By: Uresti, Van de Putte Carona S.C.R. No. 76

1 CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of Texas takes pleasure

3 in recognizing Saint Mary's University on the inaugural year of its

newly created legislative internship program and in commending the

5 exemplary students who are this year's participants; and

6 WHEREAS, The Frank Madla, Jr., and Irma Rangel Legislative

Internship Program provides an opportunity for graduate and

8 undergraduate students who are interested in the legislative

9 process or who wish to pursue a career in state policy to experience

10 work in a legislative environment through hands-on participation;

11 and

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12 WHEREAS, The internship program is named for two of the

13 university's alumni who worked their way to greatness from modest

14 beginnings; both the late Honorable Frank Madla, Jr., and the late

15 Honorable Irma Rangel had a significant impact on San Antonio and

16 South Texas through their outstanding service in the Texas

17 Legislature; and

18 WHEREAS, Senator Madla served for 20 years as a member of the

19 Texas House of Representatives, where he was an outspoken advocate

20 for health care and education, and during his 13-year tenure in the

21 Senate, he was honored repeatedly for his service to the state; his

22 accolades include Texas Medicine's Best Legislator Award; and

23 WHEREAS, Representative Rangel was the first Mexican

- 1 American woman elected to the Texas Legislature, where she went on
- 2 to serve for 26 years; she is noted for her exceptional work as a
- 3 proponent of higher education and of equal rights for minorities
- 4 and the poor; she was the recipient of multiple honors for her
- 5 pioneering service, including induction into the Texas Women's Hall
- 6 of Fame in 1994; and
- 7 WHEREAS, The internship program is designed to inspire
- 8 students to follow in the footsteps of such legends; it gives
- 9 participants insight into the legislative process and challenges
- 10 them to make a difference in their communities; the admission
- 11 standards are high, and the students selected must commit to
- 12 working in Austin for at least 40 hours per week while completing
- 13 six credit hours of course work; and
- 14 WHEREAS, Participants are placed in legislative offices as
- 15 staff members with responsibilities and duties ranging from
- 16 assistant committee clerk to legislative policy analyst; they must
- 17 develop a keen understanding not only of legislative policy, but of
- 18 the inherent intricacies of the Texas Legislature as an entity; and
- 19 WHEREAS, The undergraduate students chosen as this year's
- 20 interns are Andrea Chavez, in the office of Representative David
- 21 Leibowitz; Carolina Hernandez and Sarah Linares, in the office of
- 22 Representative Joaquin Castro; Mark Reyna, in the office of Senator
- 23 Carlos Uresti; and Matthew Reyna, in the office of Senator John
- 24 Carona; the graduate students are Ayed Ahbabi, in the office of
- 25 Representative Roland Gutierrez; Saad Aldosari, in the office of
- 26 Representative Tara Rios Ybarra; and Sherita Simmons, in the office
- 27 of Senator Leticia Van de Putte; and

- 1 WHEREAS, These interns have received weekly on-site
- 2 classroom instruction and have become familiar with the inner
- 3 workings of the Texas House of Representatives and Senate while
- 4 learning how to research and draft legislation, analyze policy, and
- 5 interact with constituents and the press; and
- 6 WHEREAS, The program benefits from the assistance and
- 7 direction of Professor Arturo Vega, who serves as its on-campus
- 8 coordinator, and David C. Courreges, who serves as the on-site
- 9 adjunct professor; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Saint Mary's University is well known for its
- 11 long-standing tradition of instilling in its students the spirit of
- 12 public service, and its legislative internship program will be a
- 13 valuable asset in preparing its graduates to take on leadership
- 14 roles in their communities and in the governmental arena; now,
- 15 therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
- 17 hereby commend Saint Mary's University on implementing the Frank
- 18 Madla, Jr., and Irma Rangel Legislative Internship Program and
- 19 extend congratulations to this year's interns, who have
- 20 distinguished themselves in their challenging roles; and, be it
- 21 further
- 22 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared in honor
- 23 of this exemplary program.