

By: Martinez

H.R. No. 60

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Valley Initiative for Development and
2 Advancement (VIDA) is celebrating its 25th anniversary year in
3 2021, and this milestone in its history truly merits special
4 recognition; and

5 WHEREAS, This community-based nonprofit organization was
6 established in 1995 by faith and business leaders in the Lower Rio
7 Grande Valley to empower the region's underserved residents by
8 providing them with the education and training they need to qualify
9 for good, high-paying jobs; the initiative also addresses the need
10 of area employers for a skilled workforce; and

11 WHEREAS, VIDA's career counselors and case managers address
12 financial matters, family issues, and the time management concerns
13 of each student, and they conduct group sessions on such topics as
14 resume preparation, interviewing techniques, and study skills;
15 guest speakers also instruct program participants on a variety of
16 topics, including home buying, investing, and planning for
17 retirement; and

18 WHEREAS, Working with educational institutions such as South
19 Texas College and The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, VIDA
20 places its students in one-year certificate programs and two-year
21 associate degree programs in such subjects as allied health,
22 manufacturing, technology, business, and education and social
23 services; in addition, students may train for careers as police
24 officers, paralegals, web developers, dental hygienists, and

1 vocational nurses, among many other fields; and

2 WHEREAS, A recent Pathways for Advancing Careers and
3 Education (PACE) evaluation shows that 98 percent of VIDA
4 participants took part in some education and training, while 55
5 percent obtained a credential or a degree; compared to a control
6 group without access to the program, VIDA participants enrolled in
7 college at a greater rate, earned more college credits, and earned
8 more degrees and certifications; and

9 WHEREAS, Since its inception, VIDA has demonstrated
10 remarkable success at training skilled workers for high-demand
11 jobs, and in so doing, it has helped to develop the next generation
12 of engaged and productive citizens; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
14 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby commemorate the 25th
15 anniversary year of the Valley Initiative for Development and
16 Advancement and extend to all those associated with the program
17 sincere best wishes for continued success in their important work;
18 and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for VIDA as an expression of high regard by the Texas House
21 of Representatives.