

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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 14 was adopted by the Senate on February 19, 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 14 was adopted by the House on March 6, 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor