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By:  Guerra H.R. No. 188

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Dr. Eluterio Blanco Jr. of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley has been selected as a 2021 Emerging Scholar by the journal *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*; and

WHEREAS, A clinical assistant professor in the School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling, Dr. Blanco launched the school's bachelor's degree program in addiction studies, an online program for future clinicians across the state and beyond; he serves as its coordinator; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Blanco is a licensed chemical dependency counselor with special expertise in substance use and addiction in the Hispanic community; he focuses his research on the attitudes of Latinx health practitioners toward addiction and on measures to reduce stigma and expand access to treatment; after joining UTRGV in 2015, he became coprincipal investigator on a three-year federal grant program through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; the initiative trained students pursuing degrees in health care professions to recognize and address substance abuse in patients; and

WHEREAS, In 2020, Dr. Blanco was named Terry B. Hale Professional of the Year by the Texas Association of Addiction Professionals; he earned his bachelor's degree in psychology at UT Austin as a first-generation student on scholarship and completed both his master's degree in clinical psychology and his doctoral degree in rehabilitation counseling at UTRGV; and

WHEREAS, Eluterio Blanco has distinguished himself as a dynamic young leader in an academic field of vital importance to the Hispanic community, and his accomplishments are a source of great pride to The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate Dr. Eluterio Blanco Jr. on his selection as a 2021 Emerging Scholar by the journal *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

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