86R6162 CJM-D

By:  Guerra H.R. No. 227

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Proud community members are gathering in Austin on February 12, 2019, to celebrate South Texas Independent School District Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Originally known as the Rio Grande Rehabilitation District, the South Texas Independent School District was established in 1964 to create further educational opportunities for area youths with disabilities; in 1983, legislators broadened the district's purpose to allow it to operate vocational magnet schools, and as a result, STISD opened South Texas High School for Health Professions in 1984 and The Science Academy of South Texas five years later; the district established The Teacher Academy of South Texas in 1993, subsequently renaming the school South Texas Business, Education & Technology Academy to reflect an expanded focus; over the following years, the magnet program continued to grow with the addition of South Texas Academy for Medical Professions, South Texas Preparatory Academy, and Rising Scholars Academy of South Texas; and

WHEREAS, Currently encompassing six college-preparatory magnet schools in Edinburg, Mercedes, Olmito, and San Benito, STISD is the only all-magnet district in the state; it serves more than 4,100 junior high and high school students and maintains an open enrollment policy that attracts interested and hardworking pupils from 28 school districts in Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties; in addition, it continues to provide educational and occupational training for students with special needs through its career and technology half-day program; and

WHEREAS, The district attained a high level of success under the leadership of Dr. Marla M. Guerra, who recently retired from her position as superintendent after 17 years; in 2018, the inaugural year of letter ratings, the Texas Education Agency awarded the district an "A" rating, and for the fifth year in a row, STISD received the postsecondary readiness distinction designation, the only one available to districts; furthermore, all campuses in the district received a "met standard" rating, with three of the campuses earning all distinctions for which they were eligible; and

WHEREAS, The district's new superintendent, Dr. Marco Antonio Lara Jr., is committed to working alongside a staff of accomplished teachers, administrators, and support personnel to ensure the success of young people in the tri-county area and to make a positive difference in the life of each student; and

WHEREAS, The faculty and staff of South Texas ISD continue to look for new ways to help students achieve, lead, and contribute to a changing world; to that end, the district has adopted a new strategic plan, which includes the following call to action: "Each student thrives in real world challenges as a visionary in a global society"; and

WHEREAS, For more than half a century, the South Texas Independent School District has dedicated itself to offering students the best educational opportunities possible, and in so doing, it has equipped several generations of Texans with the knowledge and skills necessary to build a brighter future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby recognize February 12, 2019, as South Texas Independent School District Day at the State Capitol and extend to all those in attendance sincere best wishes for an enjoyable visit to Austin.