

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 417

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Manuel Benavidez, Jr., of Rio Grande City received
2 the 2006 Western Region Trustee Leadership Award from the
3 Association of Community College Trustees, presented at the ACCT
4 Annual Community College Leadership Congress in Orlando, Florida,
5 on October 12, 2006; and

6 WHEREAS, A founding member of the Board of Trustees of South
7 Texas College in McAllen, Mr. Benavidez was appointed by Governor
8 Ann Richards at the time of STC's founding in 1993 to represent
9 Starr County in the creation of a new community college for South
10 Texas; he won a six-year term as trustee in 2000 and was reelected
11 in 2006; and

12 WHEREAS, As a member of STC's Board of Trustees, he has served
13 as chair, vice chair, and secretary of the board; he has also
14 chaired the Facilities Committee and served on the Education and
15 Workforce Committee; and

16 WHEREAS, A staunch advocate for the growth of STC, Mr.
17 Benavidez was instrumental in helping the college pass a \$98.7
18 million bond for the expansion of its five campuses; he worked to
19 include STC as one of three Texas community colleges offering a
20 bachelor of applied technology degree; at the Summit on College
21 Readiness in February 2006, he opened the summit by addressing 150
22 educators, business leaders, and government officials on the need
23 to prepare students for higher education; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Benavidez has been active in promoting community

1 colleges generally; his testimony before the Texas Legislature to
2 advocate allowing eligible high school students to attend
3 college-level technical classes while still in high school helped
4 ensure enactment of such legislation; he served on the ACCT's Board
5 of Directors from 2003 to 2005, chairing the ACCT Diversity
6 Committee during that same period; he has also been the Western
7 Region representative for the Association of Latino Community
8 College Trustees; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Benavidez was recognized at the ACCT Annual
10 Congress in 2005 with the Lifetime Membership Award for his
11 leadership on the issues of diversity and equal opportunity; he has
12 been an indispensable participant in the improvement of educational
13 opportunities in Starr County and in the growth and success of South
14 Texas College, and he is most deserving of special recognition;
15 now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
17 Legislature hereby congratulate Manuel Benavidez, Jr., on his
18 receipt of the 2006 Western Region Trustee Leadership Award from
19 the Association of Community College Trustees and extend to him
20 best wishes for his continued success; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for Mr. Benavidez as a token of high regard by the Texas
23 House of Representatives.