

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, 2nd 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.

Martinez

H.R. No. 56

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 56 was adopted by the House on August 30, 2021, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House