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By:  Howard H.R. No. 639

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Dr. Melba J. T. Vasquez has been honored by the American Psychological Association with its 2020 Award for Outstanding Lifetime Contributions to Psychology; and

WHEREAS, A pioneer for women of color in psychology, Dr. Vasquez became the first Latina president of APA in 2011; during her tenure, she targeted issues such as immigration and educational disparities and focused on eliminating discrimination and promoting diversity; she has also benefited the association as a member of the APA Board of Directors and as a multi-term member of the APA Council of Representatives, in addition to holding dozens of roles on APA governance boards, committees, and task forces; her other leadership experience includes serving as president of APA Divisions 17 and 35 and of the Texas Psychological Association; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Vasquez is a cofounder of both APA Division 45: the Society for the Psychological Study of Culture, Ethnicity and Race and the National Multicultural Conference and Summit; through these endeavors, she has worked to elevate and highlight the achievements of other psychologists of color, and she has spent her career mentoring and supporting psychologists from marginalized communities to take on leadership roles in and outside of APA; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, Dr. Vasquez has published extensively on professional ethics, social justice, ethnic minority psychology, women's psychology, and other topics; she is coauthor of such works as *Ethics in Psychotherapy and Counseling* and *How to Survive and Thrive as a Therapist*, and she has written more than 100 journal articles and book chapters; additionally, she has served on the editorial boards of 10 journals and has been invited to be the keynote speaker at many events; she holds a bachelor's degree from Texas State University and a doctorate in counseling psychology from The University of Texas at Austin; and

WHEREAS, The American Psychological Association and the wider field of psychology have gained immeasurably from the leadership, dedication, and vision of Dr. Melba Vasquez, and through her extraordinary efforts to advance equity and opportunity, she has exemplified the highest standards of service to her profession; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate Dr. Melba J. T. Vasquez on her receipt of the 2020 Award for Outstanding Lifetime Contributions to Psychology by the American Psychological Association and extend to her sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

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