86R6485 GM-D

By:  Herrero H.R. No. 335

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Dr. Maria Luisa Garza retired as superintendent of Dr. M. L. Garza-Gonzalez Charter School in Corpus Christi on January 30, 2018, drawing to a close an exemplary career in education; and

WHEREAS, A longtime advocate for disadvantaged students, Dr. Garza initially launched the school in 1980 as the educational branch of the Gulf Coast Council of La Raza; the council, which she cofounded with her husband, Ricardo Gonzalez, provides critical services for at-risk youth and their families; under her outstanding leadership, the institution earned state accreditation in 1993 and was awarded charter school status in 1996; she also helped secure funding for the new 60,000-square-foot campus that opened in 2002; the school, which was originally called the Academy of Transitional Studies, was later renamed in Dr. Garza's honor; in 2016, this first-generation charter school was recognized by the State Board of Education for 20 years of operation under the Texas Education Agency; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Garza completed a bachelor's degree and a doctorate in education from Texas A&M University-Kingsville, and she holds two master's degrees from Corpus Christi State University; the recipient of numerous accolades, she was honored in 2013 with a Y Women in Careers Award by the YWCA of Corpus Christi; and

WHEREAS, Through her dedicated efforts to foster a supportive and challenging educational environment, Dr. Maria Garza has made a positive difference in the lives of many young Texans, and she may take well-deserved pride in her exceptional record of achievement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate Dr. Maria Luisa Garza on her retirement as superintendent of Dr. M. L. Garza-Gonzalez Charter School and extend to her sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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