

By: Olivo

H.R. No. 2257

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, CSTEM Teacher and Student Support Services is  
2 contributing to the future success of Texas by engaging students in  
3 the concepts of communication, science, technology, engineering,  
4 and mathematics, or CSTEM; and

5           WHEREAS, The organization seeks to close achievement gaps in  
6 those areas by developing, implementing, facilitating, and  
7 sustaining hands-on, project-based learning experiences that are  
8 customized to fit the individual needs of campuses; the idea for  
9 CSTEM came out of the doctoral research of Dr. Reagan D. Flowers, a  
10 former biology teacher at Jack Yates High School in Houston, and she  
11 founded the group in 2002; she serves as chief executive officer of  
12 CSTEM and remains a driving force behind the program's efforts  
13 statewide; and

14           WHEREAS, CSTEM accomplishes its goals through several  
15 initiatives, including the annual CSTEM Sea Turtle Robotics  
16 Challenge; the only event of its kind in the nation that combines  
17 pre-K through 12th-grade students using a feeder pattern, it allows  
18 students to collaboratively solve problems in science, technology,  
19 engineering, and mathematics while learning about the needs of sea  
20 turtles and designing robots for competition; other CSTEM programs  
21 that can be applied to any campus include the Girls Exploration  
22 Team, FIRST/VEX/LOGO Robotics, and Summer STEM Enrichment Camps;  
23 and

24           WHEREAS, In addition, CSTEM offers extensive teacher support

1 services, ranging from curriculum development to professional  
2 development workshops, and it brings together such community  
3 stakeholders as colleges and corporations; moreover, CSTEM has  
4 partnered with the RainbowPUSH Coalition Energy & Science Project  
5 to award two \$2,500 college scholarships to students participating  
6 in the Sea Turtle Robotics Challenge; and

7         WHEREAS, Currently supporting more than 70 schools, CSTEM has  
8 developed a track record for connecting with minority, low-income,  
9 at-risk, and gifted and talented students; in fact, more than 80  
10 percent of program participants are minority and some 45 percent  
11 are female; and

12         WHEREAS, Countless young Texans have benefited from the  
13 innovative efforts of CSTEM and its founder, Dr. Reagan Flowers,  
14 and these students' newly acquired knowledge, skills, and  
15 self-confidence will improve their lives as well as the world  
16 around them; now, therefore, be it

17         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
18 Legislature hereby recognize September 2009 as Texas CSTEM  
19 Awareness Month and extend to Dr. Reagan Flowers and all those  
20 associated with CSTEM Teacher and Student Support Services sincere  
21 best wishes for continued success.