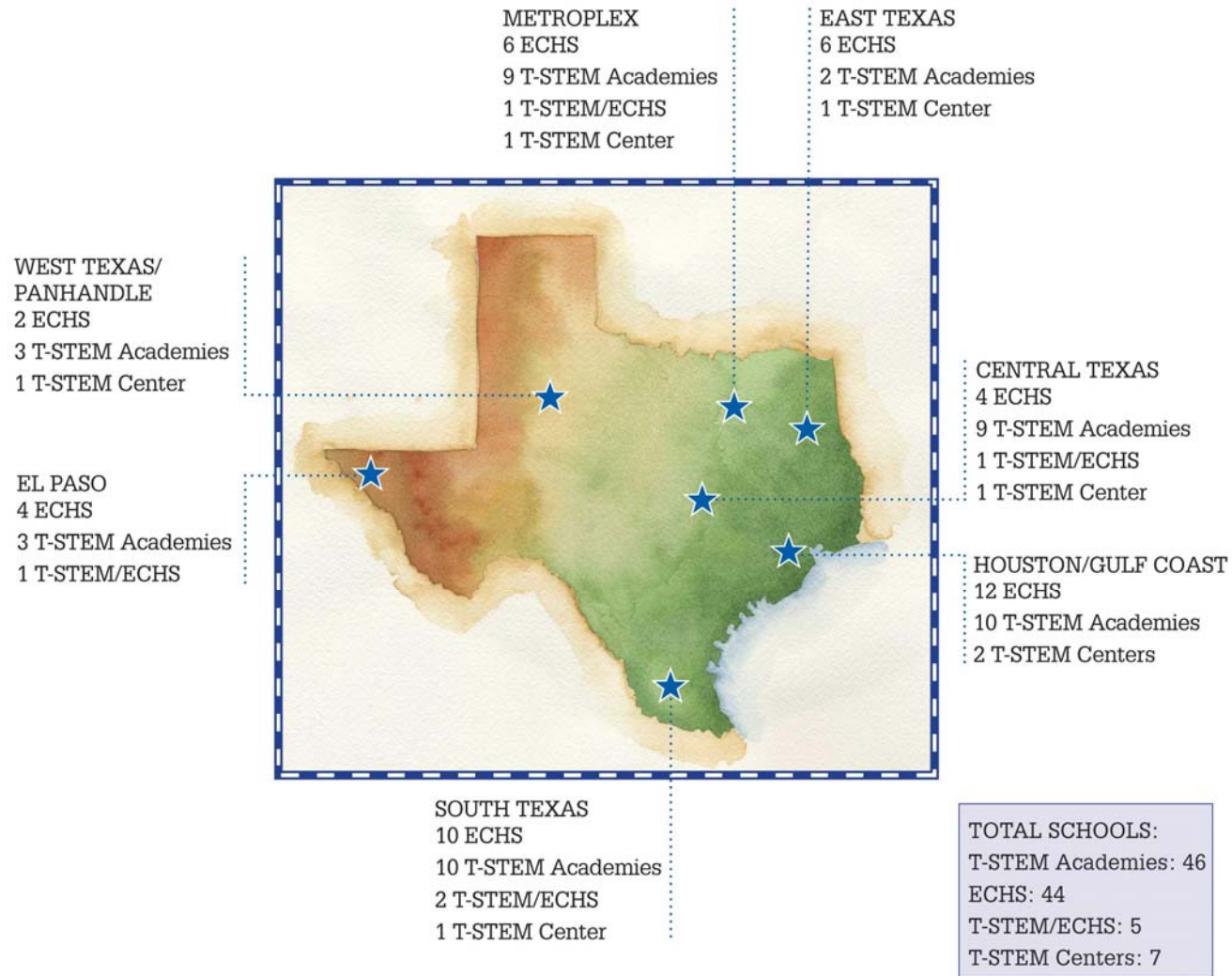


### Private Sector/ Philanthropy





THSP is establishing a college-ready network across the state.





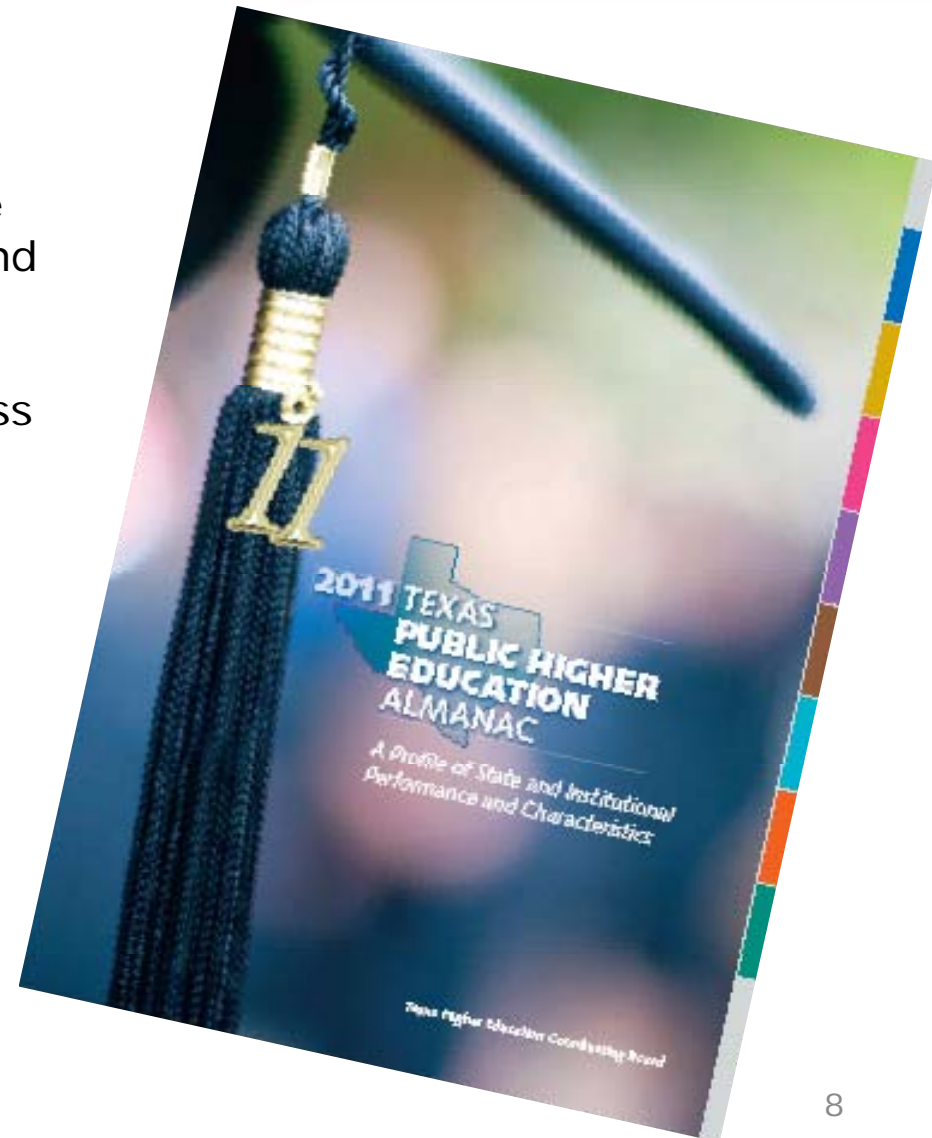
## Established IHE Partnerships





## Our Partnership With THECB

- Production of the first comprehensive almanac of Texas higher education and institutional data
- Supported a strategic planning process to accelerate THECB's "Closing The Gaps" initiative
- Partner in the Generation TX campaign, a statewide initiative aimed at mobilizing entire communities to help Texas students and their families pursue the path to college and career education beyond high school





## Postsecondary Success Initiatives

- **Regional Action Plan**  
Providing statewide overview, region-specific summaries, and strategy to improve postsecondary outcomes through collective impact via a multi-regional approach including South Texas, El Paso, Metroplex, Gulf Coast and Central Texas.
- **Completion by Design**  
Serving as the State Policy Lead for the Lone Star Community College System's cadre of colleges.
- **Learn and Earn**  
Working with Texarkana Community College to apply for a Learn and Earn grant from the U.S. Department of Labor.



## THSP supports postsecondary access and completion.

Given historical investments at the secondary level and challenges students face in postsecondary completion, THSP is increasing its focus on addressing:

- **Postsecondary Access**

Developing the Texas College Access Network (TCAN) to identify and connect effective organizations committed to driving greater postsecondary access

- **Advocacy Support for Regional Universities and Community Colleges**

Supporting community college retention and completion through the Completion by Design initiative and Learn and Earn Model

- **Next Generation Technologies for Increasing Postsecondary Success**

Identifying opportunities for piloting and demonstrating impact of utilizing technology

