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Houston Endowment

LETTER OF PARTNERSHIP

Dear Dr. Watts,

Houston Endowment ("HEI") is pleased to partner with Galveston College (the "College") in support of its efforts to implement its Proactive Advising from Dual Credit through College Transfer project. To support this work, HEI has awarded Grant #34377to the Galveston College Foundation (the "Grantee").

Houston Endowment is excited to continue partnering with the Grantee and the College on a regional student success initiative (the "Initiative"), which is grounded in a shared belief that a regional approach to student success can do more for students in the region than any one college can do alone. The Initiative aims to support more students in completing programs, earning meaningful credentials aligned with their aspirations, and building careers that lead to family-sustaining wages.

HEI has committed to support the Grantee and the College's implementation work over a three-year grant period. However, achieving the Initiative's goals will require more than grant dollars. It requires institutional leadership that champions this work, removes barriers, uses data to guide implementation, and sustains momentum through periods of change.

This Letter of Partnership (this "Letter") reflects the shared expectations of Houston Endowment and the Grantee and the College for their participation in the Initiative.

Shared Expectations

HEI anticipates providing the following support:

i. **Grant Funding** — HEI has awarded a three-year grant to support the Grantee and the College's implementation work, subject to and in accordance with the executed grant agreement between HEI and the Grantee.
ii. **Technical Assistance and Coaching —** During the first 18 months, HEI expects to work with the Texas Success Center (TSC) and other implementation partners to strengthen the Grantee and the College's implementation by providing or facilitating access to : (a) two regional convenings in 2027 and asynchronous collaboration opportunities to advance shared problem-solving and peer learning; (b) a continuous improvement coach to lead the Grantee and the College through structured coaching cycles; and (c) technical assistance on data use, progress monitoring, and change management.
iii. **Data Capacity-Building and Shared Learning** —HEI expects to work with a data capacity-building partner to support shared progress monitoring and the capture of regional lessons to inform continuous improvement across the region.
iv. **Regular Communication and Check-Ins** — HEI expects to designate education program officer Kaylan Connally (kconnally@houstonendowment.org) to serve as the primary relationship lead and maintain regular communication with the Grantee and the College's leadership and implementation team to support progress, problem-solving, and alignment throughout the grant period.

As a participant in the Initiative, the Grantee and the College intend to:

i. **Active Participation** — Actively engage in the collaborative and data capacity-building efforts for the duration of the grant period, with institutional leadership invested in and supportive of implementation goals.

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ii. **Leadership Designation and Continuity** — Designate an executive sponsor and implementation lead to champion and advance the Grantee and the College's work throughout the grant period, ensure implementation continues even if individual leaders change over time, and ensure that the implementation lead has dedicated time and capacity to lead this work.

iii. **Implementation** — Develop and advance a plan focused on improving student completion and/or transfer success, with the goal of supporting more students in pursuing careers that lead to family-sustaining wages.

iv. **Engagement with Technical Assistance and Coaching** —During the initial 18 months, engage with the technical assistance, continuous improvement coaching, and peer learning opportunities made available through TSC and partners, including participation in the two regional convenings and structured coaching cycles, as well as asynchronous collaboration opportunities to advance shared problem-solving and knowledge exchange.

v. **Data Sharing** — Work collaboratively with the data capacity building consultant and other colleges to align and agree on shared metrics and data definitions to inform program implementation and regional impact, subject to applicable law, institutional policies, and any necessary data-sharing or data-use arrangements.

We are grateful for the partnership in this effort and look forward to the work ahead. This letter reflects the parties' shared expectations and intentions regarding their participation in the Initiative. It is not intended to create contractual obligations or to amend or supplement the grant agreement between HEI and the Grantee.

[redacted]

Date: 10/22/2026 | 6:17 AM CDT

Dr. Tracee Watts, President
Galveston College Foundation and
Galveston College

[redacted]

Date: 10/20/2026

Elisa Villanueva Beard
President and CEO
Houston Endowment