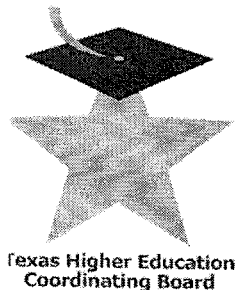


Susan E. Brown

Assistant Commissioner for Planning and Accountability

Susan E. Brown joined the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in February 1987 and now serves as Assistant Commissioner for Planning and Accountability. She has served as the Board representative for the Education Research Centers in cooperation with the Texas Education Agency. She was responsible for the initial development of the higher education Accountability System developed in 2004. Currently, the operations of the Educational Data Center which is responsible for receiving data from Texas institutions, reports to her. She also oversees a range of activities for the agency including development of the funding formulas under which Texas institutions receive a major portion of their state appropriations; review of facilities projects at universities, health-related institutions, and technical and state colleges. In addition, she is responsible for making updates to the state's higher education plan, *Closing the Gaps by 2015*. Susan holds a marketing degree from Texas A&M University.



**Written Testimony for the Joint Hearing of the Senate Committee on
Higher Education and House Committee on Higher Education**
Interim Hearing – August 19, 2010
Charge #6: Evaluate the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

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Panel 4. Eliminating duplicate reporting requirements and streamlining reporting

I. Current System

- a. The State of Texas currently mandates institutions report a series of standard reports to the Coordinating Board on a continual basis.
- b. Reports that must be submitted include enrollment data, course inventories, and faculty and facility reports that contribute to Texas' Accountability System and other key higher education initiatives and decisions.

II. Review of All Data Requests

- a. Accountability System - Institutional accountability groups meet two to three times annually and Coordinating Board staff work with the groups to determine the best method of calculating measures based on information already provided. There are a few measures, mostly related to endowments and faculty awards that the institutions input directly into the accountability system
- b. These reports were designed in a manner to allow flexibility and for that reason they allow the Coordinating Board to calculate the vast majority of the measures without additional reporting by the institutions.
- c. Coordinating Board staff meet with the *Data Collection Committee* periodically to review all new data collection in an effort to reduce redundancy and to ensure information is collected in a format that allows analysis.
- d. Coordinating Board staff is in the process of identifying reports the agency is required to develop in an effort to streamline reporting and eliminate redundancy.

III. Recommendation

- a. Legislatively designate the Coordinating Board as the *initial* source of public higher education data