

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

# *House Appropriations Committee*

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*Harrison Keller, Ph.D., Commissioner of Higher Education*

Feb. 23, 2021

# The *60x30TX* Strategic Plan for Texas Higher Education



## **60x30TX**

60% of Texans 25-34 with credentials by 2030



## **Completion**

550,000 credentials in 2030



## **Marketable skills**

Marketable skills for all credentials



## **Student debt**

60% of first-year wages

# Strengthening the 60x30TX plan

Build on the focus of the original 60x30TX plan to increase postsecondary attainment by developing clear goals that expand the educated workforce and drive economic prosperity.



*Leverage and accelerate innovation to drive research, commercialization, and economic development.* The challenges posed by COVID-19 have spurred and accelerated innovations globally. By prioritizing research, data, and technology, our institutions will drive discoveries and economic development opportunities that are crucial for the state's future prosperity.



*Prioritize high-value credentials to align with workforce needs.* Certain skills and credentials will be especially important to help displaced workers immediately return to work, and create a more resilient Texas workforce for the future.



*Expand our focus to adult learners beyond 25-34-year-olds.* Building a more adaptable workforce that can navigate current challenges and drive long-term economic growth requires a strategic emphasis on expanding opportunities for all Texans.



*Ensure all Texans have equal access to tools and resources that promote educational attainment.* The disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Black, Hispanic, rural, and low-income Texans has magnified the importance of removing barriers to high-quality postsecondary education and training so all Texans can participate in, contribute to, and benefit from the Texas economy.

