

Grants awarded for college access

St. Edward's, UT System among 42 recipients of more than \$5.2 million.

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The Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corp. has awarded more than \$5.2 million to colleges and nonprofit groups, including several in the Austin region, for financial aid, student retention programs and outreach to students who are in groups underrepresented in higher education.

"There is a great need to create better access to college and to help students overcome obstacles to stay in school," said Sue McMillin, president and CEO of Texas Guaranteed, which awarded grants to 42 colleges and nonprofit groups.

Texas Guaranteed, a public nonprofit corporation based in Round Rock, administers the federal student loan program in Texas.

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Among the recipients

St. Edward's University, \$121,296 for Interns for Success, a program that places upper-level student assistants in freshman courses to provide mentoring and tutoring.

University of Texas System, \$258,845 for scholarships and other outreach efforts aimed at 130 high schools with low college-attendance rates and high financial need.

College Forward, \$87,328 for outreach to low-income students who would be the first in their families to earn college degrees and \$62,454 to support an after-school high school curriculum with intensive college and career exploration.

University of Texas Ray Marshall Center, \$226,000 to study the numbers and types of Central Texas high school graduates who are in the work force or in postsecondary education.