Focus of today's discussion

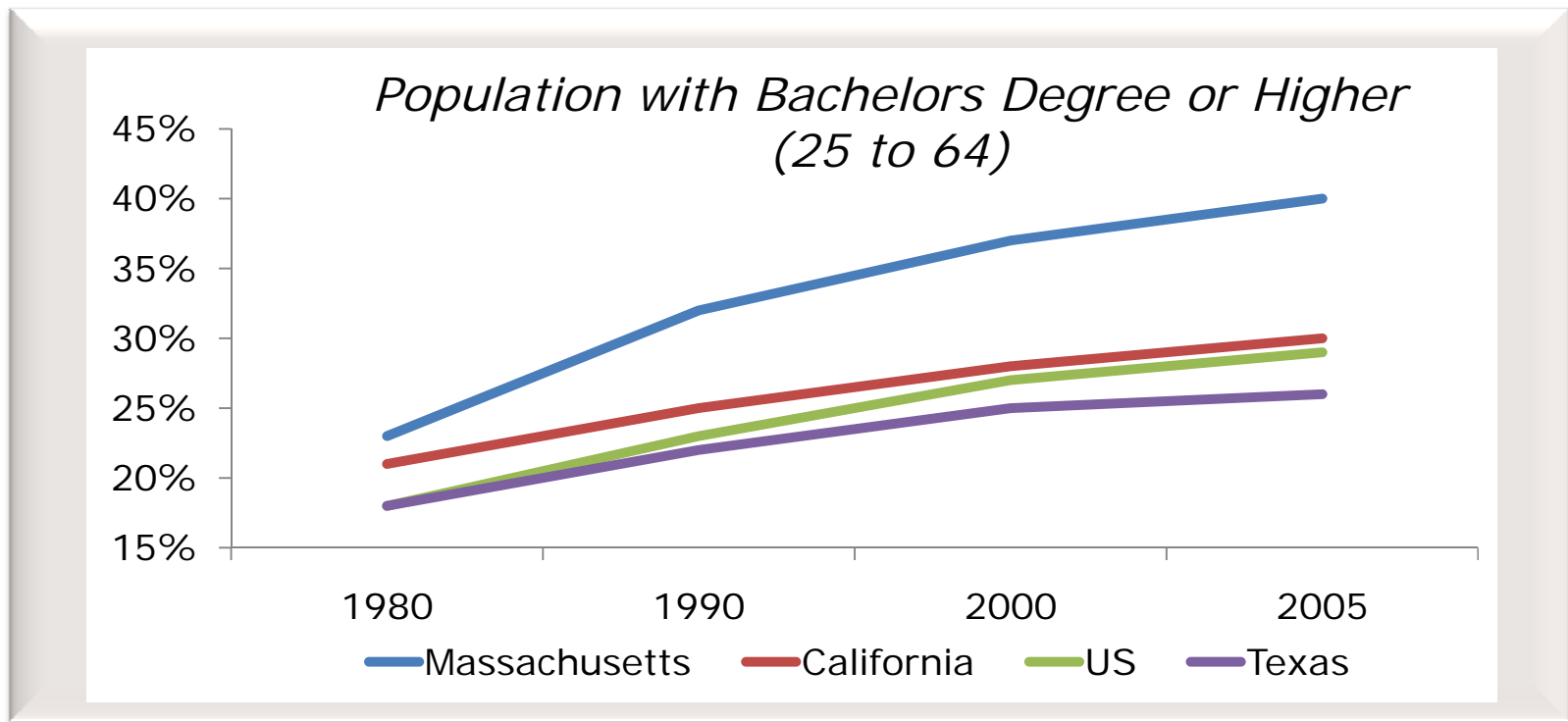


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Texas' attainment in postsecondary education has dropped below the national average.



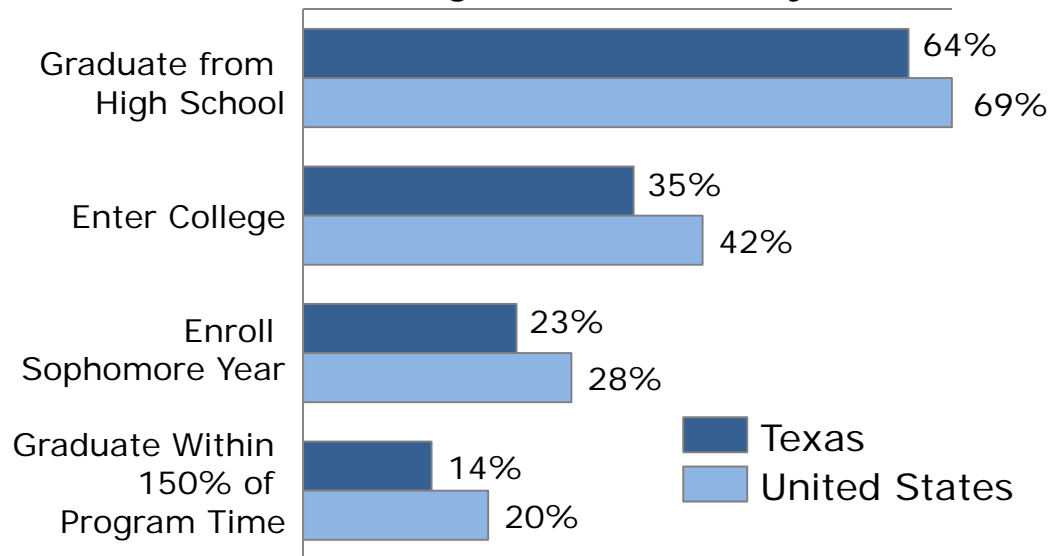
***Nationally, Texas ranks 43<sup>rd</sup> postsecondary participation and 32<sup>nd</sup> in postsecondary completion.***



The state's current higher education pipeline will have stark implications for Texas' prosperity.

### College Access to Completion Pipeline 2006

*Of 100 9<sup>th</sup> graders, how many ...*



***The gap between Texas and US average will widen unless Texas' performance across the higher education pipeline improves.***

Source: College Access / Completion Pipeline Chart from NCES and THECB data in the State of Texas' Report of the Select Commission on Higher Education and Global Competitiveness, January 2009



The state's current higher education pipeline will have stark implications for Texas' prosperity.

### Effects on Texas Economy by 2040 *(if current trends continue)\**



12% decline in average household income

15% increase in number of households living in poverty

\$15B per year less in state tax revenue

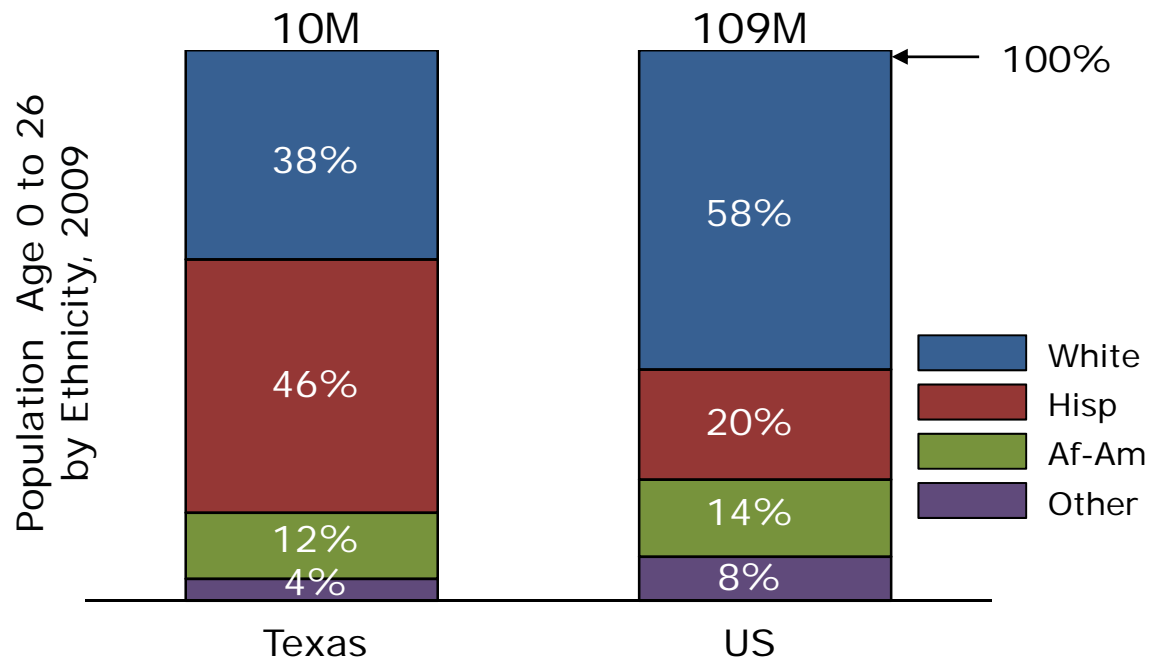
An increase of 100,000 in the prison population and an additional \$1.5B per year in incarceration costs

