



**TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY
President's Report
Presented to the Board of Regents
May 28-29, 2026**

Since my last report to the Board of Regents, Texas State University has made meaningful progress across student success, research, enrollment, academic excellence, and athletics. I am proud of the work our faculty and staff are doing on behalf of our students and the state of Texas. This report highlights how we are expanding opportunity, strengthening outcomes, and deepening our impact.

I. Elevate Student Success

Student success remains central to our work, with a focus on persistence, engagement, time to degree, and career outcomes. Our coordinated, data-informed approach is producing measurable results.

We identify students who may be struggling early in the semester and respond quickly. The Early Academic Progress initiative translates faculty feedback into coordinated intervention across multiple units. Students flagged in Fall 2025 were retained at an 86% rate, well above projections, resulting in 546 additional students persisting. The F-to-W initiative strengthened this effort by generating nearly 1,500 alerts to support students at risk of course failure.

These efforts are reinforced by strong outcomes in university housing. Fall-to-spring persistence reached 92%, more than 2 percentage points above off-campus peers. To expand access to this benefit, the Hilltop Phase II project, set for completion in 2027, will add approximately 1,500 new beds and a 500-seat dining facility.

Student engagement in academic support and co-curricular experiences continues to grow and support persistence. Student Learning Assistance Center visits are up +4% overall, with Supplemental Instruction sessions up +39% and unique students served up +33%.

We are also strengthening career readiness through employer engagement. For example, Career Services hosted the Spring 2026 Teacher Job Fair with 118 districts and nearly 300 participants; convened its Employer Advisory Board to discuss emerging workforce trends; and partnered with Physical Therapy to host a job fair engaging more than 600 students from 14 institutions. Additional efforts included a Fashion Merchandising Networking Night and \$67,500 in internship scholarships supporting 44 students.

Finally, we are advancing completion. We launched the inaugural Chautauqua Eleven award to recognize top graduating seniors, and we held the largest Spring Commencement in university history, with more than 5,200 candidates.

II. Run to R1

The path to Carnegie R1 is defined by sustained progress, even in challenging conditions. This year, a slower federal funding environment has tested that progress, yet TXST's research enterprise continues to advance.

Through the second quarter, total research and development (R&D) expenditures are \$65.6M and essentially flat compared to last year – a positive outcome given the broader slowdown in federal funding. Federal awards and proposal submissions have declined due to fewer opportunities, reduced agency staffing, and slower award cycles.

Encouragingly, early third-quarter performance indicators point to a recovery. Year-over-year comparisons from September through March show gains in indirect cost recovery (+3%), sponsored programs and total R&D expenditures (+1%), and Texas University Fund metrics (+2% in Federal + Private research expenditures).

These results reflect a research enterprise that is adapting to a constrained environment while continuing to move forward. Strategic investments in internal funding, research development, and interdisciplinary collaboration are helping faculty remain competitive and better positioned for external funding success.

At the same time, campus-wide momentum continues to build. Research Week brought together faculty, staff, and students to showcase research and creative activity across disciplines. A strategic hiring campaign and research town halls are helping us bolster areas of focus, recruit nationally recognized scholars, and develop interdisciplinary proposals aligned with external funding opportunities.

III. Increase Overall Enrollment

A. *Overall Enrollment.* We are growing enrollment to serve qualified Texans who seek a college degree. While acceptance rates are often used as a proxy for quality, we measure success by who we graduate. Our outcomes reflect this commitment, including recently hosting the largest Spring Commencement in university history.

We are seeing strong demand for a TXST education. Applications, admits, and registrations are all ahead of last year, and we are on track to welcome our largest freshman class for the fifth consecutive year. The following Fall 2026 indicators show this projected growth as of April 27, 2026:

- First Time In College (FTIC) applications: 64,017 (+25.3%)
- FTIC admits: 51,313 (+36.7%)
- FTIC New Student Orientation (NSO) registrations: 6,742 (+12.0%)
- Transfer applications: 5,392 (+21.3%)
- Transfer admits: 2,853 (+16.4%)
- Transfer NSO registrations: 1,083 (+6.5%)
- Registration: 28,289 students (+9.1%)

We are also strengthening the academic profile of our incoming class. Since 2020, the number of students ranked in the top 10% of their high school class has increased from 635 to 1,082 (+70%), while those in the top 25% have increased from 2,390 to 3,955 (+65%).

