

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 252

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the nursing programs at Panola College for their invaluable contributions to the health and well-being of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Panola College, located in Carthage, Texas, established its licensed vocational nursing program in 1972, and the associate degree nursing program has been in operation since 1994; the institution is just the second in Texas to have a complete online registered nurse program; and

WHEREAS, Accredited by the National League for Nursing Accreditation, Panola College's programs have trained over 2,000 professionals for the nursing field; Panola College's nursing faculty all hold masters degrees and have an average of 20 years of nursing experience; over the past six years, more than 90 percent of graduates of the associate degree nursing program have passed licensing exams on the first attempt; and

WHEREAS, As part of community outreach training for students, Panola College nursing students have participated in eight trips to Belize, bringing basic health services to that country's most remote villages; in Panola County, they have served approximately 600 participants each year at two annual health fairs, with two-thirds of attendees receiving some sort of health screening and another 20 percent being referred to a primary care provider; and

WHEREAS, Panola College's nursing programs have received several grants to assist with innovation and the retention of students, resulting in an increased graduation rate of 51 percent; to increase opportunities for experiential learning, the programs have recently started a simulation lab in conjunction with the East Texas Medical Center in Carthage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 81st Legislature, hereby commend the Panola College nursing programs for their excellence and innovation in education and extensive service to the community; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 18, 2009.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate