

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 527

**WHEREAS**, The South Texas College Dual Enrollment Academies program was selected as a 2014 Examples of *Excelencia* finalist by *Excelencia* in Education; and

**WHEREAS**, Headquartered in Washington, D.C., *Excelencia* in Education is a national nonprofit organization that works to accelerate Latino student success in higher education; the organization's Examples of *Excelencia* initiative recognizes programs around the country that effectively increase the enrollment, performance, and graduation rates of Latino college students; and

**WHEREAS**, One of 14 finalists for this prestigious honor, the Dual Enrollment Academies program at South Texas College allows hardworking high school students to earn an associate's degree in two years by taking high school courses in the morning and dual credit classes at the college in the afternoon; and

**WHEREAS**, The program got its start with the establishment of the college's Medical Science Academy in 2005 and the Engineering Academy in 2006; it continued to expand over the next several years as the college added the Computer Science Academy, the Criminal Justice Academy, and the School to Career Academy, which includes specializations in both welding and electronic health records; and

**WHEREAS**, The faculty and staff of the Dual Enrollment Academies further assist students in reaching their career goals through seminars, counseling, mentorships, development workshops, and volunteer opportunities in cooperation with area businesses and industries; in addition, academy students have been offered more than \$11.9 million in scholarships since 2008, and several have received the Bill and Melinda Gates Millennium Scholarship; and

**WHEREAS**, By providing an innovative opportunity to pursue a college education while still in high school, the Dual Enrollment Academies program has helped many young Texans prepare themselves for future success, and its selection as a finalist for the Examples of *Excelencia* Award is indeed well deserved; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 84th Legislature, hereby congratulate the South Texas College Dual Enrollment Academies program on being named a 2014 Examples of *Excelencia* finalist and commend the faculty, staff, and students of the program for their dedicated efforts; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for the program as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Hinojosa

---

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the  
above Resolution was adopted by  
the Senate on April 9, 2015.

---

Secretary of the Senate

---

Member, Texas Senate