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November 9, 2020

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TO: Presidents and Chancellors  
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FROM: Harrison Keller, Ph.D. *HK*  
Commissioner of Higher Education

SUBJECT: THECB Division of Digital Learning

Today begins [National Distance Learning Week \(NDLW\)](#), sponsored by the United States Distance Learning Association. NDLW was designed to highlight the historical success of digital learning by spreading awareness of distance learning initiatives and promoting best practices across the country.

THECB appreciates the vital importance of digital learning both for Texas institutions and for students. We acknowledge the impact that digital learning has in shaping the future of higher education. I am proud that THECB is a partner and advocate for the digital learning community. We are committed to building opportunities that encourage progression and advancement of innovation, such as the recently announced Open Educational Resources (OER) Course Development and Implementation Grant Program, and the newly launched [OERTX Repository](#).

As part of the celebration of NDLW, I am pleased to announce the launch of a new THECB Division of Digital Learning and the appointment of Assistant Commissioner for Digital Learning, Dr. Michelle Singh, who will join THECB on November 16. The new Division of Digital Learning, part of our agency's Academic Affairs and Workforce Education portfolio led by Deputy Commissioner Ray Martinez, will partner with institutions to expand on digital success and foster quality digital learning experiences for students in Texas. Dr. Singh and her team will be responsible for the THECB's OER grant programs, the OERTX Repository, and the future Digital Learning Clearinghouse.

Dr. Singh comes to THECB from Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, where she served as Associate Vice President of Teaching & Learning Technologies since 2018. Over her 20-year tenure in higher education, Dr. Singh has held positions as Chairperson of the Board for the Texas Distance Learning Association, member of the United States Distance Learning Association Board, Chair of the Texas A&M University System Council for Academic Technology and Innovative Education and is a former Chair of the THECB Learning Technology Advisory Committee.

Digital learning in Texas has a proven record of success and spans the spectrum of higher education service and delivery. At a time when higher education has been significantly disrupted by COVID-19, it is imperative that we strengthen current practices and support innovation as we enhance a new normal for teaching,

learning, and student success in Texas. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Michelle Singh to the THECB team.

For more information on the current OER Course Development and Implementation Grant Program, visit the THECB website, [www.highered.texas.gov/oerGEER](http://www.highered.texas.gov/oerGEER). To explore OER materials used in Texas higher education, housed in the OERTX Repository, go to [oertx.highered.texas.gov](http://oertx.highered.texas.gov).

Questions about THECB digital learning initiatives should be emailed to the program contact, Dr. Kylah Torre, Program Director, at [Kylah.Torre@highered.texas.gov](mailto:Kylah.Torre@highered.texas.gov).