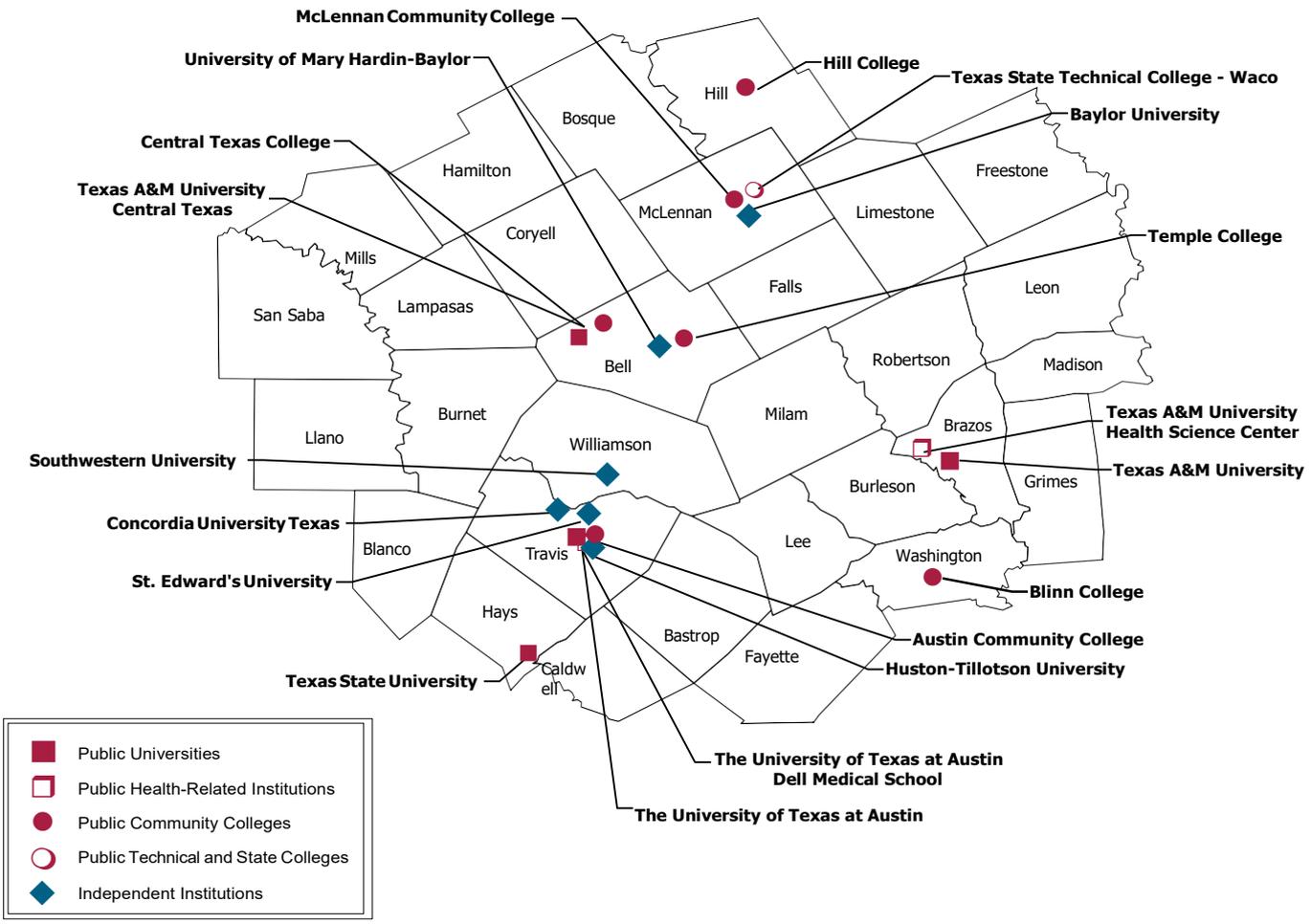


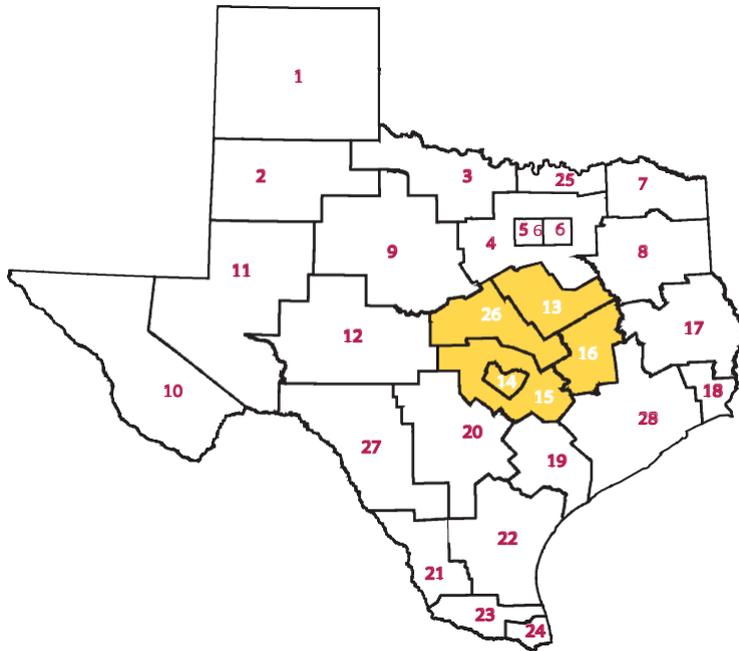
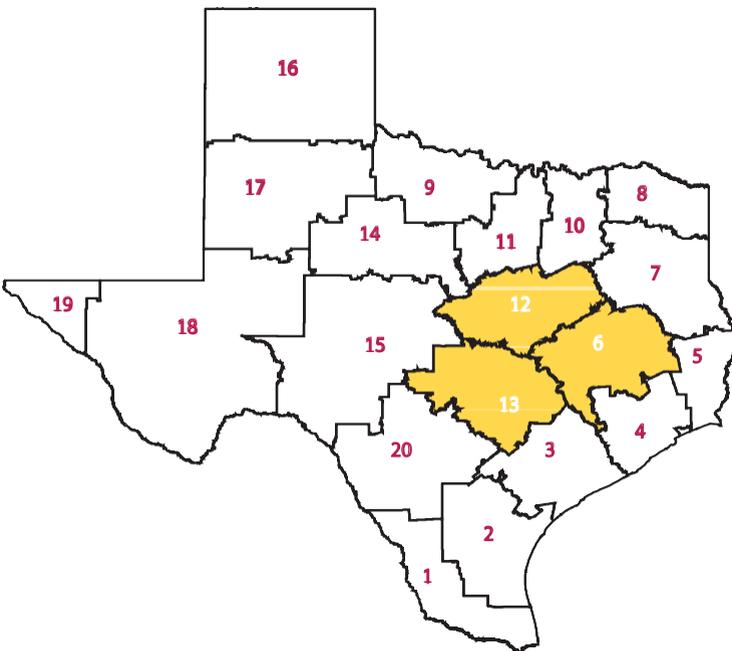
Central Texas 2019 – 2020 REGIONAL ACTION PLAN

Higher Education Region



Education Service Centers (K12)

TWC Workforce Development Areas



Central Texas Region

60x30: EDUCATED POPULATION

Completed Activities

The regional advisory group presented our strategies to university leadership and P-16 councils during the 2018-2019 academic year. We met with presidents, provosts, deans, and other administrators and community and industry leaders to demonstrate the power of these strategies. These meetings connected our strategies to institutional strategic plan initiatives. We engaged in valuable discussions about the 60x30TX plan and how to operationalize the plan's goals in our region. Additionally, we convened business, workforce, public and higher education, and other stakeholders in June to review the annual progress and consider options to move forward.

2019 – 2020 Planned Activities

The regional advisory group plans to operationalize deepening institutional alignment with workforce and industry partners by enhancing the work currently in play by organized groups and institutions in the region. Meetings with P-16 councils and regional convening will continue to encourage the regional stakeholders to identify new initiatives and expand current efforts to further progress on this goal. The regional advisory group will meet in September, December, March, and May and conduct a regional convening in June to continue coordinated efforts. The group will be reviewing proposals in September to use our two mini-grants valued at \$10,000.