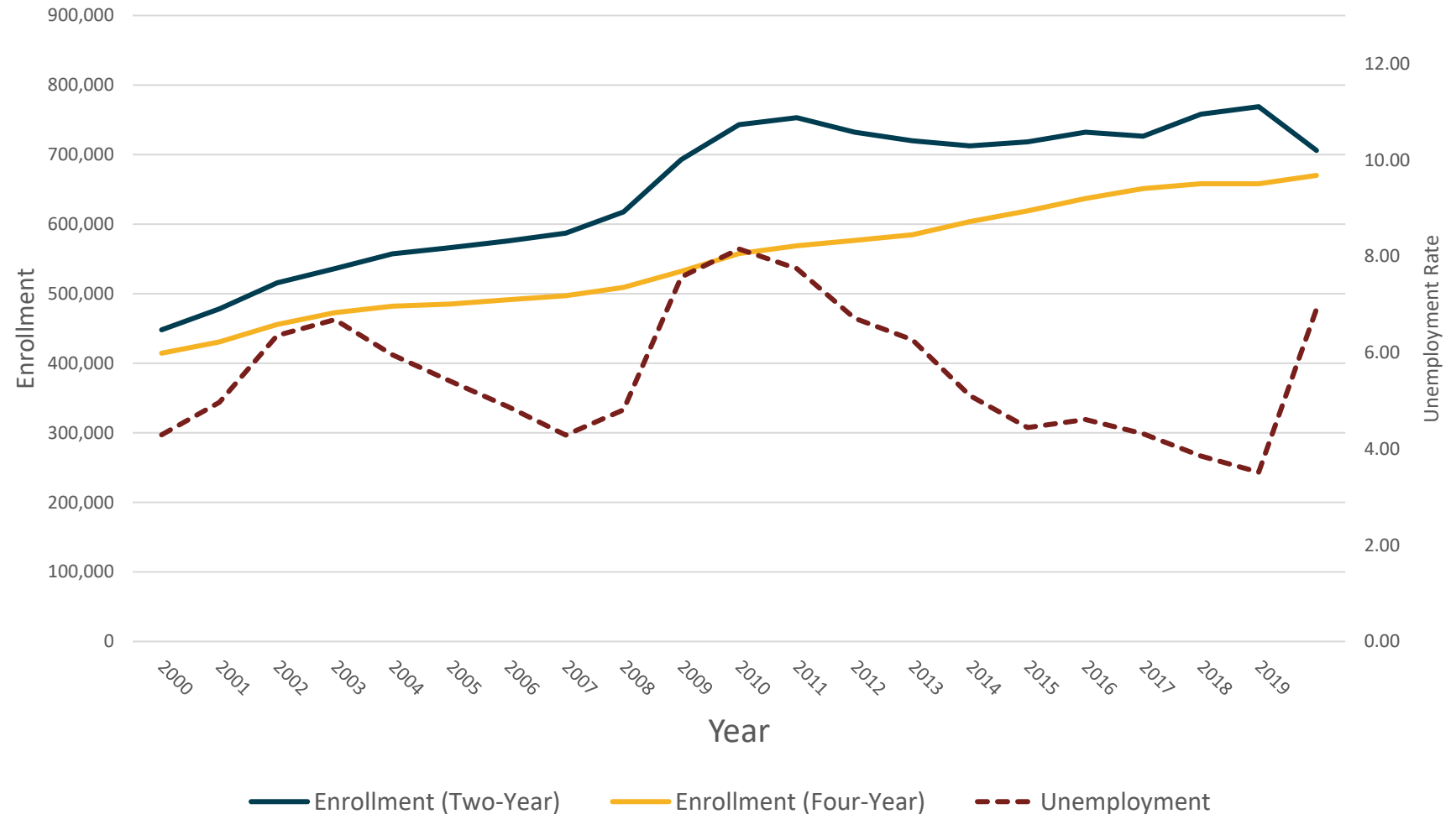
# Unemployment and Enrollment Trends

Historically, enrollments at both two- and four-year institutions rise when unemployment is high

During the most recent crisis, two-year institutions have seen large enrollment declines **(-8.85%)**

Continuing workforce education has seen the largest decline **(-50%)**

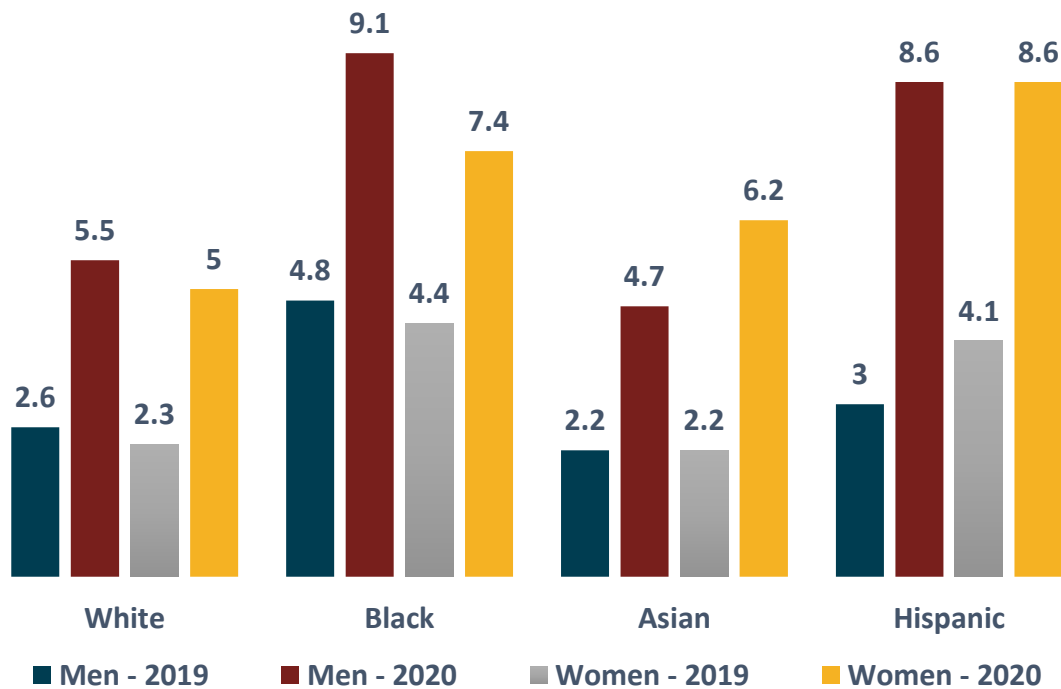
Statewide, four-year institutions show modest growth **(+1.38%)**



