

By: Kacal

H.R. No. 1303

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Four students, Matthew Carrizal, Miguel Gonzalez,  
2 Courtney Osborn, and Lexi Villarreal, are graduating with  
3 certificates in interdisciplinary studies from Texas A&M  
4 University on May 11, 2023, as members of the inaugural class of the  
5 Aggie ACHIEVE program; and

6           WHEREAS, Aggie ACHIEVE, which stands for Academic Courses in  
7 Higher Inclusive Education and Vocational Experiences, is a  
8 comprehensive transition program for young adults with  
9 intellectual and developmental disabilities who have exited high  
10 school; the program provides participants with an inclusive and  
11 immersive college education with the goal of successfully preparing  
12 them for employment in the community; and

13           WHEREAS, With the program's launch in the fall of 2019, Texas  
14 A&M became the first university in the state to introduce a  
15 certificate-based higher education initiative of this kind for  
16 young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities;  
17 Aggie ACHIEVE is designed to enroll students for up to four years,  
18 and each student is matched with coursework, internship  
19 opportunities, and extracurricular activities that align with  
20 their academic interests and employment goals; students in the  
21 program take classes, live independently, complete internships on  
22 campus, and work part-time jobs both on campus and in the College  
23 Station community, in addition to participating in social,  
24 athletic, and recreational activities alongside their fellow

1 Aggies; and

2           WHEREAS, Created by Dr. Carly Gilson at the TAMU School of  
3 Education and Human Development, the Aggie ACHIEVE program was  
4 established based on research showing that students with  
5 intellectual and developmental disabilities who attend  
6 postsecondary inclusive programs have a higher rate of employment  
7 and earn higher wages than those who do not have such opportunities;  
8 the students enrolled in Aggie ACHIEVE also benefit from the  
9 support and mentorship of their peers in ACHIEVEMates, an  
10 organization formed by Texas A&M undergraduate students to help  
11 ACHIEVE participants reach their goals; and

12           WHEREAS, The four members of the inaugural cohort of Aggie  
13 ACHIEVE have demonstrated hard work, dedication, and perseverance  
14 on their way to completing the program, and they are indeed  
15 deserving of special recognition for this accomplishment as they  
16 embark on the next exciting chapter of their lives; now, therefore,  
17 be it

18           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
19 Legislature hereby honor the inaugural graduating class of the  
20 Aggie ACHIEVE program and extend to each student sincere best  
21 wishes for the future; and, be it further

22           RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution be prepared  
23 for the students as an expression of high regard by the Texas House  
24 of Representatives.