

Dear colleagues,

Here is the agenda for our STCIR meeting this Friday, June 24, 2005 at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.:

1. Documenting faculty credentials—Darlene Roberts, Del Mar College
2. IPEDS student unit record reporting changes—general discussion
3. THECB highlights—general discussion
 - a. Accountability
 - b. Reporting/funding
 - c. WEP licensure exam pass rate report
 - d. Data resources (David Gill's survey)—what did you tell him?
 - e. ASALFS
 - f. Closing the Gaps
4. LEARN—Lonestar Education and Research Network
5. Transfer student data exchange update
6. Legislative updates
7. Graduation Rates Disputed as Valid Measure (from the Texas Community College Teachers Association's *Community College Digest*)

As discussed in the April 2 issue of the Chronicle of Higher Education, a new study by senior research analyst Clifford Adelman of the U.S. Department of Education takes aim at quantifying college "success" with student graduation rates. The study's findings are particularly noteworthy as the Bush Administration considers proposals that would take such factors into consideration for federal funding. Also, graduation rates are commonly discussed as Texas lawmakers evaluate the "accountability" of Texas higher education. The study found that a growing number of students jump from one school to another. "Love, homesickness, comfort level, change of major, change of interest—these are some of the major reasons why people change colleges," Mr. Adelman writes. "Why should institutions be judged for choices, made by students, that are beyond their control? College students are legal adults, after all."

Critics of the study fear that it ignores a number of factors, including family income, that make graduation rates worthy of consideration.
8. Update on the Bachelor of Applied Technology degree—South Texas College
9. Other topics of general interest
10. Schedule of STCIR meetings for 2005-2006
11. Election of new chair and secretary for 2005-2006

If you have any other topic for discussion, please bring your ideas, notes, handouts, and any other material you would like to share. Please note: Dr. Susan Griffith of the University of Texas-Pan American will lead a discussion at our next STCIR meeting about the TAIR Strategic Plan initiative.

Thanks to everyone for making our STCIR meetings lively, convivial, informative, and rewarding.

David

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