

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 24

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize Pioneers Youth Leadership, Incorporated, on the occasion of its Pioneers State Leadership Forum, which is being held January 21 and 22, 2015, in Austin; and

**WHEREAS**, Pioneers Youth Leadership was established in 2012 by Garry Merritt and Travis Helm as a means to develop a new generation of leaders in rural Texas communities with critical thinking skills and a commitment to protecting the environment and building sustainable communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Now in its third year, this outstanding program has grown from 19 students in Real County to include 200 students in 16 school districts across South Texas; these young men and women research, develop, and conduct programs in their communities in the areas of water conservation, rural entrepreneurship, and school improvement; and

**WHEREAS**, Students also take part in leadership camp, career and professional development workshops, and college readiness advising; and

**WHEREAS**, The State Leadership Forum provides students the opportunity to engage in workshops with and make presentations to the Texas Water Development Board, the Texas Department of Agriculture, and the Texas Education Agency and to receive feedback from state leaders; and

**WHEREAS**, This exemplary initiative is playing a vital part in preparing young people to assume leadership roles in their communities, and it is truly deserving of special recognition; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 84th Legislature, hereby commend the organizers of and participants in the Pioneers Youth Leadership program on their commitment to public service and extend to them best wishes for a productive Pioneers State Leadership Forum; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for them as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on January 21, 2015.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate