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By:  Pacheco H.R. No. 554

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Texas A&M University-San Antonio is celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2019, and this milestone offers a fitting opportunity to pay tribute to this dynamic institution; and

WHEREAS, State Senator Frank Madla was an instrumental figure in the establishment of A&M-SA; in the late 1990s, he initiated the process of locating an institution of higher education on the South Side of San Antonio, and the first courses were offered in 2000, when 126 students began studies under the auspices of The Texas A&M University System; initially, classes were held at Palo Alto Community College, and land for a permanent campus was acquired in 2007; the official founding of Texas A&M University-San Antonio as a stand-alone university took place in May 2009, with the passage of Senate Bill 629 by the Texas Legislature and the bill's subsequent signing by Governor Rick Perry; and

WHEREAS, The first decade in the A&M-SA saga has been filled with notable accomplishments; Dr. Maria Hernandez Ferrier was named inaugural president in 2010 and helped guide the college's early development, including the opening of the Main Campus building in 2011; Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson took the reins in 2014 and has overseen further additions to the university's facilities, including the completion of the campus's first dormitory, Esperanza Hall, in 2017 and the three-story Science and Technology Building in 2018; and

WHEREAS, One of the defining characteristics of the past 10 years has been the university's robust growth; enrollment has increased by more than 300 percent during that period, reaching a present total of 6,500, and over 8,000 students have earned an A&M-SA degree to date; from the outset, the institution has placed a special focus on serving underrepresented communities in the local area, and it has pioneered programs to help students overcome financial and academic barriers to completing their studies; today, nearly three-quarters of A&M-SA students are Hispanic, 60 percent are female, and 77 percent are the first members of their families to attend college; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, Texas A&M University-San Antonio has excelled in its educational mission, helping the members of its diverse student body to prepare for the challenges and opportunities of the future, and all those associated with the institution may take justifiable pride in its outstanding record of achievement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby commemorate the 10th anniversary of the founding of Texas A&M University-San Antonio and extend to the school's students, faculty, and administrators sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

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