



## LEAP Texas

LEAP Texas • CO Dr. Larry J. King • Box 6161, SFA Station • Nacogdoches, TX 75965

Greetings:

Thank you for your continuing partnership with LEAP Texas during the 2016-2017 academic year! This has been an exciting and active year for LEAP Texas.

A few highlights from our year include:

- LEAP Texas Faculty Fellow Dr. Jeanne Tunks conducted signature Assignment Institutes in Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio. These institutes focused on the collaborative development of assignments designed to allow students to demonstrate social responsibility. See more about assignments and signature work at <http://leaptx.org/development-hub/assignments-signature-work/>.
- LEAP Texas Faculty Fellows conducted Personal Responsibility Week. This week included:
  - A Twitter chat on incorporating personal responsibility in the college classroom where faculty shared ideas on how they include personal responsibility in their classes.
  - A Periscope session (“30 Ways to Integrate Personal Responsibility in Your Fall Courses”) conducted by LEAP Texas Faculty Fellow Dr. Jennifer T. Edwards.
  - A webinar (“What’s ethical about personal responsibility?”) by LEAP Texas Faculty Fellow Dr. Nakia Pope.
  - See information on the week at <http://leaptx.org/program-personal-responsibility-week-19-23-february-2017/>.
- Dr. Jonathan Lee, LEAP Texas Faculty Fellow, presented DQP and Tuning: The Discipline of History as a Model. His presentation focused on identifying marketable skills a history major acquires as they complete a Bachelor’s degree and then “Tuning” a pathway for history majors beginning at San Antonio College and then transferring to the University of Texas at San Antonio or Texas A&M – San Antonio. See video of his presentation at <http://sacms.alamo.edu/Mediasite/Play/548ef3b902694dad8d3dbc9bb9967c6e1d>.
- Thirty faculty and staff volunteers from eight institutions participated in the assessment of student work submitted by seven two-year and four-year institutions as part of the Texas Assessment Collaborative (TAC). The faculty and staff meet in Dallas prior to the Fourth Annual LEAP Texas Forum to receive training and be calibrated on the use of the AAC&U Written Communication VALUE Rubric by LEAP Texas Faculty Fellows Dr. Chris Duke and Dr. Larry King. The volunteers assessed a sample of 400 pieces of student work, and the results will soon be shared with participating institutions and other interested groups. See more about the TAC at <http://leaptx.org/development-hub/texas-assessment-collaboratives/>.
- The Fourth Annual LEAP Texas Forum was held in Dallas on the campus of El Centro College. Dr. Betsy Barefoot, Senior Scholar for the John N. Gardner Institute and co-author of *The Undergraduate Experience: Focusing Institutions on What Matters Most* (2016), was the keynote speaker for the forum. Dr. Susan Albertine, Senior Scholar in the Office of Integrative Liberal Learning and the Global Commons, Association of American Colleges and Universities; Dr. Rex Peebles, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Workforce, Academic Affairs, and Research, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; and Dr. Linda K. Johnsrud, Provost Emerita, University of Hawaii System, also addressed the attendees during general sessions. See more about the Fourth Annual Forum at <http://leaptx.org/events/fourth-annual-forum/>.

Remember to mark your calendars now for the **Fifth Annual LEAP Texas Conference** to be held in Houston, **March 25-27, 2018**. You can keep track of plans for the conference at <http://leaptx.org/events/fifth-annual-conference/>.

We have planned another exciting and productive year, and we hope that you will join us again. As a reminder, below you will find our mission, vision, commitment, and foci.

### **LEAP Texas Mission**

The mission of LEAP Texas is to provide a structure through which Texas public and private institutions of higher education can communicate, organize, and develop plans and policy recommendations that address their common interests of student success and the improvement of higher education in Texas.

### **LEAP Texas Vision**

To provide Texas students with consistent high quality higher education through implementation of outcomes-focused general education, authentic assessment, high impact educational practices, inclusive excellence, improved access to higher education, and similar initiatives.

### **LEAP Texas is Committed to . . .**

- 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.

### **LEAP Texas Foci . . .**

- Leveraging the Texas Core Curriculum for Higher Education for the overall improvement in undergraduate education.
- Creating a capacity for large-scale, inter-institutional collaboration in robust and authentic assessment.
- Embedding high-impact practices in the undergraduate curriculum

We greatly appreciate your support for LEAP Texas this year, and we respectfully request that you continue your partnership with us as we move forward together. You can find more information about LEAP Texas and membership at <http://leaptx.org/>. The form for membership renewal is available at <https://ntccc.wufoo.com/forms/leap-texas-membership-application/>.

Sincerely,

Larry J. King, Ph.D.  
LEAP Texas, Acting Chair