Source: Steve Murdock, Institute for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research, UT San Antonio; projections based on 1.0 population growth scenario



Leaky pipeline partly caused by high percentage of underserved students with lower achievement rates.

### Hispanics Are Texas' Largest Ethnic Group Under Age 26



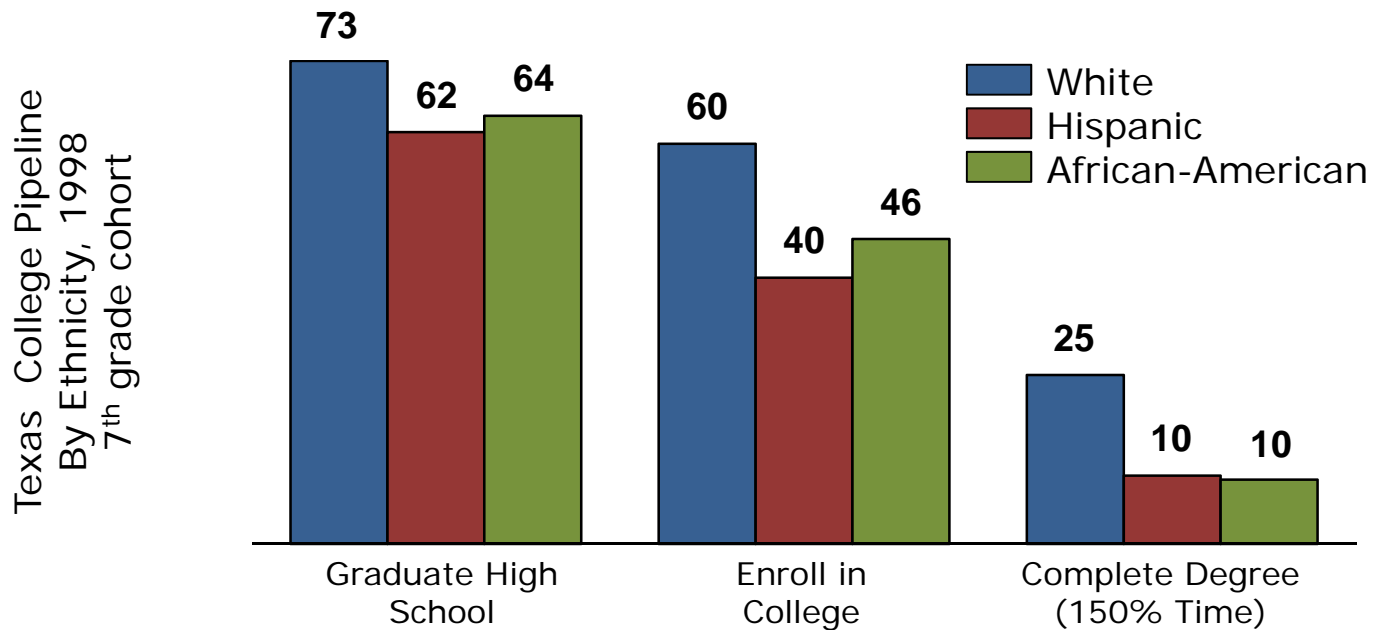
Source: Left chart, Texas data from Texas State Data Center and Office of the State Demographer, US data from U.S. Census Bureau 2009 Population Project Net Migration Series; Right chart, THECB 1998 7<sup>th</sup> grade cohort data



Leaky pipeline partly caused by high percentage of underserved students with lower achievement rates.

### Only 10% of 7<sup>th</sup> grade Hispanic and African-American Students Complete a Degree

*Of 100 7<sup>th</sup> graders, how many ...*





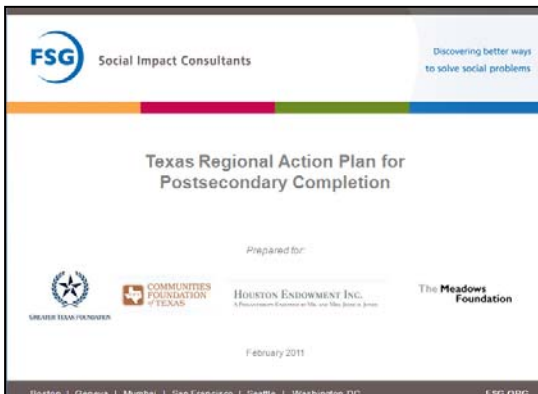
The good news: Many Texas organizations are committed to improving postsecondary access and completion.

