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September 7, 2021

Dr. Harrison Keller
Commissioner of Higher Education
1200 E. Anderson Lane
Austin, TX 78752

Dear Dr. Keller,

I am attaching the final report of *A Review of Selected Grant Programs Administered by College Readiness Success*, Report No. THECB-IA-WP-21-235. This report will be presented at the October 2021 Agency Operations Committee meeting.

The issues presented in this report resulted in a Category 1 Report Rating. These reports contain no or minimal reportable observations. There were no findings resulting from this review.

If you have any questions or comments, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark A. Poehl".

Mark A. Poehl, CPA, CIA, CISA, CFE
Assistant Commissioner, Internal Audit and Compliance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Administration, oversight, and monitoring of the Advise TX program are effective in the following areas of review:

- Compliance with riders
- Compliance with expenditure requirements
- Reconciliation of accounts

There were no reportable conditions noted from this engagement.

Objective, Scope and Methodologies

Our engagement objective was to review the internal administrative activities of College Readiness and Success for selected grant programs for compliance, effectiveness, and efficiency. Our review scope focused on Advise TX program processes related to the 2020-2021 biennium. Our engagement included reviewing relevant statutes, rules, agency policies, procedures, manuals, and documentation related to the engagement area, and performing various testing to address the engagement objectives. We also interviewed appropriate agency staff.

Background

The Advise TX Program partners with institutions of higher education such as Texas A&M University, Texas Christian University, Trinity University, and the University of Texas at Austin to increase the number of first-generation, low-income, and/or underrepresented students who apply, enter, and complete college. THECB funds the Advise TX program through state appropriations along with assistance from the National College Advising Corps and school districts. Advisors provide student assistance to 112 high schools across Texas by assisting with college research, FAFSA completion, and host meetings with parents and families. Annually the Advise TX program is evaluated by Stanford and monitored by THECB staff. Funding for the Advise TX programs has stayed consistent over the last four appropriation cycles with the exception of 20-21. During FY21, in response to the Governor's request for a 5% reduction for each agency, the Advise TX program was reduced by \$150,000.

Appropriation Year	Funding	Expenditures
16-17	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000
18-19	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000
20-21	\$4,000,000	\$3,850,000

PERFORMED BY:

Ms. Aporajita Ahmed, CPA, CFE, CITP, CGMA, CICA, Cyber Security Professional, Internal Audit lead

Ms. Michelle Koog, CFE, CISA, Internal Auditor

cc:

THECB

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