# Degree Completion and Unemployment Trends

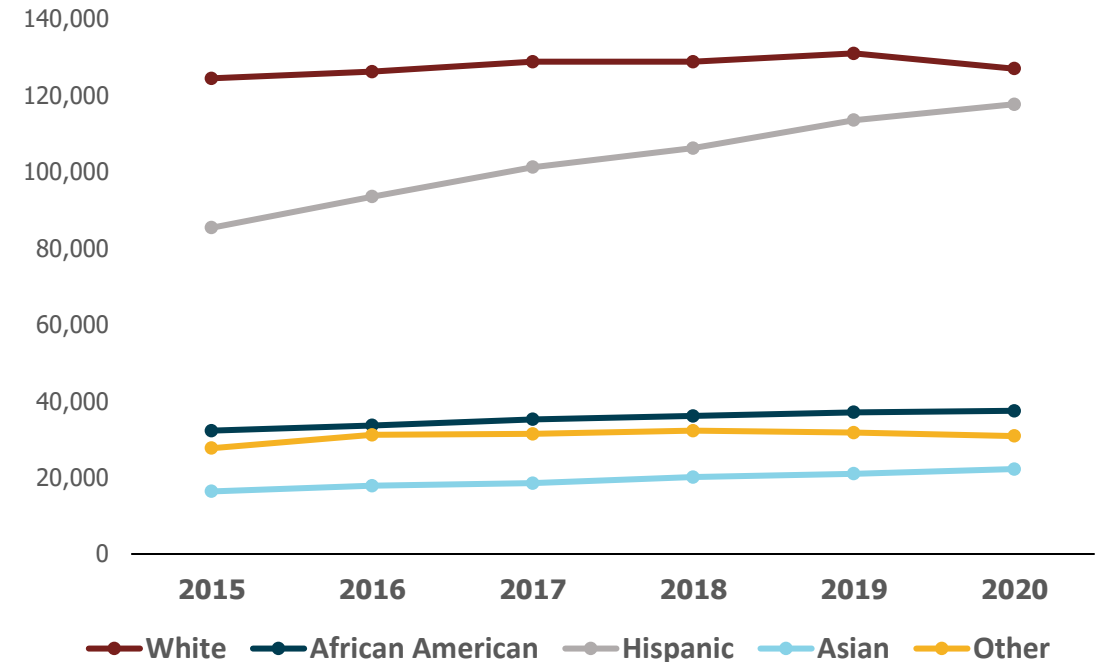
## U.S. Unemployment by Race & Ethnicity, Sex

Dec. 2019 vs Dec. 2020



## TX Degrees Awarded by Race & Ethnicity

Fall 2015-2020 degrees awarded including graduate and undergraduate



# Higher Education Enrollment

## Fall 2019 vs. Fall 2020 Enrollment

Enrollment in Texas higher education **declined 3.7%**.

Community colleges experienced the largest drop in enrollment from the previous year.

	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	% Change
Public Two-Year Colleges	754,711	687,911	-8.85
Public Universities	657,985	667,046	1.38
Health-Related Institutions (all types)	29,735	30,528	2.67
Independent Colleges and Universities	125,918	125,373	-0.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,568,349</b>	<b>1,510,858</b>	<b>-3.67</b>

# GEER-funded Initiatives

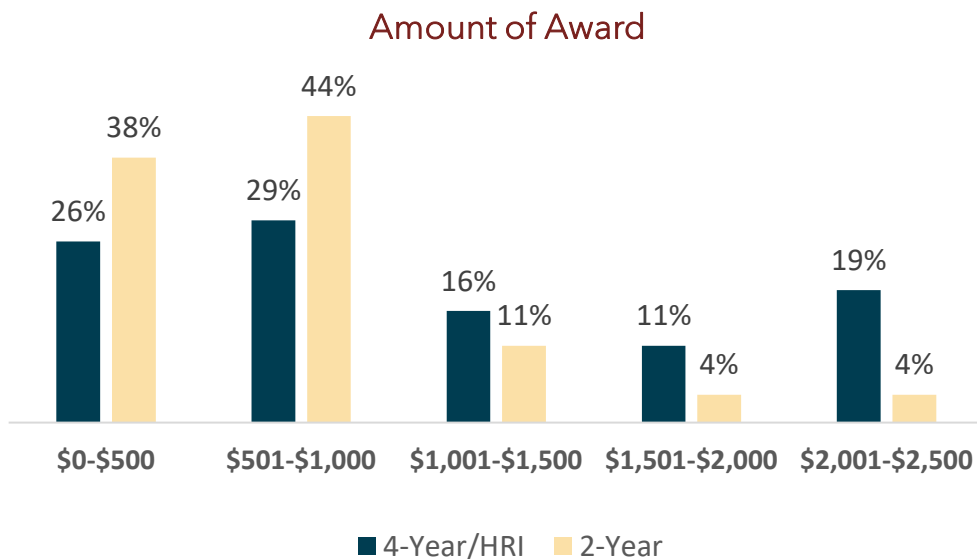
In July 2020, Gov. Greg Abbott and legislative leadership directed **\$175 million** in federal Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Funds to the THECB.