- **There are more than 1,600 organizations statewide supporting college access<sup>1</sup>**
  - K-12 schools
  - Colleges and universities
  - College access and success organizations
  - Indirect service providers
- **Coupled with the work of other key stakeholders**
  - State Agencies (TEA, THECB)
  - Texas Legislature
  - Governor’s Office
  - Philanthropic Organizations
  - Community and Business Groups
  - Civil Rights Groups

1. Texas College Access Inventory, Greater Texas Foundation and National College Access Network, January 2011

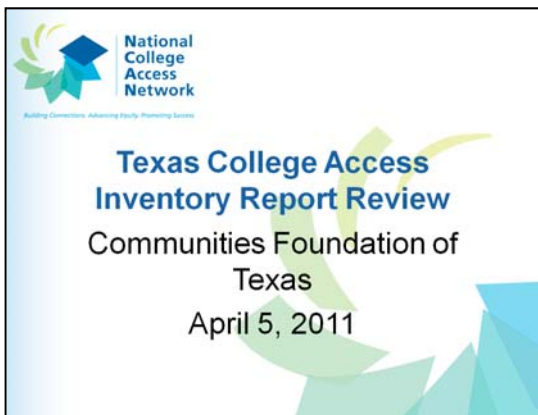


Given the breadth of stakeholders,  
research demonstrates the need to align efforts.



- **Texas Regional Action Plan**

- Outlined the urgency and complexity of the educational challenges ahead
- Identified the need for increasing coordination and focus



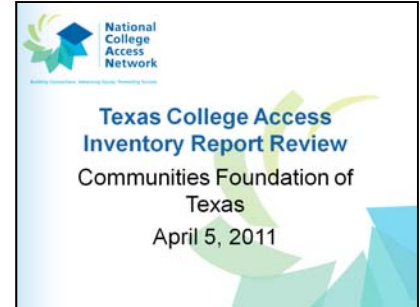
- **Texas College Access Inventory<sup>1</sup>**

- Confirmed the support for a statewide network to increase collaboration, networking, and communication

1. Texas College Access Inventory (January 2011) was completed by the National College Access Network, as commissioned by Greater Texas Foundation



## Key findings from the Texas College Access Inventory



- 45% of TX college access organizations are not aware of each other's activities
- 90% of organizations agreed their organization could benefit from a network
- 60% agreed a regional network could be even more impactful



We are here today to discuss our focus on one critical component of the pipeline.



Our primary focus:  
**Texas College Access Network**





## Overview

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- Phase 1 of project, process and research
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## Texas College Access Network Overview and Goals

Texas is a National College Access Network (NCAN) grant recipient and is developing the Texas College Access Network (TCAN)

