

By: Hughes

S.C.R. No. 14

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, James Henry Russell is stepping down as president of
3 Texarkana College in January 2019, following more than seven years
4 of exemplary service to the college; and

5 WHEREAS, When Mr. Russell took over as president in June
6 2011, Texarkana College was facing many challenges; he launched the
7 TC Tomorrow Community Challenge to raise support and funds for the
8 school and enlisted the help of TC alumnus H. Ross Perot, which
9 resulted in a \$5 million contribution; he oversaw the increase of
10 the TC Foundation's assets from \$2.8 million to over \$8.2 million
11 since 2013, and he led the effort to expand the school's tax
12 district and to increase its tax revenue; and

13 WHEREAS, Under Mr. Russell's leadership, the college
14 established a scholarship program to provide free tuition and fees
15 to high-achieving area students, significantly increased the
16 graduation rates of African American students, expanded the
17 dual-credit scholarship program for disadvantaged students, and
18 opened the first new building in decades, the Betty and Buddy
19 Ledwell Workforce Training Center; today, the school rests on a
20 firm financial foundation, and it has been recognized with the Leah
21 Meyer Austin Award by the Achieving the Dream organization; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Russell earned his bachelor's, master's, and
23 doctoral degrees from Texas A&M University-Commerce; he previously
24 served as superintendent of the Texarkana and Melissa school

1 districts, and he has also worked as a high school and a middle
2 school principal; he is a cofounder of the TeacherTube company and
3 served as its CEO from 2014 to 2016; he is leaving the college to
4 become executive vice president and chief financial officer of BWI
5 Companies; and

6 WHEREAS, In addition to his professional accomplishments,
7 Mr. Russell has been active in the community with the Boy Scouts,
8 Band Boosters, and Williams Memorial United Methodist Church, and
9 in 2013, he was presented with the C. E. Palmer Award by the
10 Texarkana Chamber of Commerce; in all his endeavors, he benefits
11 from the love and support of his wife, Rosemary, and his three
12 children, Madeline, Colleen, and Reed; and

13 WHEREAS, James Henry Russell's dedication, professionalism,
14 and commitment to the mission of Texarkana College have greatly
15 benefited the community, and he may indeed reflect with pride on
16 his exemplary leadership as he takes on the challenges and
17 opportunities of his new position; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas
19 hereby commend James Henry Russell on his outstanding tenure as
20 president of Texarkana College and extend to him sincere best
21 wishes for continued success; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for Mr. Russell as an expression of high regard by the
24 Texas House of Representatives and Senate.