

By: Bettencourt

S.R. No. 570

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Four students, Matthew Carrizal, Miguel Gonzalez,
2 Courtney Osborn, and Lexi Villarreal, graduated with certificates
3 in interdisciplinary studies from Texas A&M University on May 11,
4 2023, as members of the inaugural class of the Aggie ACHIEVE
5 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 demonstrated hard work, dedication, and perseverance on
14 their way to completing the program, and they are indeed deserving
15 of special recognition for this accomplishment as they embark on
16 the next exciting chapter of their lives; now, therefore, be it

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

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