



## TACHE

### 2017 Legislative Priorities

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*Every dollar invested in Texas higher education system returns \$5 or more to the Texas economy. - Texas Comptroller*

The Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education (TACHE), established in 1974, is a professional association committed to the improvement of educational and employment opportunities for Hispanics in higher education.

We are all aware that Hispanics are the fastest growing ethnic group in the U.S. and Texas. In the year 2030, by conservative projections, there will be over 15 million Hispanics in Texas making it the largest single ethnic group in the state. Today, Hispanics make up 37 percent of the Texas population. Yet Hispanics are nowhere near parity with respect to higher education. Specifically, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board reports that approximately 6 percent of faculty in Texas public colleges and universities are Hispanic. In addition, about 9 percent of professional staff in Texas colleges and universities are Hispanics. Hispanics make up approximately 34 percent of the student population in Texas public colleges and universities, yet graduation rates are below the state average.

From a socio-economic perspective, the demographic projections are startling according to the *Texas Data Center at The University of Texas at San Antonio*. Hispanics and other underrepresented ethnic groups will total about 90 percent of all new residents by 2030. If current demographic, employment and educational trends continue to the year 2030, Texas will be:

- Poorer: Average household income would decline by \$35,667 in 1990 to \$32,299 in 2030.
- Less educated: Workers with less than a high school education would increase from 26.1% in 1990 to 35.3% in 2030; those with a bachelor's degrees would decline from 13.9% in 1995 to 10.9% in 2030.

TACHE believes Texas must do much better than this to prepare for our future. Therefore, TACHE is advancing the following for public policy initiatives to elected and appointed officials in the State of Texas.

- 1. Fully fund the Texas Higher Education formula including Special Items as proposed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.**



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- 2. Increase the funding of the Texas Grant (for universities) and the Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (for community colleges) on a “need based” criteria.**
- 3. Support the continuation of Tuition Set Asides.**
- 4. Support in-state tuition for Texas Dreamers at public institutions by opposing any legislation that would modify or eliminate House Bill 1403.**
- 5. Oppose all anti-immigration legislation that is hateful and discriminatory in nature.**
- 6. Promote legislation that secures a Texas border in a humane and dignified manner for all.**
- 7. Oppose any attempt to repeal or weaken the Texas Top Ten Percent plan as currently implemented.**
- 8. Invest additional resources to expand the capacity of teacher preparation programs to effectively serve diverse populations to avoid a teacher shortage and support college readiness.**

The Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education wishes to extend itself as a resource in support of the above policy initiatives. Our contact information is as follows:

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