

REPRESENTATIVE ROBERTO R. ALONZO'S**capitol report**

For more information concerning these topics or to schedule an appointment please call (512) 463-0408 or visit www.house.state.tx.us



Photos: (Left): Rep. Alonzo presents House Resolution to trustees of the Dallas County Community College District. (Right): Rep. Alonzo and UT System Chancellor Dr. Francisco Cigarroa touring high schools in District 104 encouraging students to go to college.



Texas Prepaid College Tuition Enrollment Opens Sept. 1 & Underway, Deadline to Apply is Feb. 13, 2013

Rep. Alonzo urges all families to take advantage and apply for the opening of the **2012-13 State's Pre-Paid College Tuition Program** which opened enrollment effective September 1, 2012. Deadline to apply is February 28, 2013. That's according to information shared by the offices of Texas State Comptroller Susan Combs last week alerting lawmakers to help her spread the message for the current enrollment period for Texas families to take advantage of the opportunity to enroll their children in the Texas Tuition Promise Fund and avoid future increases in tuition and other required fees at Texas colleges and universities.

"I urge all families to apply for the Texas Tuition Promise Fund as soon as possible and before the February 28th, 2013, deadline. In today's hard economic times, coupled with cuts to financial aid programs, and the fact that college tuition and fees continue to escalate annually, I think it is so important that families take advantage of programs like the Texas Prepaid Tuition Promise Fund," said Rep. Alonzo.

The Texas Tuition Promise Fund allows participants to lock in the cost of undergraduate tuition and required fees at Texas public colleges and universities at today's prices and choose from a variety of affordable options to prepay for those costs. "This program is a great way to prepay all or part of a child's undergraduate tuition and fees at Texas public colleges and universities at today's prices," Combs said. "And we offer flexible payment options to help fit any family's budget as they save for college."

After Feb. 28, enrollment in the program at 2012-13 prices will close, except for parents of newborns and children under one year old, who have until July 31 to enroll at this year's prices.

The Plan is a prepayment contract for tuition and required fees at Texas public colleges and universities. It also includes all the tax advantages that come with any other 529 plan, including federal income, gift and estate tax benefits. Under the plan, families can prepay tuition and required fees for a four-year degree, two years of community college or just a few classes or semesters at Texas public colleges and universities by purchasing higher education "tuition units." It takes 100 units to pay for one academic year of tuition and required fees. Payment options include lump sum payments, several installment plans and a pay-as-you-go plan that lets families start small and gradually add more units at the prices in effect at the time of purchase. Once your account is opened, your friends and family can make contributions to your child's account using the Texas Tuition Promise Fund gifting option.

Complete plan information, current prices, enrollment forms and more are available online at www.TexasTuitionPromiseFund.com, or call **(800) 445-GRAD (4723), Option 5.**