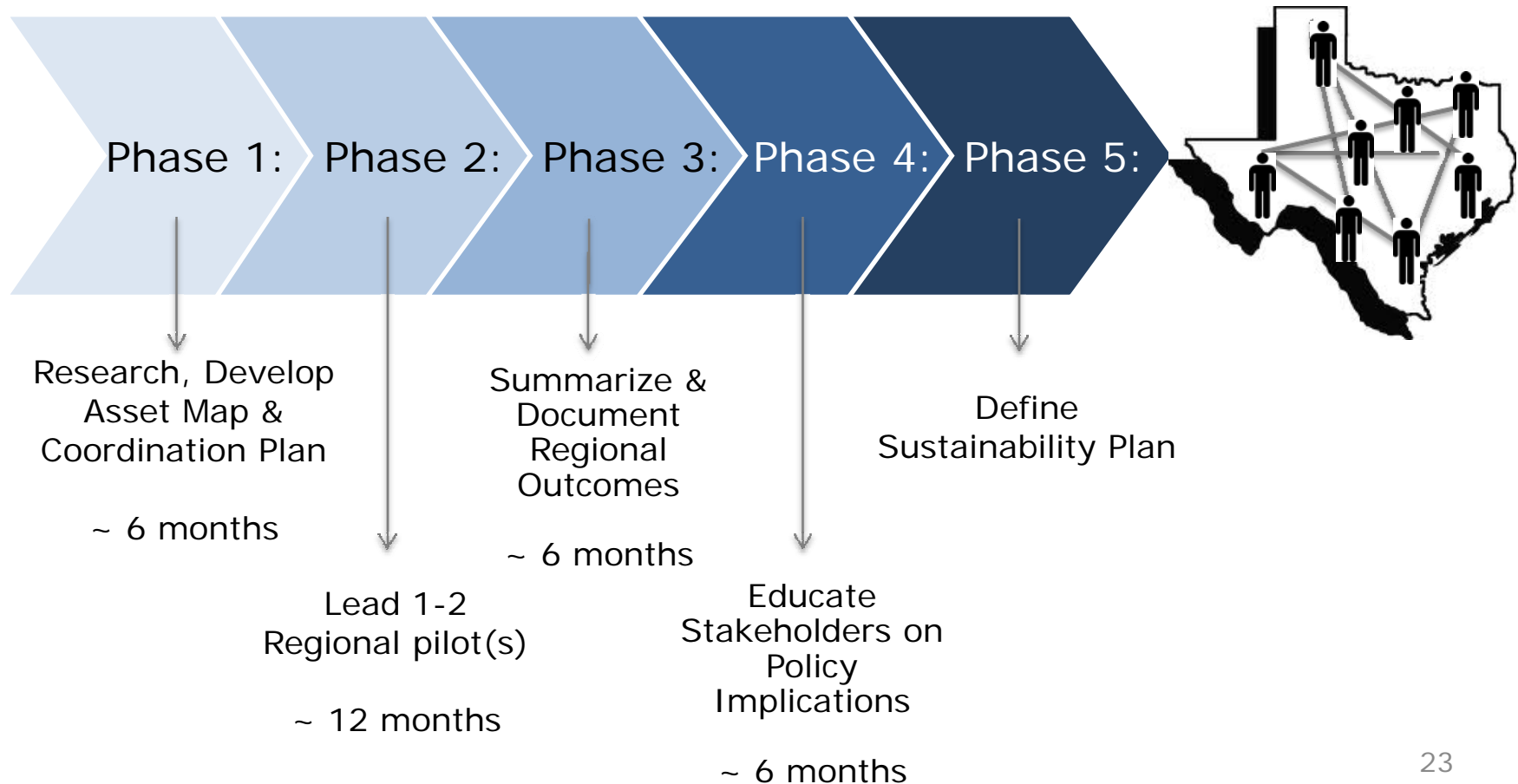


THSP and its public-private partnership will work together to:

- Establish a sustainable Texas network of agencies and organizations designed to increase student access and success in post-secondary education
- Create a platform for aligning national, state and local organizations activities and core competencies



## Overview of TCAN key activities and timeline





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## Phase 1: Who have we heard from to date?

### **We have talked to many stakeholders...**

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- Through 1:1 meetings or small group sessions:
  - ~45 individual stakeholders
  - ~25 GEAR UP Directors
- Through additional online surveys:
  - ~120 college access stakeholders (e.g. K-12 practitioners, IHE representatives)

### **...representing diverse organizations**

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- P-16 Councils
- ISD/School practitioners
- Business/Chamber
- IHE's
- Direct college access service providers
- Funders/Financial Aid representatives
- State agencies (TEA, THECB)
- Civil rights groups



## Survey responses by the numbers...

- **86%** said they **wanted a statewide or regional network**
  - Many responded enthusiastically/ emphatically for the need of a network
- Only **60%** said college access **programs are aligned** across Texas
  - 43% said somewhat aligned, 16% said very aligned
- **High school students** are **main target** for services (98%)
  - 62% also target schools/practitioners, as well as parents
- Primarily direct college access providers and IHE's responded
  - 32% Access providers
  - 29% IHE
  - 23% Other



## What we heard: TCAN's Mission

“Provide the tools available when and where students need them to apply to, enroll in and be successful in college.”

“Every HS graduate should be aware of higher education opportunities and have the educational background to take advantage of these.”

“This network should promote effective college access models, reduce duplicative efforts/services, and advocate for better college access climate.”

“Mission should be to share information, gather the troops, and build a large policy-based network that, over time, moves the needle for education.”



What we heard: Texas needs an independent institution to lead the network and develop strategy.

“We need this to be independently lead, or we risk losing momentum.”  
~ *City Chamber Representative*

“An independent organization can eliminate some institutional, policy and systemic barriers.”  
~ *Regional College Access Service Provider*

“We need an independent organization that will develop the strategy and plan – then tell us how we can participate and be involved.”  
~ *IHE Representative*



What we heard: Initial TCAN focus needs to build awareness and alignment among organizations.

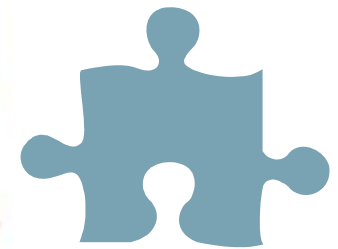
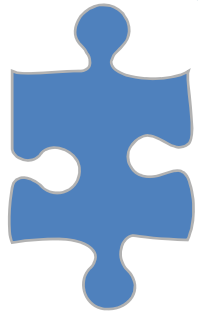


“We are all puzzle pieces close to each other, we just need something to connect us and lock us into the overall puzzle picture.”  
~ High School Principal

“We’ve developed a lot of great content, but it is only as useful as its reach, so it needs to be shared.”  
~ TX Financial Aid Provider



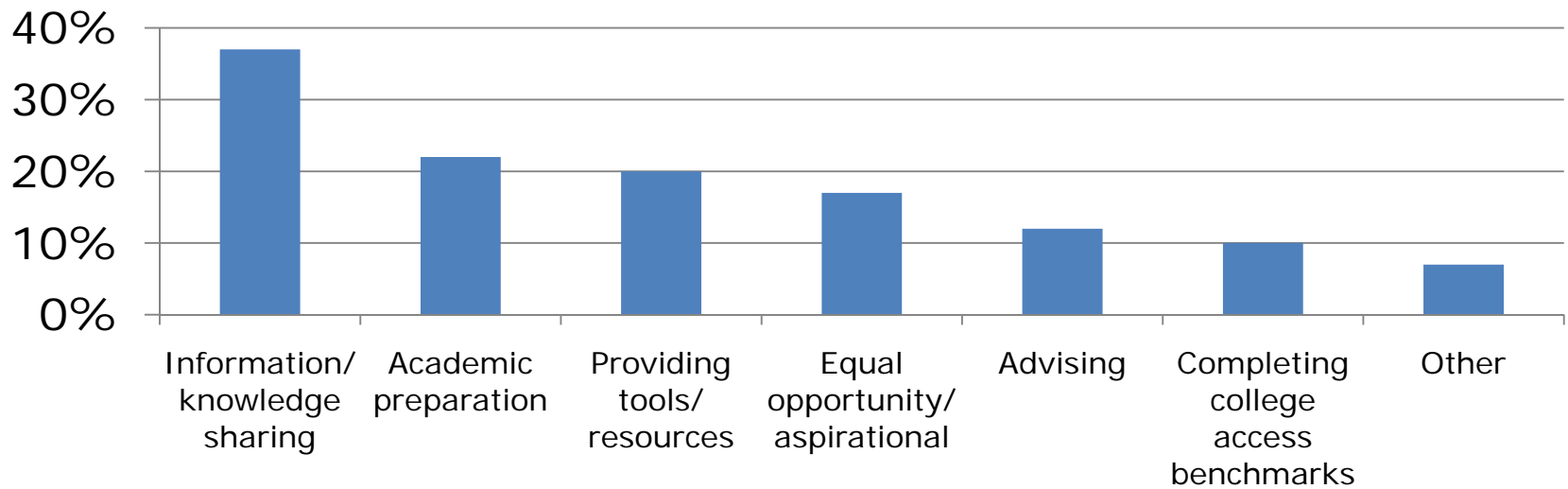
“We need to develop common performance standards, common data, and uniform practices across all college access providers.”  
~ College Access Service Provider





