



Leopard Dreams



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Temple College Selected to Participate in New Student Success Initiative

Temple College

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Temple College is one of 12 community colleges in Texas that have been selected to participate in a new student success initiative called the Texas Pathways Project.

The initiative is designed to ensure that students attending community colleges either graduate with a credential or transfer to a four-year institution. It is sponsored by the Texas Success Center and is modeled after a national initiative with the same name that is sponsored by the American Association of Community Colleges and funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Colleges participating in the Texas Pathways Project will commit to implementing what are known as guided student pathways. This may involve redesigning everything from curriculum and instruction to advising, class scheduling, orientation and registration. Students will be offered additional support and guidance as they navigate their pathways.

Colleges participating in the project will participate in biannual institutes and will be assigned a Texas Pathways Coach. Full implementation of the project is expected to take four to five years.

“Joining the Texas Pathways Project is the right step for Temple College and especially for our students,” said President Dr. Glenda O. Barron. “Providing students with concentrated pathways, coupled with strong support services, will enable them to complete their certificates and degrees, as well as successfully transfer to four-year institutions.”

Barron noted that Temple College already has very clear pathways for students who are interested in health professions. The challenge is to develop similar pathways for students interested in other fields. In May, Barron met with academic and student support services leadership to generate faculty and staff support for the new initiative. Faculty members later voted overwhelmingly to support the project.

The Texas Pathways Project received seed funding from the Greater Texas Foundation, which is based in Bryan. Other colleges chosen to participate in the first round of the project are Amarillo College, Austin Community College, Brazosport College, Dallas County Community College District, Grayson College, Houston Community College System, Lone Star College District, McLennan Community College, Midland College, South Texas College and Southwest Texas Junior College.

To be selected for the project, colleges had to demonstrate that they are committed to substantial redesign of their academic and student service programs and have already laid the groundwork for long-term reform. Applicants also had to document strong partnerships with local school districts and transfer institutions.

Barron said the Texas Pathways Project fits perfectly with several initiatives that are already under way at Temple College, including the New Mathways project, which is designed to make sure students take math courses that best match their intended career choice.

Barron said she hopes Temple College will serve as a model for other community colleges that have yet to participate in the Texas Pathways Project.

—Ellen Davis



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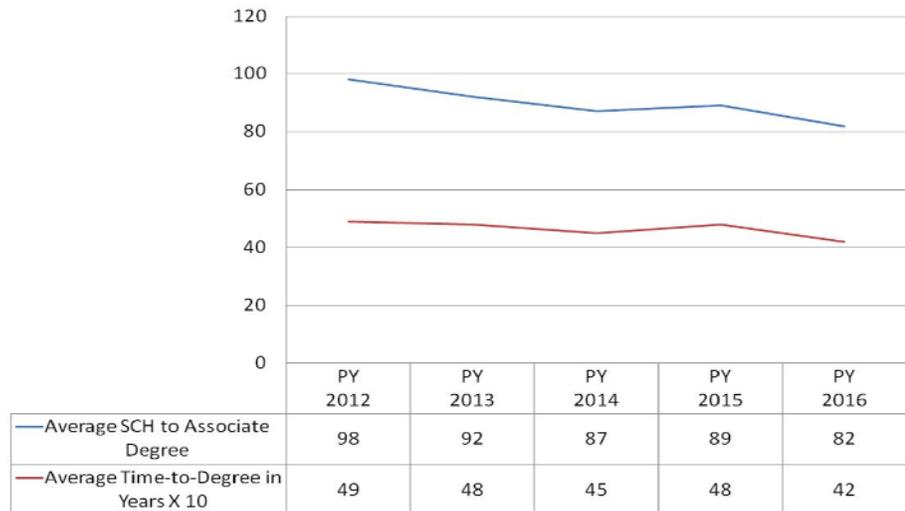
<http://www.templejc.edu/academic/AtD/AtD.htm>

Latest Reports from TxHigherEdData.org

TxHigherEdData.org is Texas' primary source for statistics on higher education. Two recent reports released by Texas Higher Education Data are the *Closing the Gaps by 2015 Final Progress Report* and the *2016 Texas Public Higher Education Almanac*. The final progress report evaluates how far higher education in Texas has come since the *Closing the Gaps by 2015* plan began in 2000 measuring the areas of participation, success, excellence, and research. The report contains aggregated data for public universities and community colleges in Texas. You may access the final progress report by going to <http://www.txhighereddata.org> and looking under Latest News on the left-hand column. The *Closing the Gaps by 2015* plan is being replaced by the *Texas Higher Education Strategic Plan—60X30TX*.

The *2016 Texas Public Higher Education Almanac* contains both aggregated data for all public universities and community colleges and individual data sets for each school. The 2016 almanac and previous years' almanacs can also be accessed at txhighereddata.org. Most of the data points for Temple College remained near the same for 2015 and 2016. One change of interest is the completions measures of average time-to-degree in years and the average number of SCH toward a degree. When this metric was introduced in the 2012 almanac, Temple College students averaged 4.9 years-to-degree with an average of 98 SCH taken. The 2016 almanac reports Temple College students taking an average of 4.2 years-to-degree with an average of 82 semester credit hours taken. Caveats to the measures are that hours transferred-in and time at other colleges are included in the calculations.

Temple College Higher Education Almanac Completion Measures



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