



BIG 12 STUDENT REPRESENTATION

About the Big 12 Conference

The Big 12 member institutions are diverse in both location and mission, comprising three private universities and 13 public, land-grant universities. All institutions are classified as R1 or R2 research universities under the Carnegie Classification, the highest designations for doctoral output and scholarly activities. In Fall 2024, the Big 12 universities collectively educated 563,467 students. The following institutions are members of the Big 12 athletic conference:

- Arizona: The University of Arizona, Arizona State University
- Colorado: The University of Colorado
- Florida: University of Central Florida
- Iowa: Iowa State University
- Kansas: Kansas State University, The University of Kansas
- Ohio: University of Cincinnati
- Oklahoma: Oklahoma State University
- Texas: Baylor University, University of Houston, Texas Christian University, Texas Tech University
- Utah: Brigham Young University, The University of Utah
- West Virginia: West Virginia University

About Big 12 On the Hill

Big 12 On the Hill is an annual event where student government representatives from Big 12 member universities travel to Washington, D.C., to advocate for issues affecting students on their campuses. The event provides student leaders with the opportunity to engage directly with their state delegations, advocating for the interests of their peers. Hosted by the student governments of Big 12 schools on a rotating basis, this year's event is being organized by Texas Christian University.

Participating Student Governments

The following student governments are represented at Big 12 On the Hill 2025:

- Baylor University Student Government
- Brigham Young University Student Association
- University of Central Florida Student Government
- University of Cincinnati Student Government
- The University of Colorado Student Government
- University of Houston Student Government
- Iowa State University Student Government
- The University of Kansas Student Senate
- Kansas State University Student Governing Association
- Oklahoma State University Student Government Association
- Texas Christian University Student Government Association
- Texas Tech Student Government Association
- Associated Students of the University of Utah
- West Virginia University Student Government Association



PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT

Barriers to Employment Overview

- There is evidence that college graduates experience difficulties matching with full-time positions after graduation. Despite an increasing number of job postings requiring a college degree, 52 percent of recent graduates are considered “underemployed” in roles that do not require postsecondary education (Inside Higher Ed, 2024).
- Underemployment comes at a cost. Recent graduates with college-level jobs earn \$60,000 annually on average, 88 percent more than the average high school graduate and 50 percent more than underemployed recent four-year graduates (Strada Institute for the Future of Work and the Burning Glass Institute, 2024)
- This mismatch creates real long-term economic underperformance. College graduates who start their careers in roles not requiring a college degree stayed under-employed 73 percent of the time a decade later (Inside Higher Ed, 2024).
- Institutions of higher education have a critical role to play in connecting talent with skills and employers through workforce training and development programs.

H.R. 3804 Workforce Innovation and Education Partnership Act (118th Congress, Rep. Bice, R-OK-5)

H.R. 3804 aims to improve employment outcomes for recent college graduates through federal grants intended to create opportunities for students to gain experience and contact with businesses prior to graduation

- **Partnerships Between Employers and IHE:** The bill would amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to permit significant federal funding to states and local areas to support the development of educational partnerships between institutions of higher education (IHE) and employers.
- **Flexibility and Innovation:** The open-ended approach leaves room for companies and universities to craft innovation programs that provide students pathways to full and meaningful employment but are easily adapted to changing circumstances and advancing technologies.

S. 4139/H.R. 8056 Digital Skills for Today’s Workforce Act (118th Congress, Sen. Kaine, D-VA)

S. 4139/H.R. 8056 aims to increase employability through the creation of grant programs intended to foster educational partnerships focused on digital skills (increasing in data, technology, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence).

- **Leveraging University Expertise:** With existing content-expert faculty and experience providing education at scale, U.S. universities are uniquely positioned to use federal grants to create programs (e.g., certificate programs, co-ops with businesses, expanded curriculum offerings) that can enhance the digital skills literacy of their students and provide similar opportunities for the wider public.

Congressional Action Big 12 Students Support

- Support the reintroduction of the bipartisan H.R. 3804 Workforce Innovation and Education Partnership Act.
- Support the reintroduction of the bipartisan S. 4139/H.R. 8056 Digital Skills for Today’s Workforce Act.

The views expressed in this document are those of students from the member schools of the Big 12 Conference. They do not necessarily reflect the positions of university administrations, university governance, or the Big 12 Conference. For more information, please email big12sg@tcu.edu.
