



RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES OF LEAP TEXAS

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What is LEAP?

- LEAP stands for “Liberal Education and America’s Promise.”
 - Initiative of the Association of American Colleges & Universities (AACU).
- Promotes “Essential Learning Outcomes”
 - Knowledge of Human Cultures, the Physical, and the Natural World
 - Skills like Inquiry and Analysis, Critical and Creative Thinking, Written and Oral Communication, Quantitative Literacy, Information Literacy, Teamwork
 - Personal and Social Responsibility including Civic Knowledge and Engagement, Intercultural Knowledge and Competence, Ethical Reasoning and Action, Life Long Learning
 - Integrative and Applied Learning
- Promotes Principles of Excellence
- Promotes High-Impact Educational Practices
- Promotes Authentic Assessment
 - Using Student Work and Faculty Developed Rubrics
- Promotes Student Signature Work and Projects
 - Capstones, Internships, Portfolios

LEAP VALUE Rubrics

- One outgrowth of LEAP has been the development of the VALUE (Valid Assessment of Learning in Undergraduate Education) Rubrics.
- A total of 16 rubrics currently exist covering the following student learning outcomes:
 - Inquiry and Analysis
 - Critical Thinking
 - Creative Thinking
 - Written Communication
 - Oral Communication
 - Reading
 - Quantitative Literacy
 - Information Literacy
 - Teamwork
 - Problem Solving
 - Civic Engagement
 - Intercultural Knowledge and Competence
 - Ethical Reasoning
 - Foundations and Skills for Lifelong Learning
 - Global Learning
 - Integrative Learning

LEAP States Initiative

- The LEAP States Initiative provides “educators in states, state systems, and consortia an array of opportunities to work together. LEAP States supports large-scale collaboration, transformational change, and educational alignment to raise the quality of college learning within and across states.”
- LEAP State Activities included the following:
 - Faculty Collaboratives
 - Resources and Information for Faculty to promote quality teaching and learning
 - Quality Collaboratives
 - Builds upon the Essential Learning Outcomes and the Degree Qualifications Profile (Lumina Foundation/NILOA) to promote effective curriculum design and student learning
- Additionally LEAP State Activities work to promote various national initiatives, including:
 - Tuning Projects and Charrettes (**Like the AHA’s Tuning Project!**)
 - Degree Qualifications Profile (DQP) and the Assignment Library
 - General Education Maps and Markers (GEMs)
 - The VALUE/Multi-State Collaborative to Advance Learning Outcomes Assessment

Information Retrieved from <https://www.aacu.org/leap/states>

The LEAP States

- Currently, there are 13 LEAP States
 - Wisconsin (2005)
 - Virginia (2006)
 - Oregon (2007)
 - California (2008)
 - Utah (2009)
 - North Dakota (2010)
 - Kentucky (2011)
 - Massachusetts (2012)
 - Indiana (2013)
 - Texas (2014)
 - Michigan (2015)
 - Washington (2015)
 - Georgia (2016)

A (Brief) History of LEAP Texas

- Texas officially became a LEAP State in January, 2014;
 - Represented a culmination of two-years of effort to bring together public and private colleges and universities from across the State.
- LEAP Texas is unique. As Texas lacks a state-wide college/university system, LEAP Texas is a voluntary organization of approximately 50 colleges and universities.
 - 2 Private institutions
 - 21 2-year public institutions
 - 23 4-year public institutions
 - 4 Flagship institutions
- Have regularly brought together faculty, staff, and administrators from across the state (and country) to share ideas and best practices.
 - Coordinates activities with the AAC&U, National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment (NILOA), Lumina Foundation, etc.
 - Currently planning for the 4th Annual LEAP Texas Forum.

Mission and Vision of LEAP Texas

Mission

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.

Vision

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

Response to State-wide Challenges

- LEAP Texas was formed, in part, as a response to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's (THECB) changes to Core Curriculum Requirements.
- In particular, to the State's requirement that students will gain, and that institutions will assess, six key Core Learning Objectives:
 - **Critical Thinking Skills** - creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
 - **Communication Skills** - effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
 - **Empirical and Quantitative Skills** - manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
 - **Teamwork** - ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
 - **Social Responsibility**- intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
 - **Personal Responsibility** - ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

LEAP TEXAS Activates and Initiatives

- Development Hub – Online Resource Containing Information on the Following:
 - Degree Qualifications Profile (DQP) and Tuning
 - General Education Maps and Markers (GEMs)
 - High Impact Practices
 - Assignments and Signature Work
 - VALUE Rubrics
- LEAP Texas YouTube Channel
 - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtJBwjgzYcmEluOBCMg9F_w/videos
- LEAP Texas Listserv
- Faculty Collaboratives
 - Provides resources and opportunities to faculty from around the State to improve teaching and learning
 - Provides opportunities for faculty to share ideas and best practices
 - Active in Tuning, Assignment Design, Charrettes at the State and National levels

LEAP TEXAS Activates and Initiatives

- Texas Assessment Collaborative
 - Similar to AAC&U's Multi-State Collaborative Effort
 - Attempt to evaluate authentic student artifacts from Institutions across the State using the VALUE Rubrics
 - Starting with Written Communication
 - Looking at end-of-experience level work for Colleges (Sophomore) and Universities (Seniors)
- Pilot Institutions
 - San Jacinto College
 - Stephen F. Austin University
 - University of Houston-Victoria
 - University of North Texas
 - University of Texas-Arlington
 - Weatherford College

Call for Faculty Fellows!

LEAP Texas is currently seeking new Faculty Fellows to join the Faculty Collaboratives Project! We are looking for faculty who:

- Are passionate about student learning, teaching, and assessment.
- Want to build on a growing interest or curiosity and eventually become a state expert in one of three proficiency initiatives (further details are provide below):
 - Degree Qualification Profile (DQP) and Tuning
 - General Education Maps and Markers (GEMS)
 - Assignment Design and Signature Work
- Have an interest in the state's Core Objectives and making a contribution to the state's realization of the TX60x30 plan.
- More information can be found at:

<http://leaptx.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Call-for-Faculty-Fellows-2016-2.pdf>





Social Responsibility Week – August 8 - 12

LEAP Texas will be holding a week-long celebration of Social Responsibility.

It's a week where faculty from across the state of Texas can come together online and talk about how they are integrating Social Responsibility into teaching, learning, and assessment.

<http://leaptx.org/program-social-responsibility-week-8-12-aug-2016/>

4th Annual LEAP Texas Forum

Building Strong Undergraduate Education: The Essentials



Keynote Speaker

Dr. Betsy Barefoot
Senior Scholar for the
John N. Gardner Institute

LEAP Texas is also seeking proposals for the 4th Annual LEAP Texas Forum to be held **February 19-21** at El Centro College, Dallas, TX

Call for Proposals can be found at:

<http://leaptx.org/events/fourth-annual-forum/>

Come share your ideas with colleagues from around the state!

Questions?

Please contact Jeff Roberts

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