Greetings LEAP Texas Members:

Thank you for your continuing partnership with LEAP Texas during the 2018-2019 academic year! This has been another exciting year for LEAP Texas.

A few highlights from 2018-2019 include:

- In the LEAP Texas sponsored webinar *Identifying Marketable Skills: National and Institutional Perspectives*, Dr. Rex Peebles (Assistant Commissioner, Academic Quality and Workforce, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board) addressed the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s expectations related to marketable skills. Dr. Edward Watson (Associate Vice President, Quality, Advocacy, and LEAP Initiatives, Association of American Colleges & Universities) shared a national perspective on identify marketable skills through providing a report on AAC&U’s national survey of business executives and hiring managers, *Fulfilling the American Dream: Liberal Education and the Future of Work*. Dr. Cynthia Rutledge Ferguson (Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs: Curriculum & Faculty Development, McMurry University) discussed the initial steps that McMurry (a private university) has taken to identify marketable skills and future directions for their project. Dr. Shonda Gibson (Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, The Texas A&M University System) explained the work done by Texas A&M University-Commerce on identifying marketable skills for its programs. You can find a recording of the webinar and other resources at [http://leaptx.org/marketable-skills/](http://leaptx.org/marketable-skills/).

- Dr. Rex Peebles (Assistant Commissioner, Academic Quality and Workforce, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board) conducted the LEAP Texas sponsored webinar *Fields of Study: How do they Affect My Campus*. You can find a recording of the webinar at [http://leaptx.org/fields-of-study/](http://leaptx.org/fields-of-study/).

- Dr. Kate McConnell (Assistant Vice President for Research and Assessment at AAC&U), presented the LEAP Texas sponsored webinar *We Have a Rubric for That: Lessons Learned & Future Directions for the VALUE Approach to Assessment*. Dr. McConnell provided a brief overview of AAC&U’s most comprehensive methodological consideration of the VALUE approach to assessment to date, highlighting the strengths and gaps in the approach with an eye toward future directions for VALUE, including but not limited to the VALUE Institute. With a focus on institutional capacity building, Dr. McConnell shared pragmatic “lessons learned” as well as engaged participants in elevating exemplar practices from their own campuses. You can find a recording of the webinar along with other resources at [http://leaptx.org/resources/value-rubrics/](http://leaptx.org/resources/value-rubrics/).

- A large crowd came to hear Dr. Rex Peebles (Assistant Commissioner, Academic Quality and Workforce, THECB) address the LEAP Texas Affiliate Group Meeting at the 2018 SACSCOC Annual Meeting in Atlanta.

- The Sixth Annual LEAP Texas Conference was held at the Hilton Houston North.

  - Plenary speakers for the conference were:
    - Dr. Belle Wheelan, President, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.
    - Dr. Lynn Pasquerella, President, Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U).
    - Dr. Kate McConnell is the Assistant Vice President for Research and Assessment at AAC&U.
    - Dr. Rex Peebles (Assistant Commissioner, Academic Quality and Workforce, THECB).
The conference welcomed 214 attendees, included five preconference workshops, and more than forty concurrent sessions conducted by faculty and staff representing colleges and universities from across the nation.

Remember to mark your calendars now for the 7th Annual LEAP Texas Conference to be held March 29–31, 2020 at the Hilton Houston North. The theme for the conference will be “2020: The Promise of a New Decade for Higher Education.” Please watch the LEAP Texas Listserv and website (http://leaptx.org/seventh-annual-conference/) for the Call for Proposals. We encourage everyone to participate and attend!

Also, please keep an eye on the LEAP Texas Listserv and website for calls for a new round of LEAP Texas Faculty Fellows and Assessment Fellows.

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, and commitments:

**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.
- Responding to the increasing national focus on student learning outcomes.
- Applying of the scholarship of teaching and learning.

We greatly appreciate your support of and participation in LEAP Texas this year, and we respectfully request that you continue your partnership with us as we move forward together in 2019-2020. You can find more information about LEAP Texas and membership at http://leaptx.org/. Please update your institution information by completing the 2019-2020 membership renewal form at 2019-2020 LEAP Texas Membership. You can also pay by credit card through the same form. We look forward to working with you this year!

Sincerely,

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