

By: Pena

H.R. No. 770

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Vision Academy of Excellence in the Edinburg
2 Consolidated Independent School District has helped 135
3 nontraditional students earn their high school diplomas since it
4 opened in January 2010; and

5 WHEREAS, Created by district superintendent Dr. Rene
6 Gutierrez, the Vision Academy of Excellence was founded to assist
7 students in mastering the competencies they need to graduate and to
8 provide an alternative for those whose schooling was interrupted;
9 as part of a "no excuses" philosophy, administrators utilize
10 district lists of students who have stopped attending class and
11 make home visits to inform those individuals of the Vision Academy
12 and how it can help them to earn needed course credits or to pass
13 state proficiency tests; and

14 WHEREAS, The second graduating class at the academy received
15 diplomas on January 27, 2011; 92 students, twice the number from the
16 previous year, fulfilled the graduation requirements despite the
17 challenges they faced; and

18 WHEREAS, Currently about 142 students are enrolled at the
19 school, ranging in age from 18 to 25, and nearly 40 percent have
20 children of their own; academy director Nelda Garza and her staff
21 collaborate with ECISD team parent staff, Communities in Schools,
22 Workforce Solutions, and the United Way to connect students to
23 child care and other resources; and

24 WHEREAS, The academy achieves positive results by fostering a

1 personalized approach to education and by offering flexible hours
2 and scheduling and small class sizes; school district
3 administrators have applied for grants, including from the
4 organization Jobs for the Future, in hopes of increasing the number
5 of students the academy serves; and

6 WHEREAS, Public education is an endeavor in which all Texans
7 have a stake, and the dedicated work of the faculty and staff of the
8 Vision Academy of Excellence is changing many lives for the better;
9 now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
11 Legislature hereby honor the Vision Academy of Excellence in the
12 Edinburg Consolidated Independent School District for helping
13 nontraditional students to graduate from high school and extend
14 sincere best wishes to all those associated with the campus for
15 continued success; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for the academy as an expression of high regard by the
18 Texas House of Representatives.