

By: Gonzales

H.R. No. 593

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Shirley A. Reed of Mission is being honored as
2 the 2007 Border Texan of the Year by the BorderFest Association at
3 its annual cultural festival; and

4 WHEREAS, The founding president of South Texas College, Dr.
5 Reed was chosen for this significant honor because of her
6 commitment to providing access to higher education to residents of
7 the Rio Grande Valley; the school she leads was created in 1993 to
8 serve the people of Starr and Hidalgo Counties; and

9 WHEREAS, During her tenure with STC, Dr. Reed has been
10 instrumental in increasing the student population from 1,050 when
11 the school opened to more than 18,000 per semester today; with STC
12 currently enjoying one of the fastest growth rates of all two-year
13 colleges in the country, its enrollment is expected to exceed
14 23,000 in five years' time; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Reed has also led two successful bond campaigns,
16 which together have secured \$118.7 million for campus construction;
17 the school presently encompasses five campuses and centers, offers
18 some 90 degree and certification programs, employs approximately
19 1,500 area Texans as faculty and staff, and has an annual operating
20 budget of \$87 million; and

21 WHEREAS, Under Dr. Reed's leadership, STC has received
22 commendation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
23 for its management of enrollment growth, responsiveness to the
24 needs of the community, and use of technology; it has recently

1 received the authority to offer the bachelor of applied technology
2 degree to its students; and

3 WHEREAS, South Texas College is ranked nationally as the top
4 two-year college for Hispanic students by the Hispanic Association
5 of Colleges and Universities; the school is also recognized as one
6 of the leading institutions in the country in terms of the number of
7 associate degrees it confers; in 2005, *Community College Week*
8 ranked STC 3rd in awarding associate degrees to Hispanics, 5th in
9 awarding associate degrees in education, and 12th in awarding
10 associate degrees to minorities; and

11 WHEREAS, In addition to its academic programs, STC has
12 established the Partnership for Workforce Training and Continuing
13 Education in order to provide educational programs and
14 opportunities to more than 35,000 residents in the surrounding
15 community who are seeking to upgrade their skills, change careers,
16 or take noncredit classes for personal enrichment; and

17 WHEREAS, Through her annual \$1,000 Presidential
18 Inspirational Achievement Award, Dr. Reed recognizes students who
19 exhibit courage, fortitude, and determination in the face of
20 seemingly insurmountable odds, while serving as a role model for
21 the campus community; and

22 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan began her own undergraduate
23 education as a student at St. Petersburg Junior College, where she
24 earned an associate's degree in liberal arts; subsequently she
25 received a bachelor's degree in English education from the
26 University of South Florida, a master's degree in library science
27 from the University of Hawaii, an MBA in international business

1 administration from Western International University, and a
2 doctoral degree in higher education administration from Illinois
3 State University; and

4 WHEREAS, Her professional affiliations reflect her
5 dedication to community and minority education; they include the
6 American Association of Community Colleges Commission on Academic,
7 Student, and Community Development, the Texas Association of
8 Community Colleges, and the Hispanic Association for Colleges and
9 Universities; Dr. Reed also serves on the advisory committees of
10 the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas
11 Association of Community Colleges; and

12 WHEREAS, Possessed of a far-reaching vision for South Texas
13 College and an unwavering commitment to opening the doors to higher
14 education for the people of the Rio Grande Valley, Dr. Shirley Reed
15 has built a nationally recognized institution from the ground up
16 and helped countless area residents to achieve their dreams of a
17 better life; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
19 Legislature hereby congratulate Dr. Shirley A. Reed for being named
20 the 2007 Border Texan of the Year by the BorderFest Association and
21 extend to her sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it
22 further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for Dr. Reed as an expression of high regard by the Texas
25 House of Representatives.