

2019 FALL MEMBERS MEETING

RECAP



TBLC Vice Chairman Charlie Amato introducing the morning keynote Sen. Larry Taylor.



Thank you to Charlie Amato and SWBC for sponsoring the meeting.



Sen. Taylor started the day with a briefing on the positive impact HB3 will have on school funding.



TBLC member Bobby Perez of the San Antonio Spurs and Rep. Bernal talking during one of the program breaks.



TBLC members (left to right) Rick Francis, Ed Escudero, and Renard Johnson during break.



Justin Yancy of the TBLC moderated the first panel of the day with John Fitzpatrick of Educate Texas; Rep. Bernal, Vice Chair of the House Committee on Public Education; and Todd Williams of the Commit Partnership where they discussed HB3 implementation strategy and benefits of the legislation.



Romanita Matta-Barra of SADEF and TBLC member Paula Gold-Williams of CPS (top). Sen. Larry Taylor and TBLC member Woody Hunt of Hunt Companies (bottom).



The second panel discussed 60X30TX which featured TBLC members who are sitting Regents at Texas' largest university systems; Jodie L. Jiles of the UT System; Charlie Amato of the Texas State System; and Chair Elaine Mendoza of the A&M System. Moderated by former Vice Chair of the UT System, Woody Hunt.



TBLC member Jodie L. Jiles introducing UT System Chancellor James B. Milliken.



Afternoon keynote speaker, The University of Texas System Chancellor James B. Milliken, spoke on the importance of 60X30TX and discussed how artificial intelligence is changing what "work" is and that the healthcare, IT, and cybersecurity fields can almost guarantee jobs to credentialed prospects.



TBLC member Nick Serafy of Proficiency Testing Service during Q&A.



2019 FALL MEMBERS MEETING

RECAP

On Tuesday, October 8, 2019 the Texas Business Leadership Council convened its 2019 Fall Meeting at the Westin Riverwalk Hotel in San Antonio, Texas. Sponsored by SWBC, the featured discussions centered on education and workforce development. The meeting touched on how Texas is implementing a newly passed school funding package based on education outcomes, how to incentivize these students to achieve a post-secondary degree or credential, and what the future economic landscape will look like for our workforce – specifically in healthcare, IT, and cybersecurity.

The meeting opened with TBLC Vice Chairman Charlie Amato, Chairman of SWBC, introducing Texas State Senator Larry Taylor. As Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, Senator Taylor explained how the previous funding systems operated by protecting the status quo. Before HB3, school districts were given a pass-fail status if they were in the top 92% of performing schools, setting the bar far too low. Additionally, state funding was largely based on how much property tax was already in the coffers. With Texas property taxes rising year after year for almost two decades, the state found itself disproportionately propping up rural and failing schools. After HB3, funding will work to inspire good teachers, reward their longevity, and incentivize their performance in an “at risk” school.

Next, TBLC President Justin Yancy hosted our first panel discussion regarding the specific implementation mechanisms which will be deployed as a result of HB3’s passage. Titled “HB3 – Making Sense of School Finance Reform,” panelists included Vice Chairman of the Texas House Education Committee, Representative Diego Bernal; John Fitzpatrick from Educate Texas, and Todd Williams of the Commit Partnership. The panel stressed how important it is next session to maintain and build upon the reforms laid out in the legislation.

Our second panel, “TBLC: Leading the Way in Higher Education,” was hosted by TBLC Education Task Force Co-Chair Woody Hunt of Hunt Companies. The panel featured three TBLC members who are sitting Regents at Texas’ largest university systems; Charlie Amato, Regent at The Texas State University System; Jodie L. Jiles, Regent at The University of Texas System; and Chairman of the Board of Regents Elaine Mendoza, of The Texas A&M University System. The four discussed the Higher Education Coordinating Board’s long term plan – 60X30TX – which aims to have at least 60% of all Texans between the age of 25-34 hold a post-secondary credential by 2030.

Finally, after a short break and lunch, the meeting was called back to order by Jodie L. Jiles of Transwestern as he introduced UT System Chancellor James B. Milliken. This being Milliken’s 4th post, he comes to UT most recently from the City University of New York. CUNY is the largest urban campus system in the country, with several community colleges under its purview. While the UT System doesn’t have 2-year institutions under its umbrella, the Chancellor noted how important they are to achieving 60x30TX by offering associates degrees, certifications, and feeding students into 4-year universities. Chancellor Milliken also discussed how artificial intelligence is changing what “work” is and that the healthcare, IT, and cybersecurity fields can almost guarantee jobs to credentialed prospects. The Chancellor ended his remarks by taking questions on the k-12 pipeline, cybersecurity, healthcare, and the role all Texas universities play educating our students to compete globally.

A day prior to the meeting, an op-ed dropped in the *San Antonio Business Journal* penned by TBLC Vice Chairman Charlie Amato titled “San Antonio’s cyber story is a positive one being written together” discussing how San Antonio – partly as a result of UTSA’s nationally recognized cybersecurity program – is quickly becoming a hub outside of Washington, D.C. for security talent.