

By: Hughes

S.C.R. No. 14

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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