This trend continues with Fall 2026 admits. As of April 27, we have admitted 6,625 students in the top 10% of their class, up +25% from Fall 2025. Growth is also strong across the top quartile, with 21,540 students admitted, up +19% from Fall 2025.

- B. *TXST Round Rock Campus.* We are expanding the Round Rock Campus (RRC) as a critical access and workforce hub for Central Texas. In Fall 2025, the campus served more than 2,900 students, a +31% increase over the prior year, through programs delivered in person, online, or a combination of both. Spring 2026 enrollment exceeded 3,400 students, nearly a +50% increase over Spring 2025, and Fall 2026 applications are approaching 4,100, up more than +50% over Fall 2025.

In support of continued growth, we have strategically established transfer partnerships with Austin Community College, Temple College, and Central Texas College.

We have intentionally designed RRC as a metropolitan workforce campus focused on high-demand fields such as health, technology, business, and public service. The campus now offers two doctoral programs, 11 master's programs, and 20 bachelor's programs aligned with regional workforce needs.

We are preparing students to leverage artificial intelligence as part of their academic experience. We have embedded an AI Workplace-Ready Certification into the RRC core curriculum. Students are learning to use AI tools, think critically about their applications, and apply them ethically in real-world settings, positioning them to graduate as AI-literate professionals ready to contribute on day one.

We are strengthening this work through industry partnerships. In collaboration with Dell, we are providing students with access to AI-enabled interview tools that build critical job readiness skills and to high-performance computing resources that support hands-on development of AI-driven solutions within their coursework.

We are also investing in the student experience. The opening of Esperanza Hall this summer will expand academic support services, collaboration space, and science lab instruction. We are also advancing plans to start the design and planning process for our first student housing later this year, moving RRC toward a more fully realized residential campus.

- C. *Strategic Partnerships and Pathways.* We are building a coordinated statewide pipeline through co-enrollment, transfer, and program-level partnerships. This work addresses a critical need in Texas, where only 48% of high school graduates enroll directly in higher education.

We are meeting students where they are. Through TXST Local and a growing network of co-enrollment and 2+2 partnerships, students can begin their education in their home communities and complete a TXST degree.

We have more than 30 partnerships, including Alamo Colleges, Collin College, Dallas College, Lone Star College, San Jacinto College, and Lamar State College Orange, creating a statewide footprint that connects students to TXST.

These partnerships are already generating measurable results. For example, fall co-

enrollment data show strong interest: Lamar State College Orange admitted 497 students, Collin College admitted 277 students, and Dallas College admitted 486 students. These early pipeline indicators demonstrate both the scale of demand and the opportunity to strengthen yield as these programs mature.

- D. *Online Growth.* We are expanding access through online programs, which serve as a key driver of enrollment growth beyond traditional geographic boundaries.

Enrollment in online programs has grown from 448 in Fall 2021 to nearly 2,780 in Fall 2025 (+521%). This Spring, enrollment exceeded 3,200 students, reflecting strong demand for flexible learning options.

We have spurred this growth by launching nearly 60 new online programs in high-demand workforce areas, with 14 additional programs planned for Fall 2026.

International Growth. TXST is expanding its global reach through targeted international initiatives. We recently launched our first international site in Querétaro, Mexico, enrolling 57 students in its inaugural cohort and continuing with 51 students this spring. We have also established summer hubs in Australia, Scotland, Spain, Italy, and Japan, and we are developing new programs in England, Ireland, India, and Portugal.