Insights Related to Educated Population Data Trends

2017 Educated Population 49.7%

2016 Educated Population 48.2%

2015 Educated Population 47.8%

The group speculates the recent increase in educational attainment in the region is more likely contributed to the increased population due to migration into the region from other regions, states, and countries. The population continues to rapidly grow with many of the counties among the fastest-growing in the country. However, we have worked hard to encourage citizens to enroll in higher education and complete degrees, and these efforts are effective. While having the two flagship institutions in our region is beneficial, many completers from those institutions spread their wings and take on roles outside our region. Therefore, efforts to enroll and complete students at our regional universities and especially our community colleges were essential in seeing gains. Each institution of higher education in the region has an identified initiative in their strategic plans to ensure gains, and we attribute our gains to those efforts.

COMPLETION

Completed Activities

The regional advisory group presented our strategies to university leadership and P-16 councils during the 2018-2019 academic year. We met with presidents, provosts, deans, and other administrators and community and industry leaders to demonstrate the power of these strategies. These meetings connected our strategies to institutional strategic plan initiatives. We engaged in valuable discussions about the 60x30TX plan and how to operationalize the plan's goals in our region. Additionally, we convened business, workforce, public and higher education, and other stakeholders in June to review the annual progress and consider options to move forward.

2019 – 2020 Planned Activities

The regional advisory group plans to strengthen guided pathways through higher education by enhancing the work currently in play by organized groups and institutions. Community colleges in the region plan to enhance efforts to acknowledge the educational success of our students by implementing automated reverse transfer completions. Many university students begin their educational careers at community colleges. With improved methods of identifying students who meet all or most of the associate degree requirements, good strides can be made toward increasing completions. The benefit of this work cannot be overstated for students who do not complete their four-year credential. The associate degree can be a significant advantage in gaining higher levels of employment. Additionally, a renewed effort has begun in looking at recruiting and completing students of specific underserved populations. P-16 councils and institutions are seeking additional funds to support economically disadvantaged students in the region. As an example, The University of Texas at Austin announced funding for students with a family income below \$65,000. Additionally, The Dana Center conducted a Transfer Success convening to encourage more transfer opportunities for students with a focus on better advising and funding. Consideration of small debt forgiveness programs are creating paths for stop-outs to return.

Insights Related to Completion Data Trends

2018 Completion 58,404

2017 Completion 57,300

2016 Completion 54,410

In FY 2018, institutions of higher education in the region saw the fruits of their labors of the past years in focusing on streamlined pathways to completion. The regional group acknowledges the continued growth in degrees, but the rate of growth this year declined from the 5% increase we achieved the year prior. We believe focusing on underserved populations and finding more funding for economically disadvantaged students will result in higher completion rates and numbers in future years.

HIGH SCHOOL-TO-HIGHER EDUCATION

Completed Activities

The regional advisory group presented our strategies to university leadership and P-16 councils during the 2018-2019 academic year. We met with presidents, provosts, deans, and other administrators and community and industry leaders to demonstrate the power of these strategies. These meetings connected our strategies to institutional strategic plan initiatives. We engaged in valuable discussions about the 60x30TX plan and how to operationalize the plan's goals in our region. Additionally, we convened business, workforce, public and higher education, and other stakeholders in June to review the annual progress and consider options to move forward.

2019 – 2020 Planned Activities

The group has yet to identify mechanisms to share data at the desired levels or communicate with ISDs to improve matriculation rates. Success has been achieved with higher rates of FAFSA completions with plans to continue efforts. Additional success is expected with new legislation requiring high school students to complete the FAFSA. We plan to adopt a College scorecard implemented by McLennan Community College to communicate better how high school graduates succeed at our colleges and universities. Additionally, we plan to utilize the THECB's Eighth Grade Cohort Report at the regional level to better quantify the success of our younger citizens to and through higher education. We will spend the year asking how we can divert funds from recruiting the 50% that do go to college to the 50% that do not attend.

Insights to High School-To-Higher Education Data Trends

2018 High school-to-higher education rate 50.1%

2017 High school-to-higher education rate 51.7%

2016 High school-to-higher education rate 51.3%

We lost ground on this measure this year, but we believe efforts in our FAFSA campaign will result in higher enrollment numbers next year. However, the lower college-going rates may be associated with a higher percentage of economically disadvantaged students completing high school and struggling to enroll in higher education. We hope these students are taking a gap year to accrue resources to start and complete a degree, and we plan to formulate initiatives to meet them partway.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The regional group meets quarterly to communicate progress. Groups of members are assigned to one of the three strategies and collaborate between regional meetings to make progress.