

# U. T. System Contributions to *Closing the Gaps in Participation*

## Background

In 1999 the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) published the first *Closing the Gaps (CTG)* report and challenged colleges and universities in the state of Texas to increase the number of students participating in higher education in the year 2015 to 1.5 million, an increase of 500,000 students. Based on more recent data on population projections and college-going rates in other states, the goal was increased in October 2005 to 1.63 million students or an additional 630,000 students. These targets include students in all sectors of higher education – public and private, 2-year and 4-year, academic and health-related institutions. The initial report also suggested that 30 percent of the expected growth should come from public universities, an increase of 189,000 students. Because U. T. System institutions are located in high population growth areas, our contribution to meeting these goals should be substantial. Fall 2005 provides an important benchmark for evaluating our progress in meeting the *Closing the Gaps* targets.

The initial total enrollment targets for 2005 were 165,623 students for U. T. System academic institutions and 9,819 students for the U. T. System health-related institutions. At the request of the Coordinating Board, targets were subsequently raised to 179,354 students for our academic institutions and 10,195 for our health-related institutions.

## Academic Institution Trends

1. By fall 2005, U. T. System academic universities had achieved 97% of their revised *Closing the Gaps* enrollment targets.
2. Between fall 2000 and fall 2005, total enrollment at U. T. System academic institutions grew faster than the state-wide average for public universities (22.2% versus 17.0%). Excluding U. T. Austin, System academic institutions increased enrollment by 35.0% (see attached table).
3. Without the U. T. System enrollment growth, the state-wide enrollment at public universities increased by 38,637 students, a 14.2% increase.
4. In both fall 2000 and fall 2005, U. T. System institutions enrolled over one-third of all students in public academic universities, but accounted for 45.2% of the state-wide enrollment growth over that time period.
5. System academic institutions experienced a higher enrollment growth rate than the state-wide average for African American (39.3% v. 33.9%), Hispanic (38.5% v. 34.4%), Asian American (26.8% v. 25.0%) and other (34.7% v. 23.0%) students.

6. In fall 2005, U. T. System academic institutions enrolled higher proportions of Hispanic (37.8%), Asian (8.1%) and other (8.7%) students than the state-wide averages of 22.5%, 6.1% and 6.9%, respectively. Our institutions enrolled lower proportions of white (40.2%) and African American (5.2%) students (state - 53.3% and 11.3%, respectively).

### **Health-related Institution Trends**

1. By fall 2005, the U. T. System health-related institutions had achieved 108% of their revised *Closing the Gaps* enrollment targets.
2. In fall 2000 and fall 2005, U. T. System health-related institutions enrolled more than 70% of all students in Texas public health-related universities (72.7% and 70.5%, respectively) and accounted for 61.5% of the state-wide enrollment growth.
3. Total enrollment growth at U. T. System health-related institutions was somewhat smaller (19.8%) than the state average (23.4%).
4. Like other health-related institutions in the state, the growth rate for women (26.0%) was much higher than for men (11.1%) at System health-related institutions.
5. The 'other' ethnic category, which includes international students, was the fastest growing student population at both the state-wide level (127.3%) and at the U. T. System health-related institutions (133.6%). The proportional representation of these students nearly doubled at U. T. health-related institutions, from 7.8% in fall 2000 to 15.2% in fall 2005.
6. System institutions had a much slower growth rate for white students (3.1%) than the state average (9.0%). Consequently, they comprised 51.3% of students enrolled in fall 2005, down from 59.6% in fall 2000. These proportions are lower than state-wide averages for both time periods.
7. Hispanic and African American enrollment growth was lower at U. T. System health-related institutions than the state-wide growth rate, but the proportional representation of these students is increasing and higher than the state-wide averages at 6.1% in fall 2005 for African Americans (versus 5.9%) and 14.5% for Hispanics (versus 13.6%).
8. The Asian American growth at U. T. health-related institutions (21.7%) was slightly higher than the state average (19.9%) and their proportional representation at System health-related institutions increased from 12.7% in fall 2000 to 12.9% in fall 2005, slightly lower than the state-wide averages.

