

By: Murphy

H.R. No. 1818

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Houston Community College System is marking its
2 40th anniversary in 2011, and this occasion presents an ideal
3 opportunity to recognize this outstanding institution; and

4 WHEREAS, In early 1971, voters in the Houston Independent
5 School District approved a community college district that would
6 share the district's facilities; initial course offerings that fall
7 centered around occupational and technical training, and academic
8 courses were added the following January; within three years, the
9 initial enrollment of approximately 5,700 students had nearly
10 tripled; and

11 WHEREAS, Enrollment increased rapidly through the 1980s, and
12 HCC officially separated from HISD in 1989, gaining taxing
13 authority and its own elected board of trustees; following a
14 restructuring in 1991, the president of HCC became system
15 chancellor with responsibility for five regional colleges and the
16 College Without Walls; an innovative partnership between the City
17 of Stafford and HCC enabled the construction of the Southwest
18 College, and in 1999 the system celebrated the opening of the new
19 Northeast College campus, the West Loop Center, and the John B.
20 Coleman Building for Health Sciences, which later became the
21 Coleman College for Health Sciences, replacing the College Without
22 Walls; and

23 WHEREAS, By 2001, HCC was ranked the second largest community
24 college in the nation by *Community College Week*, and the subsequent

1 passage of a \$150 million bond set the stage for continued growth;
2 HCC received an Achieving the Dream grant from the Bill and Melinda
3 Gates Foundation in 2004 to expand the system's groundbreaking
4 programs designed to improve college completion rates for
5 low-income and minority students; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Mary Spangler became the seventh chancellor of
7 HCC in 2007, and under her skillful leadership, the system has
8 continued to flourish, reaching a record enrollment of 72,000
9 students for spring 2010; today, HCC has six full-service colleges,
10 and its 22 instructional sites serve an area of more than 600 square
11 miles; it offers academic courses for transfer to four-year
12 institutions, as well as terminal degrees and certificates in more
13 than 70 fields of work; in addition, it provides continuing
14 education and corporate training, lifelong learning and enrichment
15 programs, and the largest adult education program in Texas; the
16 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has rated 26 of the
17 system's workforce programs "exemplary"; and

18 WHEREAS, Over the past four decades, Houston Community
19 College has proven a powerful force for educational opportunity and
20 economic development, and it has enriched the lives of countless
21 students; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
23 Legislature hereby commemorate the 40th anniversary of the founding
24 of Houston Community College and extend to all those associated
25 with this notable institution sincere best wishes for continued
26 success; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for Houston Community College as an expression of high
2 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.