



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY  
GOVERNOR

May 14, 2012

Mr. Fred Heldenfels, IV  
Chair  
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB)  
P.O. Box 12788  
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Chair Heldenfels:

Education is the most important long-term investment a state can make in its people. Our state's strong focus on the core themes of accountability, affordability and accessibility has made higher education available to more Texans, preparing them to compete in the global marketplace. We must continue to build upon the progress we have made in higher education to ensure that students, parents and taxpayers receive the greatest value for their investment.

This is why I issued an executive order in September 2009, calling for a review of cost efficiencies in our institutions of higher education. In response, THECB put together a team of institutional and business leaders who made recommendations that would save \$4.3 billion over four years. During the 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session, I encouraged the legislature to implement recommendations from that team's report, and was pleased to sign a number of bills that helped accomplish this goal.

As we approach the 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session, I ask THECB to follow-up with our institutions of higher education and report back to me on the progress they have made in implementing these recommendations. You may contact Marisha Negovetich or Kate McGrath in my office for assistance with this important effort.

Now, more than ever, we must deliver higher education efficiently to ensure that future generations have access to earn the degrees and certificates that will empower them and their families to prosper. Together, we can play an essential role in helping more Texans achieve success in higher education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry".

Rick Perry  
Governor

RP:kmp