

By: Gonzales of Hidalgo

H.R. No. 1678

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Shirley A. Reed, the founding and current
2 president of South Texas College, received the 2011 Alfredo G. de
3 los Santos, Jr., Distinguished Leadership in Higher Education Award
4 from the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education on
5 March 5, 2011; and

6 WHEREAS, Established in 1987, the award recognizes
7 outstanding administrators in higher education, and Dr. Reed
8 demonstrates the exceptional leadership qualities of the award's
9 namesake as she works to mentor her students and faculty and create
10 greater access to higher education; and

11 WHEREAS, Born in northern Canada, Shirley Reed was the
12 daughter of a nickel miner, and as the only young girl within 50
13 miles, she learned early to be strong and to persevere; her family
14 eventually relocated to Florida, and she enrolled in her first
15 institution of higher education at the age of 26, attending St.
16 Petersburg Junior College and working nights as a lab technician in
17 a hospital; and

18 WHEREAS, She went on to earn a bachelor's degree, two master's
19 degrees, and a doctorate; she joined Spoon River College in
20 Illinois to create a library for the school and then moved to
21 Northland Pioneer College in Arizona, managing multiple campuses
22 across two sprawling counties and three Native American
23 reservations; and

24 WHEREAS, The legislature established South Texas College in

1 1993, when McAllen and its environs represented the largest
2 metropolitan area in the State of Texas not served by a community
3 college; Dr. Reed was chosen as the school's first president, and
4 her initial objective was to garner support at the ballot box; she
5 succeeded in securing the passage of a tax district and \$20 million
6 in bond construction projects to make the college a reality; and

7 WHEREAS, During her tenure, Dr. Reed has overseen the
8 school's remarkable growth; it now encompasses five campuses in
9 McAllen, Weslaco, and Rio Grande City, and its enrollment has risen
10 from 1,000 to more than 28,000 students; South Texas College also
11 employs more than 1,600 faculty and staff and offers over 100 degree
12 and certificate programs, including two bachelor's degrees; in
13 addition, the college hosts many cultural and educational events
14 that benefit the community and makes dual enrollment programs
15 available to high school students seeking to accelerate their
16 studies; and

17 WHEREAS, Sixty percent of the students at South Texas College
18 are the first in their families to attend college and 75 percent
19 receive financial aid, and Dr. Reed is committed to economic
20 development and regional prosperity in the area; her colleagues
21 readily cite her boldness, tenacity, affinity for hard work, and
22 student-centered approach when discussing her accomplishments,
23 while she is quick to credit faculty and staff; and

24 WHEREAS, The visionary guidance and tireless dedication that
25 Dr. Shirley Reed has brought to her endeavors as president of South
26 Texas College have contributed immeasurably to the school's growing
27 stature and to the transformative experience it provides to

1 thousands of future leaders of the Lone Star State; now, therefore,
2 be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
4 Legislature hereby congratulate South Texas College president Dr.
5 Shirley A. Reed on her receipt of the 2011 Alfredo G. de los Santos,
6 Jr., Distinguished Leadership in Higher Education Award and extend
7 to her sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

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