

By: Ortega

H.R. No. 119

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Diana Natalicio announced her retirement as  
2 president of The University of Texas at El Paso in May 2018, and as  
3 she prepares to conclude her remarkable three-decade tenure in  
4 office, it is indeed fitting to recognize her enormous  
5 accomplishments; and

6           WHEREAS, Dr. Natalicio joined the UTEP faculty as an  
7 assistant professor of linguistics in 1971; she rose to become  
8 chair of the modern languages department, dean of the College of  
9 Liberal Arts, and vice president for academic affairs before her  
10 appointment as president in 1988; and

11           WHEREAS, Committed to expanding access to higher education,  
12 Dr. Natalicio has skillfully guided the growth of enrollment from  
13 15,000 to more than 25,000; the school's demographics now reflect  
14 those of the predominantly Hispanic Paso del Norte region, and many  
15 students are the first in their families to attend college; over the  
16 past 30 years, UTEP's budget has increased from \$65 million to more  
17 than \$500 million; and

18           WHEREAS, Dr. Natalicio has also focused on improving the  
19 quality and breadth of academics and research; when she took the  
20 helm, UTEP had a single doctoral program; today, it offers 22, and  
21 the institution's reputation for excellence has helped capture  
22 significant research funding, including more than \$94 million  
23 annually from such agencies as the U.S. Department of Energy, the  
24 National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Environmental

1 Protection Agency; the university has designated nearly \$400  
2 million to build and renovate facilities for science, engineering,  
3 and health sciences, as well as infrastructure related to student  
4 quality of life; in 2018, UTEP launched a new binational academic  
5 partnership with a leading research institution in Mexico, the  
6 Universidad Tecnológica de Ciudad Juárez; and

7 WHEREAS, An acclaimed leader in higher education,  
8 Dr. Natalicio was appointed by President Bill Clinton to the  
9 National Science Board and by President George H. W. Bush to the  
10 Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic  
11 Americans; she has served on the boards of numerous organizations,  
12 among them the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, the Rockefeller  
13 Foundation, Trinity Industries, Sandia Corporation, the  
14 U.S.-Mexico Foundation for Science, and the American Council on  
15 Education; in 2017, she was named one of *Fortune* magazine's Top 50  
16 World Leaders, and the previous year, *Time* magazine ranked her  
17 among the 100 most influential people in the world; her other honors  
18 include the Academic Leadership Award from the Carnegie Corporation  
19 of New York and the Orden Mexicana del Aguila Azteca, the highest  
20 recognition Mexico accords foreign nationals; she holds a  
21 bachelor's degree from St. Louis University and both a master's  
22 degree in Portuguese and a doctoral degree in linguistics from The  
23 University of Texas at Austin; and

24 WHEREAS, Diana Natalicio has elevated the national profile of  
25 UTEP while making the university more responsive to the needs of  
26 residents of the Paso del Norte region, striking a balance few  
27 institutions have achieved, and her tremendous contributions to

1 higher education will continue to resonate for decades to come;  
2 now, therefore, be it

3         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas  
4 Legislature hereby commend Diana Natalicio for her exemplary  
5 service as president of The University of Texas at El Paso and  
6 extend to her sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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