

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, For the past 25 years, the VAST Academy of Houston  
2 Community College has effectively provided postsecondary education  
3 to Texans with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

4           WHEREAS, Launched in 1990 as one of the first programs of its  
5 kind in the nation, the VAST Academy offers differently abled  
6 individuals the chance to receive postsecondary vocational  
7 training and to earn a meaningful credential that will enable them  
8 to find work and achieve independence; students also receive  
9 training in such life skills as computer literacy, work etiquette,  
10 health and fitness, and financial literacy; the program provides  
11 further enrichment through the student organization the Eagles  
12 Club, which hosts a variety of notable events, including employment  
13 workshops, a health and beauty expo, and a blood drive, and which  
14 has consistently been named Student Organization of the Year; and

15           WHEREAS, The academy began with 55 students and one  
16 instructor, and today it serves more than 150 students annually at  
17 three locations in the Houston area; in addition to drawing  
18 students from throughout the HCC district, the program offers a  
19 residential option that has attracted students from across Texas  
20 and around the nation; since its inception, the academy has  
21 provided instruction to more than 3,000 men and women; and

22           WHEREAS, The VAST Academy has partnered with over 60  
23 companies and businesses in the region, and half of the program's  
24 graduates each year find jobs in child care, animal care,

1 housekeeping, customer service, food service, and other types of  
2 employment; and

3       WHEREAS, Over the past quarter-century, the HCC-VAST Academy  
4 has continued to fulfill its critical mission, giving its students  
5 the opportunity to feel the pride of achievement and helping them to  
6 build fulfilling, productive, and independent lives; now,  
7 therefore, be it

8       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
9 Legislature hereby commend the Houston Community College VAST  
10 Academy for providing quality postsecondary education to Texans  
11 with intellectual and developmental disabilities and extend to the  
12 staff and students of the academy sincere best wishes for continued  
13 success in their important work; and, be it further

14       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
15 prepared for the VAST Academy as an expression of high regard by the  
16 Texas House of Representatives.

Naishtat

H.R. No. 3163

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 3163 was adopted by the House on May 29, 2015, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House