3rd Annual Texas Higher Education Symposium
August 4 – 5, 2011

Call for Proposals

Theme: Closing the Gaps: Past, Present, and Future

In order to close higher education gaps, Texas initiated its strategic plan, Closing the Gaps by 2015 (CTG), in 2000. The plan focuses on four key areas:

Participation: Increasing the number of students enrolling in postsecondary education, especially ethnic and racial minority students

Success: Increasing the number of certificates, and undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees

Excellence: Increasing the number of nationally recognized programs or services at colleges and universities

Research: Increasing the level of federal research and development funding

The CTG plan has been in place for over ten years. While some CTG goals have been met, others remain to be achieved. In order for higher education institutions to move forward, it is important to reflect on CTG’s beginning, examine its current state, and determine what remains to be achieved.

The 3rd Annual Texas Higher Education Symposium at The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) will be held on August 4th and 5th, 2011. The symposium is an opportunity to discuss Texas higher education issues with Texas higher education scholars, state and local government officials, students, and campus and local community members. In preparation for this year’s symposium, the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies (ELPS) and Higher Education Administration Student Association (HEASA) of the College of Education and Human Development (COEHD) at UTSA welcome your proposals for presentation that focus on research, policy, and/or practice.

Proposals for scholarly research, research in action, posters, table topics, and special interest group discussions related to the CTG plan are now being accepted. This includes proposals that discuss research, policy, and/or practice. Please adhere to the following guidelines specific to your presentation format/type when preparing your proposal(s).
Presentation Format Descriptions and Submission Guidelines:

Scholarly Research (20 minutes)
Scholarly Research presentations explain the issues, methodologies, and outcomes of a single topic related to the CTG plan. A scholarly research presentation may report the results of a class project, research study, dissertation, or explore a theoretical construct. While the findings and conclusions may not be known at the time the proposal is submitted, the research or project must be underway with completion expected prior to the symposium.

Proposals should include the following information:

1. Presenter(s) Information: First and last name, institution, title, and an e-mail address for each presenter in order of authorship
2. Title: (limit 30 words)
3. Abstract: Summary of major paper/study components (limit 100 words)
4. Narrative: An introduction to the topic, review of related literature, methodology, and results/discussion (if available) (limit 1,000 words)
5. Supporting Documents: References, survey/interview protocols, etc.

Research in Action (20 minutes)
Research in Action presentations share professional work products, effective practices, innovative applications, and creative solutions related to the CTG plan.

Proposals should include the following information:

1. Presenter(s) Information: First and last name, institution, title, and an e-mail address for each presenter in order of authorship
2. Title: (limit 30 words)
3. Abstract: Summary of information to be presented (limit 100 words)
4. Narrative: Full description of work products, effective practices, innovative applications, or creative solution to be presented (limit 1,000 words)
5. Supporting Documents: References, etc.

Poster Presentation (display and 50 minutes)
Poster sessions provide a venue for participants to share ideas through a 4’ x 6’ display. Posters will be displayed throughout the symposium including a scheduled 50-minute discussion period. Posters may show a work in progress, explain a research technique, describe a program, policy or practice, or share a new idea related to the CTG plan.

Proposals should include the following information:

1. Presenter(s) Information: First and last name, institution, title, and an e-mail address for each presenter in order of authorship
2. Title: (limit 30 words)
3. Abstract: Summary of information to be presented (limit 100 words)
4. Narrative: Full description of information to be presented (limit 1,000 words)
5. Supporting Documents: References, data files, etc.
Table Topics (25 minutes)
Table Topics are informal, highly interactive discussions on a topic related to the CTG plan. The presenter promotes focused conversation and encourages participants to contribute their ideas and relevant experiences. Discussion should be the principal component to these sessions. Handouts are encouraged.

Proposals should include the following information:
1. Presenter(s) Information: First and last name, institution, title, and an e-mail address for each presenter in order of authorship
2. Title: (limit 30 words)
3. Abstract: Summary of information to be presented (limit 100 words)
4. Narrative: Full description of information (limit 1,000 words)
5. Supporting Documents: References, data files, etc.

Special Interest Groups (SIG)
We encourage interested Texas higher education scholars, state and local government officials, students, and/or campus and local community members to request dedicated session time to dialog with colleagues about higher education issues specific to Texas (including but not limited to CTG). SIGs do not need to be formally organized or affiliated with HEASA, ELPS, COEHD, or UTSA.

Requests for session time/space should include the following information:
1. SIG Information: First and last name(s), institution, title, and e-mail address for the moderator(s)
2. SIG name
3. Moderator’s affiliation/interest with the topic/group
4. Anticipated number of attendees (if known)
5. Summary of SIG purpose

Proposals must be emailed as a Word or PDF attachment to the symposium faculty sponsor, Dr. Gloria Crisp at Gloria.crisp@utsa.edu no later than midnight on May, 15th, 2011.

Proposals will be evaluated by the symposium program committee comprised of both faculty and graduate students. Consistent with the previous two symposiums, a limited amount of financial support will likely be available for conference expenses for selected participants. Information regarding financial support will be provided to symposium presenters in more detail upon proposal acceptance. Preference will be given to proposals that involve graduate students. Applicants will be notified as to the status of their proposal(s) no later than June 15th, 2011.