As a result, international enrollment has grown substantially, from 486 students in Fall 2020 to 2,083 in Fall 2025 (+328%), and remains strong in Spring 2026 at 2,023 students, up +31% from Spring 2025.

IV. Advance Academic Excellence

Academic excellence at TXST reflects both faculty achievement and a deliberate focus on preparing students for a rapidly evolving world. For example, in this last quarter, Dr. Kate Melhuish received the Annie and John Selden Award, a national honor recognizing excellence in undergraduate mathematics education.

We are scaling high-impact learning opportunities to strengthen instruction across the university. The Coursera Career Academy is a subscription-based platform provided at no cost to all TXST students, staff, and faculty, offering about 80 career-focused certificates. Most completions are in data analysis and project management, with additional interest in health and personal development. To date, the program has recorded 8,270 enrollments and 2,116 completions. In addition, 55 faculty members have participated in ACUE training, and Grammarly now supports 153 courses, 130 faculty members, and 2,600 students.

In parallel, TXST is advancing as an AI-forward institution. In March, our AI in Teaching and Learning Symposium drew 450 participants, up from 320 last year, reflecting growing campus engagement. Open to sister system campuses, the event primarily served faculty and staff and focused on the skills needed as AI transforms teaching and learning. Keynotes addressed trends in online learning and higher education curriculum, while sessions highlighted practical tools and faculty-led applications. To further advance AI learning, the university is piloting an AI course designation, expanding AI resources on the Academic Innovation website. We are also developing a proposal to rename the Computer Science Program as the School of Computing and Artificial Intelligence to strengthen both research capacity and workforce preparation.

V. Achieve Athletic Excellence

Bobcat athletics continues to elevate the university's profile and energize the campus community. April was a strong month. We held the naming celebration for Irvine-Rasmussen Ballpark, a milestone made possible through transformative philanthropic support. That momentum carried onto the field. Baseball earned a 9–8 win over #18 Texas A&M in front of a sold-out crowd. Softball followed with a 3–0 shutout of #3 Texas Tech. These performances are reflected in national rankings, with softball holding a Rating Percentage Index (RPI) of 30 and baseball at 36.

Looking ahead, TXST will join the Pac-12 Conference on July 1, marking a significant step in the rise of our athletics program and national visibility. We will celebrate this milestone on June 30 with a countdown and midnight transition into the conference, culminating in a symbolic moment as the Victory Star shifts from maroon and gold to Pac-12 colors.

VI. Economic Impact Study

TXST's latest economic impact study confirms its role as a major driver of growth in Texas. For fiscal year 2023–2024, the university generated nearly \$8 billion in economic impact statewide, including \$3.2 billion in Central Texas. This impact reflects the strength of our graduates, research enterprise, and institutional investments, all of which contribute to long-term economic growth and workforce development.

The return on investment is compelling: for every dollar invested in TXST, students gain \$6.80 in lifetime earnings, taxpayers gain \$4.50 through increased revenue and public savings, and society gains \$17.40 in added income and social benefit. Scan the QR code to learn more.



VII. Administrative Changes

Following a comprehensive 18-month evaluation, we have tentatively selected a new enterprise resource planning (ERP) solution. This upgrade is essential, as our current system is nearly 20 years old and will reach end-of-life in late 2027. To ensure a successful transition, the university will launch a competitive solicitation for a systems integrator this summer. We anticipate presenting a final proposal, encompassing both software and implementation services, for Board of Regents consideration at the August or November 2026 meeting. The total investment is projected to be approximately \$50M.

We are reorganizing the Finance and Support Services division to align with the university's evolving needs, including the growing impact of AI, our progress toward R1 status, and the implementation of a new enterprise resource planning system. As part of this effort, Cristine Black has been appointed Chief Financial Officer, reporting to Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer Eric Algoe. This change brings financial operations under dedicated leadership, strengthens succession planning, and positions the division to support the multi-year implementation of a new ERP system.

We are concluding the search for the next Dean of the Honors College.