



## LEAP Texas

Greetings:

Thank you for being an important part of LEAP Texas' third year. During the past year, over 50 institutions joined together as LEAP Texas to promote higher education in our state, and I am excited to report our accomplishments and respectfully request your continued membership.

A few highlights from our year include:

- **LEAP Texas Faculty Fellows** conducted **Teamwork Week**, which included a Twitter chat on incorporating teamwork in the college classroom where faculty shared ideas on how they include teamwork in their classes, a Periscope session, and Faculty Fellow Dr. Jennifer T. Edwards presented **30 Ways to Incorporate Teamwork in Higher Education Classrooms**. See here: <http://leaptx.org/core/teamwork/>.
- **LEAP Texas Faculty Fellows** conducted **Social Responsibility Week**, which included a webinar conducted by Drs. Doyle Carter (**LEAP Texas Faculty Fellow**) and Christine Purkiss from Angelo State University, a Twitter chat on recipes for activities focused on teaching college students social responsibility, a Periscope session, and Faculty Fellow Dr. Jennifer T. Edwards presented **30 Ways to Integrate Social Responsibility in Your Fall Courses**. See here: <http://leaptx.org/core/social-responsibility/>.
- **AAC&U** just featured the work of our **Texas General Education Maps and Markers (GEMs)** group (Team Platypus) in their September 2016 newsletter. The North Texas Community College Consortium, the University of North Texas, Dallas County Community College District, and Collin College are leading the way by creating a common guided pathways template to help students attain a four-year degree. See more about this exciting initiative here: <http://www.aacu.org/campus-model/texas-collaborative-approach-two-year-four-year-transition>.
- Five institutions have signed on for the **Texas Assessment Collaborative (TAC)**. The **TAC**, a project lead by LEAP Texas Assessment Fellows, will involve faculty from two-year and four-year colleges and universities in the assessment of student work from those institutions using the AAC&U VALUE Rubrics. In preparation for the assessment of student work, the **LEAP Texas Assessment Fellows** conducted nine webinars that were open to all LEAP Texas participating institutions. For more information, see here: <http://leaptx.org/development-hub/texas-assessment-collaboratives/>.

Remember to mark your calendars now for the **Fourth Annual LEAP Texas Forum** to be held **February 19-21, 2017**, at El Centro College in downtown Dallas. We are excited to have Dr. Betsy Barefoot, Senior Scholar for the John N. Gardner Institute, as our keynote speaker. Dr. Barefoot recently co-authored *The Undergraduate Experience: Focusing Institutions on What Matters Most*. You can find more information on the forum at <http://leaptx.org/events/fourth-annual-forum/>.

We have planned another productive upcoming year, and we hope that you will join us again!

The LEAP Texas initiatives and foci are:

**LEAP Texas Initiatives**

- Upholding the commitment of faculty across our various institutions - to provide a strong educational foundation for an increasingly diverse student body - one that prepares them for work and citizenship in the twenty-first century, well aligned with stated goals of employers and committees.
- Adhering to the required state Core Curriculum, facilitating rigor and transferability, within a context of innovation.
- Demonstrating alignment with SACSCOC provisions for general education standards, and, for many institutions, emerging QEP initiatives.
- Responding to the increasing national focus on student learning outcomes.
- Applying of the scholarship of teaching and learning.

**The LEAP Texas Foci:**

1. Leveraging the newly redesigned State Core Curriculum for the overall improvement in undergraduate education
2. Creating a capacity for inter-institutional collaboration in robust and authentic assessment
3. Embedding high-impact practices in the undergraduate curriculum

***“LEAP Texas brings additional resources to Texas, through the opportunity to participate in grants and demonstration projects that provide benefit to our institutions. LEAP Texas brings the national conversation to Texas – in venues that are close enough for faculty to participate in greater numbers. This engagement with more faculty – and with faculty who know Texas – enriches and contextualizes the work of AAC&U. “***

**Celia Williamson, Ph.D.**  
Associate Vice President  
University of North Texas

We greatly appreciate your support for LEAP Texas this year. We respectfully request that you continue your support as we move forward together. More information about LEAP Texas and membership as well as an application for membership renewal is available at <http://leaptx.org/join-us>.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Phillips, Ph.D.  
LEAP Texas, Chair