



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY  
GOVERNOR

March 4, 2008

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copy*

Mr. Morris Edwin Foster  
Board of Regents  
Texas A&M University System  
592 Shadow Way Court  
Houston, Texas 77024

Dear Mr. Foster:

I hope you will join me May 21, 2008, in Austin at a special conference for regents of our state university systems. This important conference will focus on "myths, truths and breakthrough solutions" for higher education.

We will meet with some of the most knowledgeable higher education experts in the country about the costs and quality of teaching and research. As you know, with deregulation of tuition in Texas, increasing costs of higher education and graduation rates that have come under scrutiny, parents, students – indeed all taxpayers – have begun to demand more accountability in our higher education institutions. This call for accountability is not unique to Texas; it affects colleges and universities all across America.

At the center of the debate are questions about the quality of education, the costs of higher education and demands that our institutions of higher education be more efficient and more effective.

As a regent, you are key to identifying and implementing breakthrough solutions to these questions and demands. The half measures of the past just won't do anymore.

I hope you will be able to join me May 21 at the Stephen F. Austin Hotel for this important summit. A draft agenda is enclosed.

Please RSVP to Wayne Roberts, of my staff, by e-mail at [wroberts@governor.state.tx.us](mailto:wroberts@governor.state.tx.us) or by phone at 512/463-5318 by March 17.

Sincerely,

*Rick Perry*

Rick Perry  
Governor

RP:wrk

Enclosure