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July 12, 2019

Dr. F. Dominic Dottavio
President
Tarleton State University
1313 W. Washington
Stephenville, Texas 76402

Dear Dr. Dottavio,

I am attaching the final report on *A Compliance Monitoring Audit of Formula Funding at Tarleton State University*, Report No. THECB-CM-FF-19-016. There were no findings resulting from this engagement.

This Compliance Monitoring audit report will be presented to the THECB Committee on Agency Operations, a standing committee of the THECB Board on October 23, 2019.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark A. Poehl". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "P".

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Tarleton State University (TSU) complied with relevant Coordinating Board (THECB) rules and regulations for enrollment data used for formula funding and with Texas Education Code, Chapter 61.

We conducted this audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and recommendations based on our audit objectives. We believe the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for the findings and recommendations, if any, based on the audit objectives.

Reported Semester Credit Hours were Eligible for Formula Funding

No reportable findings were noted.

Student Tuition Payment was Received in Accordance with Requirements

No reportable findings were noted.

Reported Enrollment was Eligible for Formula Funding

No reportable findings were noted.

Audit Scope, Objective, and Methodology

Our audit included tests of enrollment data reported and certified by Tarleton State University. Our audit focused on the following enrollment data and time periods:

- CBM001 (Student Report) - summer semester 2017, fall semester 2017, spring semester 2018; and
- CBM004 (Class Report) - summer semester 2017, fall semester 2017, and spring semester 2018.

Our work included procedures to verify:

- Reported semester credit hours were eligible for formula funding;
- Student tuition payment was received in accordance with requirements;
- Reported enrollment was eligible for formula funding; and
- Evidence of academic credentials was maintained to support required instructor qualifications.

The audit methodology included objectively reviewing and analyzing various forms of documentation, conducting interviews and observations, and performing other tests of controls necessary to achieve the objectives of the audit. THECB used random sampling to determine the extent to which Tarleton State University accurately reported enrollment data.

Background

The Texas Education Code §61.059(b) – directs the Board to “devise, establish, and periodically review and revise formulas for the use of the governor and the Legislative Budget Board in making appropriations recommendations to the legislature for all institutions of higher education, including the funding of postsecondary vocational-technical programs. As a specific element of the periodic review, the board shall study and recommend changes in the funding formulas based on the role and mission statements of institutions of higher education.”

The funding formulas are allocations; institutions of higher education have the authority to spend funds appropriated through the formulas in the manner deemed most appropriate; the formula models include enrollment as a major driver; and not all appropriations are made through the formulas.

Texas Administrative Code §1.13(b)(2) states, “The purpose of the Board's risk assessment process and compliance methodologies is to maximize the effectiveness of monitoring funds allocated by the Board and data reported to the Board. The agency-wide, risk-based compliance monitoring function is established for... (B) data reported by institutions of higher education to the Board and used by the Board for funding or policymaking decisions, including data used for formula funding allocations, to ensure the data are accurately and consistently reported.”

PERFORMED BY:

Ms. Carol Conner, Compliance Specialist

CC:

THECB

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