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By:  Rose H.R. No. 977

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, A delegation from Paul Quinn College in Dallas is visiting Austin on March 26, 2019, in celebration of Paul Quinn College Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, In 1872, preachers from the African Methodist Episcopal Church established Paul Quinn College in Austin to educate the formerly enslaved and their children; a few years later, the school moved to Waco, and in 1990, it relocated again to southern Dallas, where it has become a prototype for urban higher education under the leadership of President Michael Sorrell; and

WHEREAS, Paul Quinn College today is a private, faith-based, liberal arts institution for students of all races and socioeconomic backgrounds; designated in 2017 by the U.S. Department of Education as the nation's ninth Work College, it has developed the "Urban Work College Model" to expand opportunity by combining higher education with access to quality jobs, secure housing, and reduced student loan burden; since the implementation of the program, the school has decreased tuition and fees by almost $10,000, lowered the average debt of graduates by more than $30,000, and significantly improved retention and graduation rates; and

WHEREAS, In 2018, the college launched an initiative that allows students to spend the academic year living and attending classes in Plano, where they will gain experience working for such industry giants as Liberty Mutual, FedEx, and JPMorgan Chase; the school also broke ground on its campus for a 40,000-square-foot multipurpose building with student housing, classrooms, office space, a gymnasium, and a dance studio; and

WHEREAS, Higher education is evolving to meet the challenges of the 21st century, and Paul Quinn College has become a beacon of innovation and promise for its student population and for the wider community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby recognize March 26, 2019, as Paul Quinn College Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere best wishes for a productive and memorable stay in Austin.