

*Dr. Hector -  
I need your help -*

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**SOUTH TEXAS AREA STUDENTS' NEED FOR UPWARD EXPANSION  
OF HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES**

SB 122/HB 358, as presently written, answers the needs of the business community with downward expansion of CCSU, A & I' and Del Mar College' administrations and faculties with safeguards and valley leaders seeking stabilization for law school but does not meet South Texas area students' need for upward expansion of higher education opportunities with development of doctoral, post-graduate research and professional programs in South Texas. To answer the area students' focus needs to be centered on what is needed, the means available and the reasons therefor.

**A. NEEDED IS A LEGISLATIVE MANDATE:**

**"THE TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD SHALL WORK JOINTLY AND POSITIVELY WITH THE BOARDS OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AND TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY TO PLAN, ESTABLISH AND DEVELOP APPROPRIATE DOCTORAL, POST-GRADUATE RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS FOR SOUTH TEXAS AREA STUDENTS."**

**B. MEANS AVAILABLE TO INCLUDE A LEGISLATIVE MANDATE:**

- (1) SB 122/HB 358;
- (2) Amendment of Education Code's Section 61; and
- (3) 1989 "sunset legislation" review of Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

**C. REASONS FOR THE NEEDED LEGISLATIVE MANDATE:**

- (1) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board was created in 1965 to stop the proliferation of Ph.D. programs that were occurring in other parts of Texas despite South Texas having no such programs. The means used have been negative leadership and "overly stringent guidelines" and there has never been any indication of a commitment to change without a legislative mandate.
- (2) The indisputable fact twenty-four years later is that South Texas from Laredo to Victoria and Brownsville to Port Lavaca is the only comparable population area in the state without any doctoral, post-graduate research and professional level offerings for its students except one unique "bilingual education" degree and an un-accredited private law school.
- (3) The result for South Texas has been three fold:
  - (a) a "brain drain" of those students who leave the area to seek graduate programs elsewhere with very few returning;
  - (b) a difficulty in attracting new industry because of the lack of doctoral and post-graduate research programs; and
  - (c) an "intolerable frustration" for those who desire to maximize their educational abilities and aspirations but cannot leave for reasons of lack of available money, negative impact on families and/or being already established in business or employment positions.
- (4) Area Community Leaders' Endorsement of Upward Expansion of Educational Opportunities; e.g.:
  - (a) Senator Carlos Truans' "Plan For A Comprehensive University In South Texas" issued in December, 1986 made clear that "a major goal...should be the development of a comprehensive university presence in South Texas...to mean...a full range of undergraduate, graduate and professional programs...available to citizens."
  - (b) Del Mar College Board of Regents' July 12, 1988 Policy Statement called for CCSU to become a "quality seven year institution of higher learning, including additional masters programs and Ph.D., post-graduate research and professional level programs."
  - (c) 4 U-CC in its July 23, 1988 News Release applauded Del Mar's Board for their endorsement of "a broad vision of higher education in South Texas" and also called for "conversion of CCSU into a comprehensive university, having four years of undergraduate study, additional master programs, doctoral programs, post-graduate research and professional level programs."
  - (d) Mayors and City Councils throughout the Coastal Bend area adopted resolutions during the fall of 1988 calling for upward expansion of educational opportunities for their students.
  - (e) The Corpus Christi-Kingsville Higher Education "compromise" announced at a November 11, 1988 Hershey Hotel public luncheon meeting and at a January 4, 1989 Cotton's Bar-B-Que "signing ceremony" dinner meeting committed Coastal Bend area community and legislative leaders to effectuate at:
    - (1) Texas A & M at Kingsville:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) Doctoral Programs In:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Educational Leadership</li><li>* Range and Wildlife Management</li></ul></li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(b) Masters Programs In:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Engineering (industrial, environmental)</li><li>* Communications</li><li>* Communications Disorders</li><li>* Agriculture</li><li>* Counseling (substance abuse and family)</li><li>* English as a Second Language</li></ul></li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(c) Professional Programs In:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Pharmacy</li></ul></li><li>(d) Joint Doctoral Programs with Texas A&amp;M University at Corpus Christi In:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Business Administration</li><li>* Biology</li><li>* Computer Science</li></ul></li></ol> |
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(2) Texas A & M at Corpus Christi:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) Doctoral Programs In:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Educational Leadership</li><li>* Counseling/Psychology</li></ul></li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(b) Joint Doctoral Programs With Texas A&amp;M University at Kingsville In:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Business Administration</li><li>* Biology</li><li>* Computer Science</li></ul></li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(c) Masters Programs In:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Mariculture</li><li>* Criminal Justice</li><li>* Public Administration</li><li>* Health Care Administration</li><li>* International Business</li><li>* Environmental Science</li><li>* Gerontology</li></ul></li></ol> |
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**D. CONCLUSION:**

South Texas' past twenty-four years "no results" experience with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board dictates the conclusion that history will repeat itself without the needed legislative mandate; i.e., South Texas area students in the next twenty-four years will still not have doctoral, post-graduate research and professional programs unless community and legislative leaders join together in the 1989 session to insist on inclusion of the legislative mandate!