

# CATE



Coalition of American Traditions and Ethics

Texas university students, alumni and faculty, concerned Texans, and interested parties across the state and nation have joined together to urge our state leaders and Texas colleges and universities to enhance the quality of higher education by encouraging the creation of coursework that gives students a strong background in American ideals, institutions and traditions.

**MISSION:** To foster the development of civic responsibility and ethical character among Texas college and university students by supporting the establishment of coursework and programs that focus on Western civilization and American traditions.

**Demand is strong for a curriculum based on the ideals, institutions, and traditions passed down from our Founding Fathers and inherent in American culture.**

- Many university faculty and professors support the development of a program emphasizing Western civilization and American traditions and recognize the value of these courses.
- There is strong support from university alumni and donors across the state and nation for this type of program.
- Students have shown their support and interest in this subject matter by choosing to take these courses as electives outside their prescribed courses of study.

**There is clear evidence that a meaningful and established curriculum based on American ideals, institutions, and traditions needs to be reintroduced and invigorated at our universities.**

- Students need a renewed focus on American history and governance: 1,000 randomly selected freshman and senior undergraduates from three Texas universities, who participated in the Intercollegiate Studies Institute's American civics literacy test, answered only 49.3 percent of questions correctly.
- Many Americans are unaware of principles such as democracy and capitalism that have made America prosperous: Only 53 percent of American adults believe capitalism is better than socialism, according to an April 2009 Rasmussen Report.
- Few public universities fulfill the need for a curriculum based on the study of American ideals, institutions and traditions that give students a broad-based education and teach critical thinking skills.

**Now is the time to offer a curriculum focused on Western civilization and American traditions to develop our state's and our country's future leaders.**

- Programs emphasizing this curriculum will attract top students and professors to Texas universities and serve as a model for other states.
- Scandals in business and politics from Fannie Mae to Bernie Madoff highlight the need for a greater emphasis on American values and ethics.
- Employers seek graduates with a comprehensive educational background who demonstrate civic responsibility, ethical behavior, and critical thinking skills.

*Prepared by the Coalition for American Traditions and Ethics (CATE)*

1 807 Brazos Street Suite 408, Austin, Texas 78701 | 512-474-2005 | [www.HigherEduCATE.org](http://www.HigherEduCATE.org)