

By: Price

H.R. No. 1682

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Trudy Hanson retired from West Texas A&M
2 University on January 15, 2021, drawing to a close 31 years of
3 distinguished service to the university and more than 13 years as
4 head of its Department of Communication; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Hanson, whose parents were teachers, carried on
6 the family tradition by pursuing a career in education; after
7 moving to the area with her husband, Mike, in 1978, she was hired at
8 WTAMU in the fall of 1989; she initially taught basic public
9 speaking and business and professional communication courses, and
10 she went on to teach more than a dozen subjects; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2007, Dr. Hanson was appointed to lead the newly
12 created Department of Communication; as head of the department, she
13 handled an array of responsibilities, which include assisting with
14 student orientations, writing assessment reports, managing the
15 budget, conducting faculty performance reviews, and overseeing the
16 department's accreditation process; in addition to these duties,
17 she was tasked with coordinating the annual Storytelling Festival
18 and serving as advisor to both the Panhandle Storytelling Guild and
19 the Lambda Pi Eta National Communication Honor Society, and she has
20 further shared her insights as a member of the Academic Leadership
21 Council; over the course of this journey, she has experienced the
22 joy of seeing countless students learn and grow as aspiring
23 communication professionals; and

24 WHEREAS, Dr. Hanson has been affiliated with a number of

1 academic associations, including the Southern States Communication
2 Association and the Texas Speech Communication Association, both of
3 which she has led; she was recognized by the SSCA with its T. Earle
4 Johnson-Edwin Paget Distinguished Service Award in 2012; moreover,
5 she received the Colson-Herndon Educator Award by the Tejas
6 Storytelling Association in 2011, and a scholarship fund is being
7 established in her name at WTAMU; she has published several
8 textbooks on public speaking, and she served as editor of the *Texas*
9 *Speech Communication Journal* from 2004 to 2007; and

10 WHEREAS, Through her leadership, expertise, and vision,
11 Dr. Trudy Hanson has greatly benefited the students and faculty of
12 WTAMU and built a solid foundation for the future of the Department
13 of Communication, and her contributions will be remembered with
14 tremendous gratitude for many years to come; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
16 Legislature hereby congratulate Dr. Trudy Hanson on her retirement
17 from West Texas A&M University and extend to her sincere best wishes
18 as she begins the next exciting chapter of her life; and, be it
19 further

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