

**Van L. Davis, Ph.D.**

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Van Davis is Associate Vice President of Higher Education Research and Policy at Blackboard Inc. Davis works extensively on competency-based education and higher education policy issues as well as distance education, learning technology, workforce alignment, and college affordability.

Before joining Blackboard in January 2015, Davis was Director of Innovations in Higher Education at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) where he led the THECB's efforts in responding to Governor Rick Perry's calls for a \$10,000 bachelor's degree by directing the Texas Affordable Baccalaureate Project which resulted in the creation of the state's first competency based education baccalaureate degree at South Texas College and Texas A&M Commerce. Additionally, Davis directed the state's adult degree completion project, Grad TX (<http://www.gradtx.org>) as well as the state's course redesign grant program, online faculty professional development program, annual Reinventing Instruction and Learning Conference, and the development of the state's digital learning objects repository.

Davis speaks extensively around the nation on competency-based education, adult degree completion, and higher education trends and is co-author of two recent studies: *Leveraging Shared Savings to Promote High-Quality, Cost-Effective Higher Education* and *Competency-Based Education Programs in Texas: An Innovative Approach to Higher Education*. Davis also serves on the editorial board of the new Journal of Competency Based Education.

For 10 years before joining the staff of the THECB in 2007, Davis worked at both public and private institutions of higher education where he served as a history professor and an academic administrator.

Davis holds a M.A. and Ph.D. in 20th Century U.S. History with an emphasis in civil rights history from Vanderbilt University as well as a B.A. in History from Southwestern University.