## Closing the Gaps in Participation

### Texas State-wide Public Academic University Enrollment

	Fall 2000	Fall 2005	2005 <i>Closing the Gaps Target</i>	Fall 2000 - 2005 Change	Percent Change	Percent Distribution Fall 2000	Percent Distribution Fall 2005
Total	414,626	485,071	500,576	70,445	17.0%		
Men	187,811	215,590		27,779	14.8%	45.3%	44.4%
Women	226,815	269,481		42,666	18.8%	54.7%	55.6%
White	242,024	258,643		16,619	6.9%	58.4%	53.3%
African American	40,763	54,578		13,815	33.9%	9.8%	11.3%
Hispanic	81,180	109,069		27,889	34.4%	19.6%	22.5%
Asian American	23,626	29,541		5,915	25.0%	5.7%	6.1%
Other	27,033	33,240		6,207	23.0%	6.5%	6.9%

### U. T. System Academic Institutions' Enrollment

	Fall 2000	Fall 2005	2005 <i>Closing the Gaps Target</i>	Fall 2000 - 2005 Change	Percent Change	Percent Distribution Fall 2000	Percent Distribution Fall 2005
Total	143,038	174,846	179,354	31,808	22.2%		
Men	66,521	80,787		14,266	21.4%	46.5%	46.2%
Women	76,517	94,059		17,542	22.9%	53.5%	53.8%
White	66,288	70,216		3,928	5.9%	46.3%	40.2%
African American	6,566	9,145		2,579	39.3%	4.6%	5.2%
Hispanic	47,655	66,019		18,364	38.5%	33.3%	37.8%
Asian American	11,234	14,249		3,015	26.8%	7.9%	8.1%
Other	11,295	15,217		3,922	34.7%	7.9%	8.7%

**Notes:**

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board includes Texas Southmost College in the state-wide 2005 *Closing the Gaps* targets, but excludes their enrollment in the state-wide enrollment figures. U. T. System enrollment includes TSC students.

Other category includes Native American, international and unknown ethnic categories.

**Without U. T. Austin, which is operating under enrollment management controls and is decreasing enrollment, the U. T. System grew by 32,571 students, a 35.0% increase.**

Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

## Closing the Gaps in Participation

### Texas State-wide Public Health-Related Institution Enrollment

	Fall 2000	Fall 2005	2005 <i>Closing the Gaps Target</i>	Fall 2000 - 2005 Change	Fall 2000 - 2005 Percent Change	Percent Distribution Fall 2000	Percent Distribution Fall 2005
Total	12,607	15,552	14,744	2,945	23.4%		
Men	5,331	6,005		674	12.6%	42.3%	38.6%
Women	7,276	9,547		2,271	31.2%	57.7%	61.4%
White	7,792	8,491		699	9.0%	61.8%	54.6%
African American	608	918		310	51.0%	4.8%	5.9%
Hispanic	1,635	2,115		480	29.4%	13.0%	13.6%
Asian American	1,693	2,030		337	19.9%	13.4%	13.1%
Other <sup>1</sup>	879	1,998		1,119	127.3%	7.0%	12.8%

### U. T. System Health Institutions' Enrollment

	Fall 2000	Fall 2005	2005 <i>Closing the Gaps Target</i>	Fall 2000 - 2005 Change	Fall 2000 - 2005 Percent Change	Percent Distribution Fall 2000	Percent Distribution Fall 2005
Total	9,159	10,970	10,195	1,811	19.8%		
Men	3846	4,274		428	11.1%	42.0%	39.0%
Women	5313	6,696		1,383	26.0%	58.0%	61.0%
White	5460	5,629		169	3.1%	59.6%	51.3%
African American	510	664		154	30.2%	5.6%	6.1%
Hispanic	1313	1,595		282	21.5%	14.3%	14.5%
Asian American	1162	1,414		252	21.7%	12.7%	12.9%
Other <sup>1</sup>	714	1,668		954	133.6%	7.8%	15.2%

<sup>1</sup> Other category includes Native American, international and unknown ethnic categories.

Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board