H.R. No. 1311

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The University of Texas at Dallas is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2019; and

WHEREAS, In 1961, three visionary founders of Texas Instruments, Eugene McDermott, J. Erik Jonsson, and Cecil Green, established the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest; it was renamed the Southwest Center for Advanced Studies in 1967, and two years later the founders transferred the center to The University of Texas System; that same year, the Texas Legislature established UT Dallas, with an effective date of September 1969; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Francis Johnson served as acting president until Dr. Bryce Jordan took the helm in July 1971, and Dr. Robert Rutford became the second president in May 1982; Dr. Franklyn Jenifer was appointed president in July 1994, and during his 11-year tenure, the school's enrollment increased more than 61 percent and many new buildings were constructed; Dr. David Daniel became the fourth president in June 2005, and under his leadership, UT Dallas doubled research expenditures, launched $300 million in new construction, added 17 new degree programs, and raised $100 million in private funds; Dr. Hobson Wildenthal was appointed president ad interim in May 2015, and current president Dr. Richard Benson was inaugurated in October 2016; and

WHEREAS, Under Dr. Benson's guidance, UT Dallas has achieved top-tier status with its designation by the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education as an R1 doctoral university of very high research activity and its achievement of critical benchmark criteria required to qualify for funding from the National Research University Fund; and

WHEREAS, Through the years, more than 110,000 alumni have earned over 122,000 degrees from UT Dallas, and today, the university offers 140 degree programs and boasts an enrollment of nearly 30,000 students; in 2018, 37 percent of entering freshmen were in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class, and 66 percent ranked in the top 25 percent; that same year, 172 National Merit Scholars chose to attend UT Dallas, more than any other university in Texas; and

WHEREAS, The university's faculty includes a Nobel laureate as well as members of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering; in 2015, Dr. Aziz Sancar became the first graduate of UT Dallas to receive a Nobel Prize, winning the chemistry prize for his work detailing how cells continuously monitor and repair damaged DNA on a molecular level; and

WHEREAS, UT Dallas is an economic driver for the North Texas region; more than 4,500 internships have been awarded to UT Dallas students, and 21 of the 22 Fortune 500 companies in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex have hired UT Dallas graduates; and

WHEREAS, For the past half century, UT Dallas has provided its students with a strong foundation for achievement, and in so doing, it has contributed greatly to the growth and prosperity of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby commemorate the 50th anniversary of The University of Texas at Dallas and extend to all those associated with the university sincere best wishes for continued success in their important work; and, be it further

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

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1311 was adopted by the House on May 3, 2019, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House