

By: Sanford

H.R. No. 246

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Cary Israel is retiring as president of Collin
2 College in January 2015, concluding a notable tenure that has
3 spanned nearly 16 years; and

4 WHEREAS, Appointed in 1999, Dr. Israel has skillfully guided
5 the institution through a period of tremendous growth; enrollment
6 at the campuses in Plano, McKinney, and Frisco has risen from 30,000
7 to more than 52,000 credit and continuing education students,
8 facilities have been expanded by more than 1 million square feet,
9 and the college today offers more than 100 degrees and
10 certificates; it has gained wide recognition as a national Center
11 of Excellence in Nursing Education, and it is the recipient of more
12 than \$30 million in grants and the only college or university in the
13 state to count six Carnegie Professors of the Year among its faculty
14 members; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Israel has implemented a number of innovative
16 programs at Collin College, including the Weekend College, the
17 Collin Higher Education Center, and the Center for Scholarly and
18 Civic Engagement; through the PISD Health Sciences Academy
19 partnership with the Plano Independent School District, the
20 institution offers students the opportunity to get a head start on
21 careers in health care; and

22 WHEREAS, Also an outstanding steward of financial resources,
23 Dr. Israel oversaw decisions that resulted in Collin College
24 offering one of the lowest tuitions in the state even as it

1 continued to maintain or lower its tax rate every year; and

2 WHEREAS, This esteemed leader has also made a positive impact
3 through his service on the executive and legislative committees of
4 the Texas Association of Community Colleges and as president of
5 Texas Campus Compact, a coalition of college and university
6 presidents who promote civic purposes of higher education;
7 moreover, he has been a member of the national executive advisory
8 council for SunGard Higher Education, of the advisory council for
9 the Center for Community College Education of Texas A&M
10 University-Commerce, and of the advisory board for the University
11 of North Texas Bill J. Priest Center for Community College
12 Education; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Israel graduated from Michigan State University
14 and holds a juris doctorate from the University of Detroit Mercy
15 School of Law; he brought to his role at Collin College a wealth of
16 knowledge and experience gained as president of Raritan Valley
17 Community College in New Jersey, as president of the Illinois
18 Community College System, and as president of Front Range Community
19 College in Colorado; and

20 WHEREAS, Deeply committed to the local community, Dr. Israel
21 is a Rotarian and a member of the Plano Chamber of Commerce advisory
22 board and of the boards of The Medical Center of Plano and the Plano
23 Symphony Orchestra; he was named one of 21 Leaders of the 21st
24 Century by *Inside Collin County Business*, and his numerous
25 accolades include two regional CEO of the Year Awards from the
26 Association of Community College Trustees, the Phi Theta Kappa
27 Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction, the Plano Community Forum

1 Award, and the Collin County League of United Latin American
2 Citizens' Service Award; and

3 WHEREAS, Cary Israel has secured Collin College's place among
4 the state's most vibrant educational centers, and his exceptional
5 accomplishments will continue to enrich the lives of Texans for
6 years to come; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
8 Legislature hereby honor Dr. Cary Israel on the occasion of his
9 retirement as president of Collin College and extend to him sincere
10 best wishes for continued success and happiness; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for Dr. Israel as an expression of high regard by the Texas
13 House of Representatives.