

By: Marquez

H.R. No. 1258

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The University of Texas at El Paso is celebrating
2 the centennial of its creation in 2013; and

3 WHEREAS, On April 16, 1913, Texas governor O. B. Colquitt
4 signed S.B. 183, 33rd Legislature, Regular Session, which
5 established the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy; the
6 institution was guided by the regents of The University of Texas,
7 and today, it ranks as the second-oldest academic institution in
8 the UT System; and

9 WHEREAS, The school was renamed the College of Mines and
10 Metallurgy in 1920 and became Texas Western College nearly 30 years
11 later; since 1967, it has been known by its present name; and

12 WHEREAS, During the civil rights era, UTEP played a crucial
13 role in breaking down barriers; it became the first state college to
14 integrate undergraduate classes in 1955, and it later was the first
15 school in the UT System to hire an African American administrator;
16 in 1966, the basketball team fielded the first all-African American
17 starting lineup in NCAA championship history and upset the highly
18 favored University of Kentucky for the national title; its bold
19 stand led other teams to begin recruiting African American
20 athletes, marking a turning point in college athletics; and

21 WHEREAS, The institution has continued its tradition of
22 diversity, and it now ranks third among all U.S. universities in
23 awarding bachelor's degrees to Hispanics and among the top 10 in
24 preparing Hispanic students for success in completing doctoral

1 degrees; and

2 WHEREAS, Long a leader in higher education, UTEP was
3 recognized in 1996 by the National Science Foundation as one of six
4 model institutions for excellence in the nation, and four years
5 later, it was acknowledged by the Carnegie Foundation as a doctoral
6 and research-intensive institution; the Texas Legislature
7 designated it as one of seven emerging Tier One institutions, and in
8 2012, the United States Department of Education rated it as the
9 national research institution with the lowest net cost; moreover,
10 *Washington Monthly* ranked the school 12th among all national
11 research universities and first in fostering social mobility in the
12 lives of its graduates; and

13 WHEREAS, Benefiting from the skilled guidance of president
14 Diana Natalicio, UTEP has a current enrollment of nearly 23,000
15 students and offers degrees in 70 bachelor's programs, 75 master's
16 programs, and 19 doctoral programs; and

17 WHEREAS, For the past century, The University of Texas at El
18 Paso has contributed immeasurably to the economic and cultural
19 vitality of the Paso del Norte region, and it has proven a powerful
20 force for social progress in the Lone Star State and beyond; now,
21 therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
23 Legislature hereby commemorate the centennial of the creation of
24 The University of Texas at El Paso and extend to all those
25 associated with the 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 the university as an expression of high regard by the
2 Texas House of Representatives.