

By: Hinojosa

H.R. No. 463

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Austin Community College is celebrating its 50th
2 anniversary in 2023; and

3 WHEREAS, In the fall of 1973, ACC opened under the auspices of
4 the Austin Independent School District, welcoming more than 1,700
5 students; the former L. G. Anderson High School building in East
6 Austin served as its main campus, dubbed Ridgeview, and it also
7 offered night courses at Crockett, Reagan, and Austin High Schools;
8 just two years later, nearly 10,000 students registered for fall
9 classes; ACC was able to accommodate them by taking over the former
10 Austin High campus on Rio Grande Street, as that school moved to a
11 new location; and

12 WHEREAS, ACC was fully accredited as a public, two-year
13 community college by the Southern Association of Colleges and
14 Schools in 1978; in the 1980s, it established its own board of
15 trustees, expanded to serve Leander ISD residents, and opened a
16 third campus on East Riverside Drive with vital space for the health
17 sciences program; and

18 WHEREAS, Helping to meet ever greater workforce needs, ACC
19 has grown to become one of the largest colleges or universities in
20 the country; it serves approximately 70,000 students annually at 11
21 campuses across Central Texas; in recent years, it has transformed
22 the former Highland Mall into centers of learning, completely
23 renovated the Rio Grande Campus, and developed the ACC Bioscience
24 Incubator, which supplies research space for biotech companies and

1 real-world training for aspiring professionals; and

2 WHEREAS, ACC has earned wide recognition for innovation and
3 academic excellence; data from the Texas Higher Education
4 Coordinating Board indicates that it has the fastest-growing
5 graduation rate among its peer colleges; nearly 80 percent of the
6 school's alumni stay in the area; in 2022, voters in its district
7 approved a \$770 million general obligation bond to increase
8 training capacity for high-demand fields, build and upgrade
9 campuses, and expand student support services; and

10 WHEREAS, For half a century, Austin Community College has
11 provided students with an outstanding education and a solid
12 foundation for advancement, and it has been an important engine for
13 economic prosperity in the region; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
15 Legislature hereby congratulate Austin Community College on its
16 50th anniversary and extend to all those associated with the
17 institution sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it
18 further

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