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By:  Frullo H.R. No. 585

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Distinguished representatives of the Texas Tech University System are gathering at the State Capitol on March 5, 2019, to celebrate the system's vital role in the Lone Star State; and

WHEREAS, The system, governed by a nine-member board of regents and chancellor Dr. Tedd L. Mitchell, consists of Texas Tech University, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Angelo State University, and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso; the system is a $2 billion enterprise that currently educates nearly 55,000 students, conducts research that results in more than $228 million in expenditures annually, and counts over 340,000 alumni; the system also has a $1.36 billion endowment and some 20,000 faculty and staff focused on advancing higher education, health care, research, and outreach across the state while the system pursues impactful initiatives that stand to serve and solve challenges facing West Texas and the state; and

WHEREAS, Each component of the system provides innovative educational and research opportunities; Texas Tech University, the flagship institution, is a major comprehensive research university, led by President Lawrence Schovanec; with more than 38,000 students in 10 colleges and 2 schools, Texas Tech has set a new fall enrollment record for the past 10 years, increasing enrollment 34 percent over a decade; in 2018, the university earned designation as a Hispanic Serving Institution, furthering its vision of educating a diverse, robust population of students; with the goal of being one of the nation's premier research institutions, the university's total research expenditures have increased 237 percent within a decade; additionally, the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education recently reaffirmed Texas Tech in its "Very High Research Activity" category, affirming the university as one of 86 public Tier One research institutions in the nation; in its continual pursuit to fulfill the university's mission of innovative problem solving, Texas Tech is establishing the state's first veterinary school in over 100 years to provide veterinarians to the non-metropolitan and agricultural communities in critical need and to expand educational opportunities for Texas; and

WHEREAS, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center is celebrating its 50th year, having grown from a school of medicine into a comprehensive health-related institution composed of five schools in diverse health care disciplines, including medicine, nursing, pharmacy, health professions, and biomedical sciences, that has trained more than 28,000 health care professionals; overseen by Dr. Tedd L. Mitchell, TTUHSC enrolls more than 5,000 students and has dedicated over $218 million in research expenditures in the past five years, with significant studies in areas such as aging, cancer, reproduction, parasites, and genetic diseases; the university also graduates more health care professionals than any other health-related institution in Texas and meets the health care needs of nearly three million people who live throughout a vast 108-county area; and

WHEREAS, Having joined the system in 2007, Angelo State University enrolls more than 10,000 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students in more than 100 majors and concentrations and is directed by President Brian J. May; designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution, ASU was the first university in the state to offer a degree in computer science, recently introduced its rapidly expanding engineering programs, and has been named to the *Princeton Review*'s "Best Colleges" list every year since 2010; unique to ASU, its Carr Academic Scholarship program is funded by one of the largest endowments at a regional university in the U.S., thus making scholarships possible for approximately one out of every three of its students; and

WHEREAS, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso became a stand-alone health sciences center in 2013, making it the fourth and newest member of the Texas Tech University System; TTUHSC El Paso is composed of the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine, the Gayle Greve Hunt School of Nursing, and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences; headed by Dr. Richard Lange, the university enrolls more than 1,000 students, is home to the first medical school on the nation's southern border, conducts important research focused on cancer, diabetes and obesity, infectious diseases, and the neurosciences, and will soon add the Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine to elevate access to critical dental care for West Texans; and

WHEREAS, Students from Texas Tech's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Matador Institute of Leadership Engagement are present today as they cultivate professional leadership skills and participate in key issues affecting local, state, and national agriculture and policy; also present today are Angelo State political science students representing the Ram family and getting hands-on experience in their studies; members of student government associations from across the TTU System have traveled to Austin to represent their universities and advocate for the system's priorities and student body; and

WHEREAS, Through its missions, the Texas Tech University System and its four component institutions continue to better the higher education and health care landscapes, and in so doing, they are contributing to the remarkable achievements of the state as a whole; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby recognize March 5, 2019, as Texas Tech University System Day at the State Capitol and extend a warm welcome to all those from the system who are visiting here today.