

By: Herrero

H.R. No. 509

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Community colleges play a vital role in the Lone
2 Star State, and on this day, representatives of the Texas
3 Association of Community Colleges, Texas Community College
4 Teachers Association, and Texas Junior College Student Government
5 Association, as well as students from Texas community college
6 honors programs and Phi Theta Kappa members, are visiting the State
7 Capitol to show their support of these essential institutions; and

8 WHEREAS, Higher education affords significant benefits to
9 both individuals and to society at large; those who complete
10 postsecondary degrees generally enjoy more employment
11 opportunities, higher salaries, and greater job satisfaction than
12 those who do not, while states with a well-educated citizenry see
13 such positive gains as increased tax revenue, improved health, and
14 reduced poverty, crime, and unemployment; and

15 WHEREAS, Students attending Texas community, junior, and
16 technical colleges receive instruction from highly dedicated and
17 knowledgeable faculties; teachers of academic transfer courses are
18 required to possess the same minimum credentials as university
19 faculty in order for their colleges to be certified by the Southern
20 Association of Colleges and Schools, while instructors in workforce
21 disciplines must also meet the rigorous standards of accrediting
22 agencies; and

23 WHEREAS, Texas community colleges constitute a critical
24 component of the state's system of higher education; currently,

1 these schools are educating 74 percent of all freshmen and
2 sophomores and 76 percent of all minority freshmen and sophomores
3 attending Texas public postsecondary institutions; moreover, most
4 of the growth in the state's higher education enrollment is taking
5 place in the community colleges, whose enrollment in the fall of
6 2005 accounted for 67 percent of that increase; and

7 WHEREAS, The ethnic composition of the community college
8 student bodies almost exactly mirrors the ethnic profile of the
9 state, signifying the importance of these schools to communities
10 that have traditionally had less access to higher education; and

11 WHEREAS, Increasingly, states need well-educated workforces
12 to attract and retain high-paying businesses and industries; for
13 Texas to prosper in the years ahead, it will be necessary for still
14 greater percentages of all ethnic groups, and especially of
15 traditionally disadvantaged populations, to acquire higher
16 education than are presently enrolled in postsecondary
17 institutions; and

18 WHEREAS, If Texas and its citizens are to meet the challenges
19 of the new global economy, it is crucial that quality higher
20 education be accessible to all who need and want it, and a strong
21 system of community colleges will be instrumental to achieving that
22 goal; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
24 Legislature hereby recognize February 22, 2007, as Texas Community
25 Colleges Day in tribute to the immeasurable contribution those
26 schools are making to the well-being of this state and its citizens.