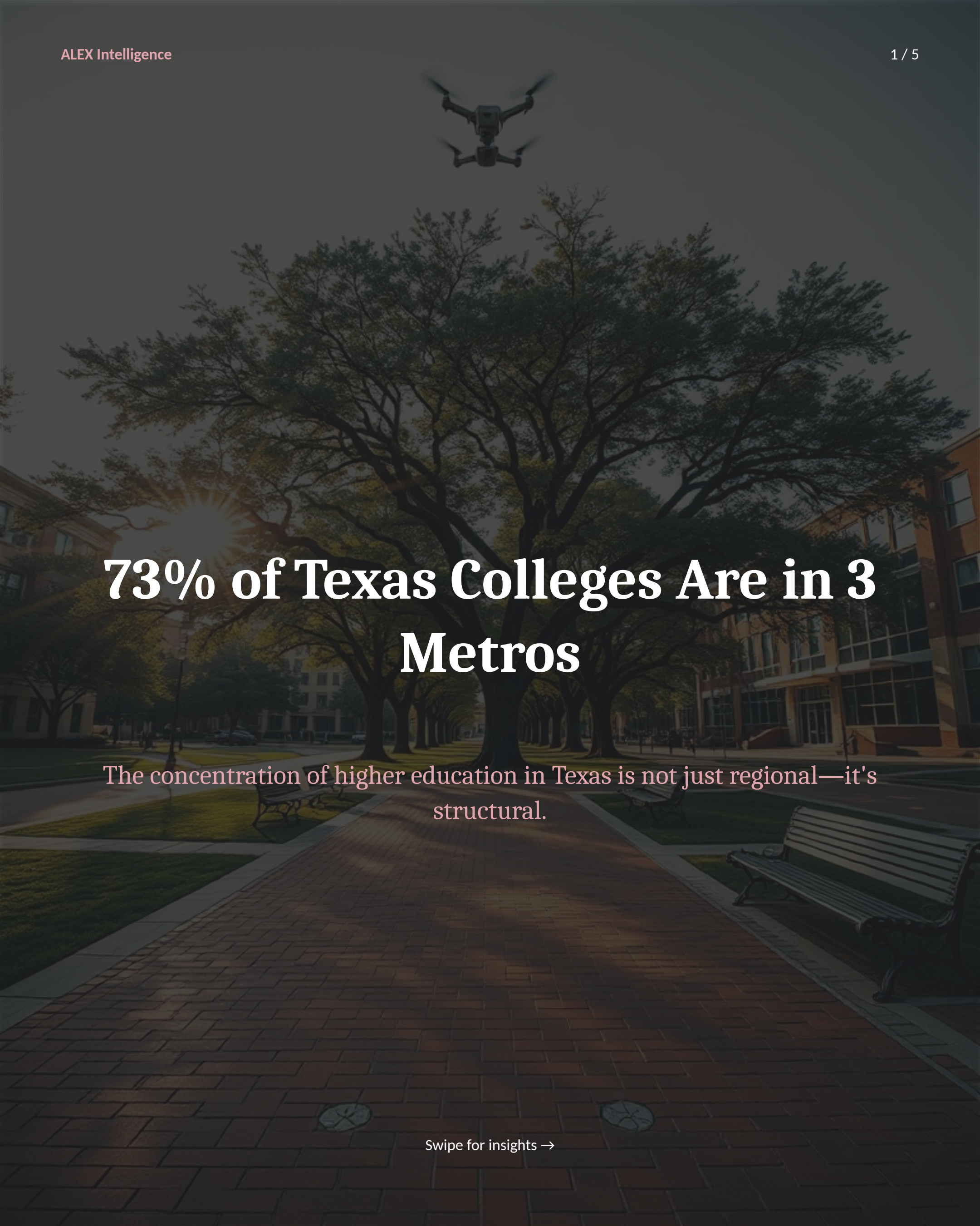


A drone is flying in the sky above a university campus. The campus features large, mature trees with green and yellowing leaves, brick walkways, and benches. In the background, there are multi-story university buildings. The scene is captured in a slightly desaturated, artistic style.

