

By: Price

H.R. No. 2229

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Amarillo College is the co-recipient of the 2023  
2 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence from the Aspen  
3 Institute; and

4           WHEREAS, Awarded every two years, this prestigious accolade  
5 recognizes institutions that have distinguished themselves in the  
6 critical areas of teaching and learning, certificate and degree  
7 completion, transfer and bachelor's degree attainment, workforce  
8 success, and access for all students; and

9           WHEREAS, Honored with the Aspen Institute's Rising Star Award  
10 in 2021, Amarillo College was selected as one of only two winners of  
11 the 2023 Aspen Prize from a pool of more than 1,000 community  
12 colleges nationwide; among its exemplary efforts, Amarillo College  
13 developed the Culture of Caring initiative under the leadership of  
14 president Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart; providing a wide range of  
15 support to students, the program identifies and removes  
16 poverty-related barriers and has played a major role in the  
17 improvement of graduation, three-year completion, and transfer  
18 rates; additionally, the college has established Business  
19 Leadership Councils that help provide a pipeline for the regional  
20 workforce, and it oversees a virtual health care plan that is  
21 provided free of charge to students and their dependents; and

22           WHEREAS, Amarillo College has also been honored with the Star  
23 Award from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; in  
24 addition, it received its first perfect score during reaffirmation

1 of its accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and  
2 Schools Commission on Colleges; and

3 WHEREAS, Through education innovation, a committed faculty  
4 and staff, and a determination to open the doors of opportunity for  
5 all students, Amarillo College has become the heart of its  
6 rural-serving community; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
8 Legislature hereby congratulate Amarillo College on receiving a  
9 2023 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence from the Aspen  
10 Institute and extend to all those associated with the college  
11 sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
13 prepared for Amarillo College as an expression of high regard by the  
14 Texas House of Representatives.