- \$57M to maintain State Financial Aid Programs
- \$46.5M for Emergency Educational Aid
- \$46.5M for Reskilling and Upskilling Grants
- \$10M for Online Learning Support
- \$15M for Data Infrastructure Modernization

# GEER-funded Initiatives

## Emergency Educational Aid

During the fall 2020 semester, 93 public institutions of higher education used GEER funds to provide Emergency Educational Grants to more than 40,000 students.



## State Financial Aid Programs

GEER funding supported more than 21,000 Texas students across the state's public and private colleges and universities for the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters.

Financial Aid Program	% Funds Allocated	Students Served	Average Award
TEXAS Grant	99%	13,726	\$3,116
Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG)	97%	2,766	\$1,681
Texas Equalization Grant (TEG)	99%	4,900	\$1,814

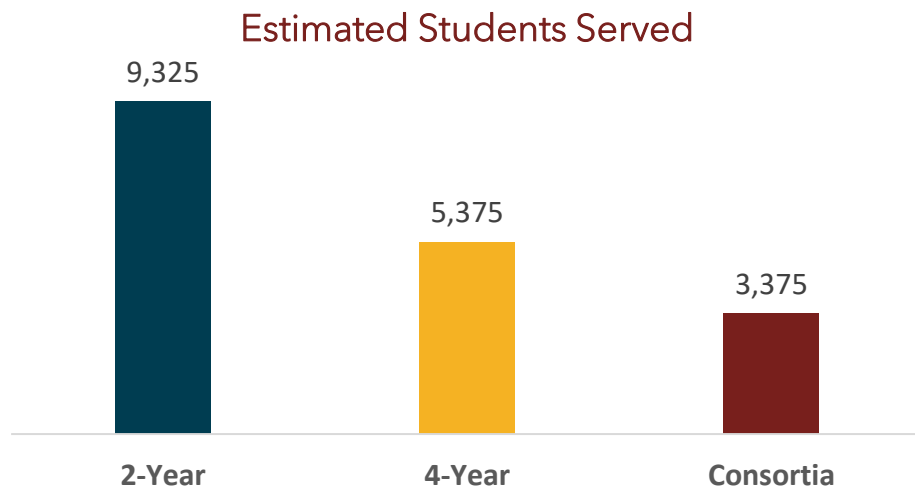


# GEER-funded Initiatives

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## Reskilling and Upskilling Grants

In December 2020, the Coordinating Board announced the first round of grants totaling **\$18.1M** and serving an estimated **12,000 students**. A second round of grants in February 2021 is expected to total **\$9.3M** and serve an estimated **6,000 students**.



## Online Learning Support

The Coordinating Board awarded **\$812,000** in technical assistance grants to support applicants and awardees. Implementation and development grants have been distributed to institutions in three rounds, totaling nearly **\$1M**.

Grant Type	Total Awards
Technical Assistance Grants	\$812,000
Implementation Grants	\$201,441
Development Grants	\$780,599

# GEER-funded Initiatives

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## Data Infrastructure Modernization

The Coordinating Board is the steward of the state's education and workforce data and is working closely with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) on a comprehensive data modernization initiative.

The agency is developing and implementing a new data architecture that will take advantage of powerful new tools and allow "deep dive" analyses on education and workforce data.

This initiative will make data more useful and accessible for students, families, institutions, and policymakers.

VISION	Equip internal and external stakeholders with actionable insight and data for decision-making purposes	
GOALS	Design and implement a modern, flexible data architecture; Deliver user-centered value through dynamic access, robust governance and security	
	Identify and deliver high-priority reports and/or dashboards utilizing current data	Evolve current processes and websites to support new offerings