73% of Texas Colleges Are in 3 Metros

The concentration of higher education in Texas is not just regional—it's structural.

Swipe for insights →

THE DATA

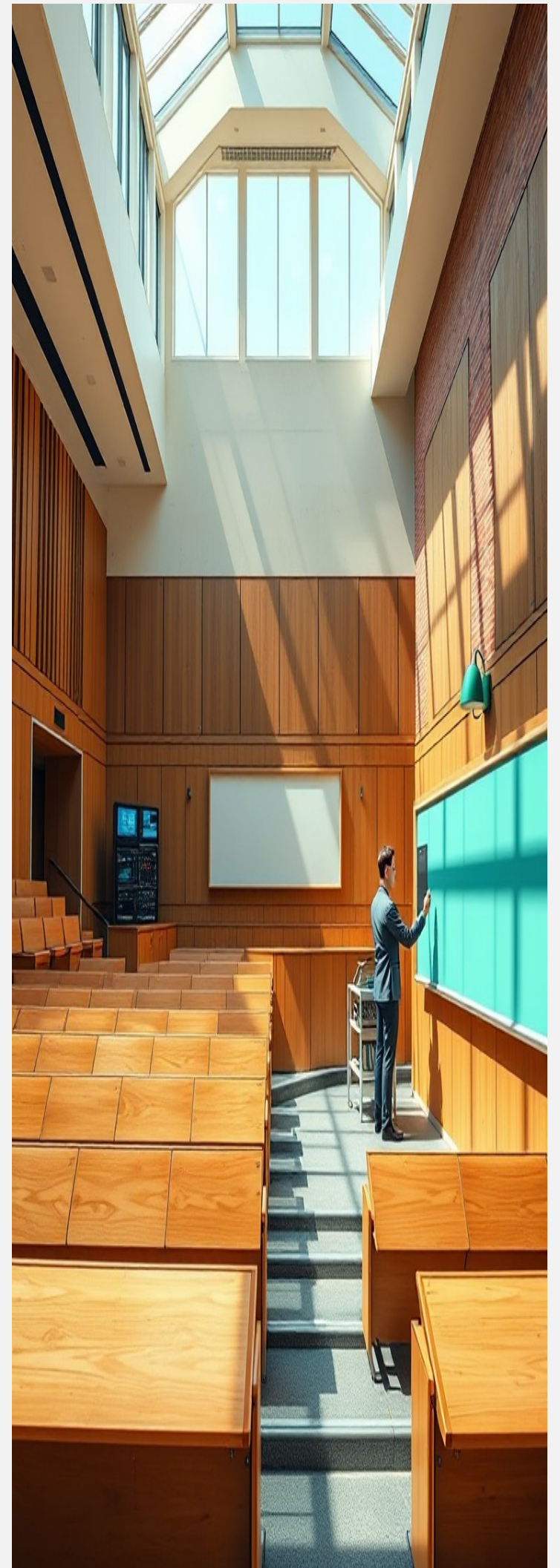
73.0%

Share of Texas Colleges and Universities in the Top Three Texas Metros

This concentration reflects a deep structural imbalance in the distribution of higher education infrastructure across the state. Census Bureau's 2022 County Business Patterns data for NAICS 6113 (Colleges, universities, and professional schools). This level of clustering suggests that innovation, research, and AI-driven educational development are increasingly geographically co-located.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns 2022, NAICS 6113 · Published October 11, 2026

<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-10-11-ai-higher-ed-conc-6113-msa>



01

AI Talent Follows Institutional Density

The data reveals that the same metropolitan areas that dominate higher education also dominate innovation ecosystems—making them de facto AI hubs even without formal designation.



02

Decentralization Could Unlock Innovation

A deliberate strategy to decentralize AI research and faculty development across less dense metros—such as El Paso, Abilene, or Corpus Christi—could yield long-term benefits in resilience, diversity of thought, and equitable access to future-ready curricula.



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george@alex.realestate · +1 713.918.9951



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