

## Staff Recommendations for the 2019 Texas Higher Education Star Awards

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## Texas Higher Education Star Awards

- Established in 2001 for exceptional contributions to *Closing the Gaps*
- Revised in 2016 for exceptional contributions to *60x30TX*
- Nominations and subsequent applications accepted by the THECB from eligible institutions and organizations across Texas
- THECB Internal Staff Review Panel recommends finalists
- External Review Panel selects winner(s)



## Star Awards History

From 2001-2015 (15 years):

- 920 applications
- 180 finalists (20% of applicants)
- 74 awards (8% of applicants)



From 2016-2018 (3 years):

- 102 applications
- 19 finalists (19% of applicants)
- 6 awards (6% of applicants)



## 2018 Winner Proudly Displays Award on Web

**“HCC Weekend College wins prestigious state award.”**



(Summaries of all finalists and awardees: <http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/starawards>)



## Overall Recommendation for 2019

THECB staff recommends continuing the Star Award Program with some revised guidelines to encourage the submission of high-quality applications that showcase more of the great contributions being made across Texas to achieve the goals and targets of *60x30TX*.



## Specific Recommendations for 2019

### Revisions to Categories and Criteria

Combine "Groups and Organizations" and "Partnerships" into one "Texas Groups, Organizations, or Partnerships" category

Reduce number of potential finalists to up to 8, to include at least 1 finalist from each of 3 categories:

- Texas 4-year higher education institutions
- Texas 2-year higher education institutions
- Texas groups, organizations, or partnerships

Include provision that programs/projects/activities and groups/organizations/partnerships must have been in operation for at least 2 years



## Specific Recommendations for 2019

### Additions to "Groups Sent Announcement" List

Send the Call for Nominations to the 20 Texas Education Service Centers

Besides the Call, send invitations from the Commissioner to:

- Institutions' presidents
- Lead members the 10 advisory committees for *60x30TX* Regional Targets



## Specific Recommendations for 2019

### Revisions to Winners

Reduce number of potential winners annually to a maximum of 3

Specify that External Review Panel does not have to pick a winner from each of the three recommended categories



## Specific Recommendations for 2019

### **Additions to *Application Process and Guidelines***

Provision that applications must be authorized by the institution's chief executive officer as appropriate through his or her signature

Tip Sheet: What Makes a Good Star Award Application?

Star Award Application Review Form

THECB's practice of featuring the year's winners in the annual *60x30TX Progress Report* and *Texas Public Higher Education Almanac*



## Recommended Timeline for 2019

Date	What Occurs
May 6-8	Call for 2019 Star Award nominations
June 10	Nomination deadline
July 15	Application deadline
July 19 - Aug. 2	Internal Staff Review Panel reviews all applications
Aug. 9-16	Commissioner recommends finalists to the Chair of THECB
Aug. 19 - Sept. 9	External Review Committee reviews all finalists' applications
Sept. 25	Finalists notified and invited to attend Star Awards Ceremony
Fall 2019	2019 Awards presented at Leadership Conference





Questions?