Example: Survey respondents identified varying definitions of college access

### How do you define college access?





What we heard: TCAN must facilitate impact measurement to support college access.

“If we have better data systems tracking outcomes, we can make more real-time interventions.”  
~ *College Access Service Provider*

““Better to start on the same page in terms of data, it would be much harder to have everyone align on data after the fact.”  
~ *Peer state network leader*

“We need to know how we are doing, at a state level, regionally, and even locally, to really see if we’re moving the needle on college access.”

~ *High School Leader*



## What we heard: Immediate needs from a network varied by stakeholder

“We would love to have standardized tools like webinars that are shared across the state, so that everyone has access to consistent information such as financial aid”

~ *Financial Aid provider*

New organizations

“This network is only useful if it develops data systems that inform improved performance management and enables short-term interventions”

~ *College Access Service Provider*

Established organizations

“We need a forum to network and share best practices”

~ *College Access Service Provider*

“The network should support statewide policy that would support all the local/regional providers”

~ *College Access Service Provider*



What we heard: Availability of and access to data is inconsistent among organizations

“Because we provide services to universities, we have no clear measurement of our impact”  
~ *Financial Aid provider*

“We are able to survey students and capture extensive information regarding their post-secondary plans”  
~ *College Access Service Provider*

New organizations

Established organizations

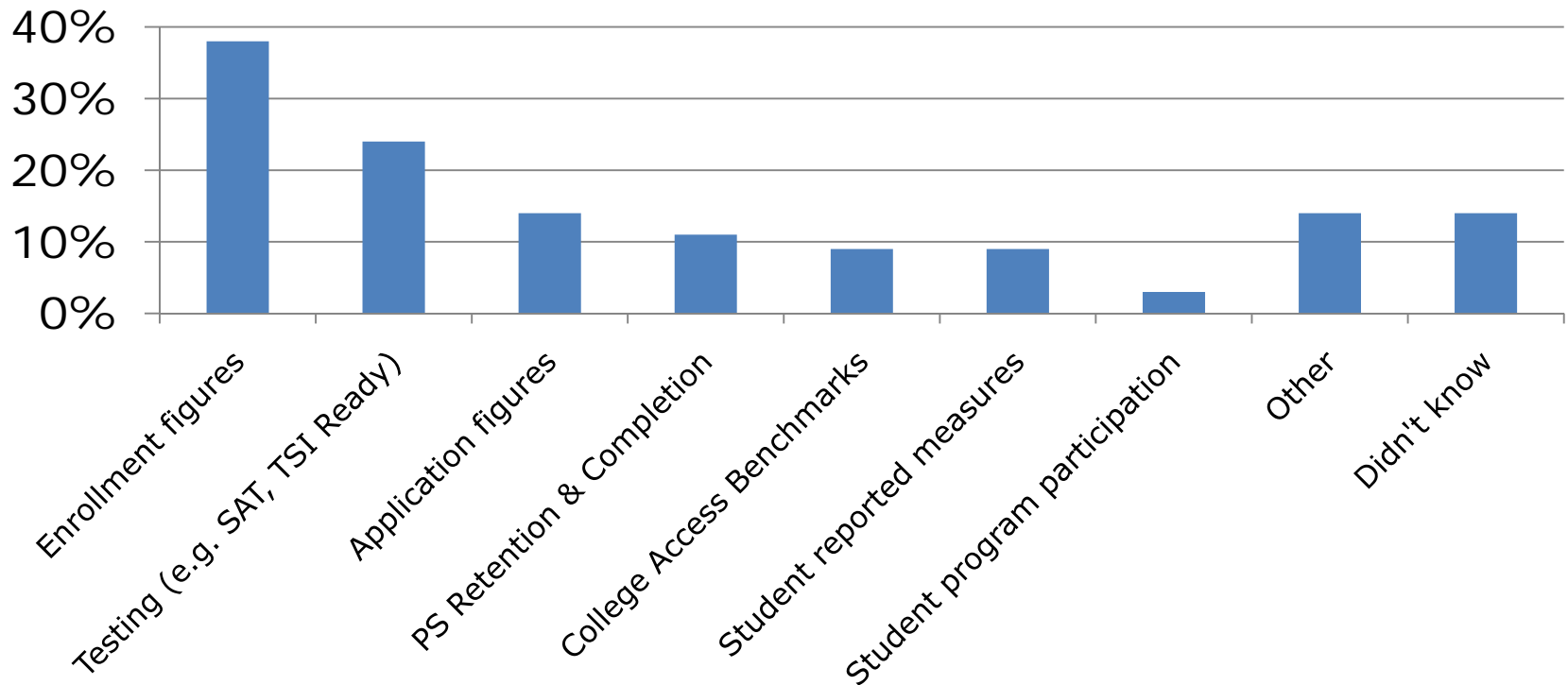
“We only get information from THECB and don’t have access to other information”  
~ *College Access Service Provider*

