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Texas Education Agency  
www.tea.texas.gov

Texas Workforce Commission  
www.twc.state.tx.us

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
www.theccb.state.tx.us

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Agency leaders host Texas Education & Workforce Summit in Austin**

AUSTIN – Leaders of the Texas Education Agency (TEA), Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) are hosting the inaugural Texas Education & Workforce Summit this week in Austin. The summit is taking place at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center on the University of Texas at Austin campus.

Set for Sept. 19 and 20, the one-and-a-half-day summit – which is part of Gov. Greg Abbott’s Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative – marks the culmination of a series of workforce forums across the state assessing regional needs and ensuring Texas is poised to compete in an ever-changing 21<sup>st</sup> century economy.

The summit features numerous speakers and panels from business and industry, public education, higher education, philanthropy and government who are sharing best practices on collaborative efforts taking place statewide to strengthen the education-to-workforce pipeline. Gov. Greg Abbott gave the Summit’s keynote address on Monday.

“I established the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative earlier this year to seek out innovative approaches to meeting the state’s workforce goals,” said Gov. Abbott. “After several months of gathering information and meeting with stakeholders across Texas, I look forward to hearing their recommendations on how to help students build marketable skills and prepare them to successfully compete in a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy, while making higher education more accessible to all Texans.”

Gov. Abbott established the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative to assess local economic activity, examine workforce challenges and opportunities and consider innovative approaches to meeting the state’s education and workforce goals.

As part of that initiative, Commissioner of Higher Education Raymund Paredes, Texas Commissioner of Education Mike Morath and Texas Workforce Commission Chairman Andres Alcantar, along with TWC Commissioners Ruth Hughs and Julian Alvarez, launched a series of regional forums beginning in March to help establish a framework for closer collaboration between public education, higher education and workforce development. Forums were held in Midland, San Antonio, Houston, Dallas, El Paso, McAllen, Tyler/Longview and Austin.

During the Texas Education & Workforce Summit, agency leaders are presenting their draft recommendations related to the Governor’s charge for the Tri-Agency Initiative. Summit participants are encouraged to provide feedback during the event before the final

recommendations are presented to Gov. Abbott later this fall.

For information regarding the Texas Education & Workforce Summit, visit the THECB website at <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/index.cfm?objectid=57FE5133-FBAD-7409-0EC28AC7C0FA1210&flushcache=1&showdraft=1>.

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