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By:  Goldman H.R. No. 1049

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Dr. F. Dominic Dottavio is stepping down as president of Tarleton State University at the end of August 2019, concluding an exemplary tenure in office that has spanned 11 years; and

WHEREAS, Under the skillful guidance of Dr. Dottavio, an engaged and accessible administrator, Tarleton's enrollment has risen by almost 70 percent, from under 8,000 students to more than 13,000; applications have increased by over 131 percent since 2012, reportedly placing the school seventh in the nation for such growth; retention and graduation rates have improved by 60 percent during the last five years, and The Texas A&M University System has recognized Tarleton as a model in this regard; donations to Tarleton have increased by 78 percent, and the endowment is up by 81 percent; and

WHEREAS, Since 2008, Tarleton has added more than 30 academic programs, and it has established a College of Health Sciences and Human Services as well as a School of Nursing, School of Engineering, School of Kinesiology, and School of Criminology, Criminal Justice and Strategic Studies; a new doctoral program in criminal justice is pending approval; Tarleton offers high-demand academic programs in Fort Worth, Waco, Midlothian, and Bryan through partnerships with other colleges and universities, and it will open the first building of its planned Fort Worth campus in August 2019; construction and expansion projects totaling over $400 million include the Memorial Stadium renovation, seven new residence halls, and a state-of-the-art engineering building set to open in 2019; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dottavio previously served as president of Heidelberg University in Ohio and as dean and director of The Ohio State University at Marion; an Ohio State graduate, he holds a master's degree in forestry and environmental sciences from Yale University and a doctoral degree from Purdue University's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources; he will continue to serve Tarleton as a tenured professor in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, and he will assist the Division of Institutional Advancement; and

WHEREAS, Through his visionary leadership and passion for higher education, Dominic Dottavio has transformed Tarleton State University, and in so doing, he has earned the deep respect and admiration of students, his colleagues, and the wider community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby honor Dr. F. Dominic Dottavio for his outstanding service as president of Tarleton State University and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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