“We spend ~350 hours analyzing data to identify our areas of need and college access related performance.”  
~ *P-16 Council Member*



Example: Survey respondents demonstrated wide range of student progress and outcome measures

### How does your organization measure student progress and outcomes in terms of college access?



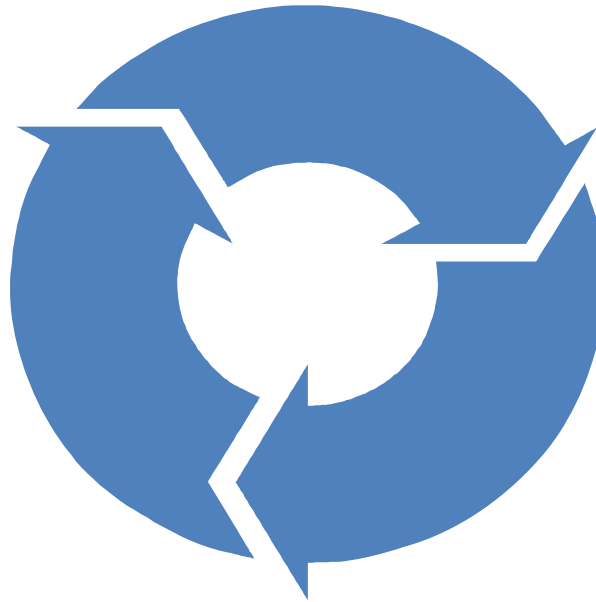
Source: THSP TCAN online survey responses



TCAN will have three primary areas of focus:

Awareness

Impact  
Measurement



Alignment

**TCAN Mission will focus on increasing college access and completion by building awareness, alignment and impact measurement.**



## Next steps

- Confirm region(s) for pilot
- Coordinate next convening – pilot kick-off
- Determine key resources needed, including:
  - Human capital
  - Communication strategy
  - IT/database



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- **Role of college access stakeholders**



TCAN's success will be dependent on the engagement and participation of key stakeholders like you

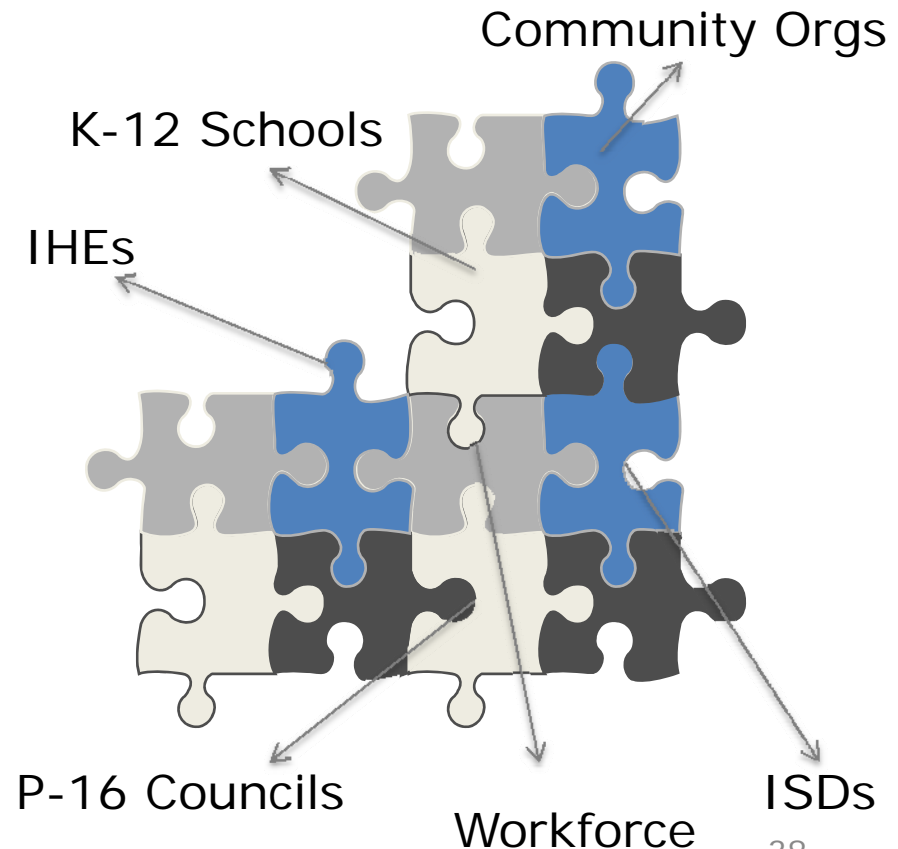
### Our Shared Goals

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- **Increase the access, retention and success** of students from TX
- **Collaborate, partner and network** with community, government, business and others
- **Champion** the cause of college access
- Become a **clearinghouse and filter** for information
- **Support and improve** resource and staff development including sharing best practices

### TCAN (illustrative)

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## For more information:

### Texas High School Project (THSP)

- Information on our programs and state portfolio
- Visit website: [www.thsp.org](http://www.thsp.org)
- *Copies of this presentation will be posted in the News and Media section of our website*

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### Texas College Access Network (TCAN)

- Questions related specifically to the Texas College Access Network
  - Alejandra Barbosa  
THSP Operations and Program Manager
    - Email: [abarbosa@cftexas.org](mailto:abarbosa@cftexas.org)
  - Alma Garcia  
THSP Learning Systems Program Officer
    - Email: [agarcia@cftexas.org](mailto:agarcia@cftexas.org)



Questions?