

By: Allen

H.R. No. 1744

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Intercultural Development Research Association  
2 (IDRA) launched its Education Policy Fellows Program in November  
3 2020; and

4 WHEREAS, IDRA is dedicated to promoting equal educational  
5 opportunity by strengthening public schools that prepare all  
6 students to reach their dreams; and

7 WHEREAS, students of color make up more than 70 percent of the  
8 Texas public school population, yet even as the state grows more  
9 diverse, advocates of color are often not included in formulating  
10 decisions that impact these children; and

11 WHEREAS, the IDRA Education Policy Fellows Program was  
12 created to prepare advocates of color to join a network of advocates  
13 committed to improving racial equity in education; and

14 WHEREAS, During the 87th Legislative Session, the inaugural  
15 cohort of IDRA Education Policy Fellows worked with coalitions,  
16 students, and families to craft a community-centered education  
17 policy agenda, guided community advocacy sessions, researched and  
18 crafted education policies, created and led advocacy campaigns, and  
19 published issue briefs; and

20 WHEREAS, The four inaugural policy fellows are Dr. Altheria  
21 Caldera, Araceli Garcia, Thomas Marshall III, and Christina Muñoz;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Dr. Caldera is a scholar, writer and equity activist  
24 who began her professional career as a middle school English

1 teacher; and whose fellowship work focused on expanding access to  
2 postsecondary education, particularly for students of color, and  
3 ensuring successful outcomes; and

4 WHEREAS, Ms. Garcia, the daughter and granddaughter of  
5 Mexican immigrants, grew up on the South Side of San Antonio; and  
6 concentrated on expanding educational opportunities for emergent  
7 bilingual students and immigrant students; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Marshall holds a bachelor's degree in English  
9 with a minor in youth development studies from Clemson University;  
10 and focused on student and family advocacy, including policies to  
11 ensure digital equity; and

12 WHEREAS Ms. Muñoz, a Latina, recently received her master's  
13 degree in quantitative methods in the Department of Educational  
14 Psychology at the University of Texas at Austin; and worked to  
15 promote education policies that ensure an equitable response to  
16 COVID-19; and

17 WHEREAS, The outstanding advocates in the fellowship program  
18 have gained valuable experience during the 87th Legislative  
19 Session, and their connection to communities of color helps ensure  
20 that the students most impacted by education policies are central  
21 to decision-making; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
23 Legislature hereby honor the Intercultural Development Research  
24 Association and the inaugural cohort of its Education Policy  
25 Fellows Program and extend to all those associated with the  
26 organization sincere best wishes for continued success in their  
27 important endeavors; and, be it further

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1           RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution be prepared  
2 for the organization and the fellows as an expression of high regard  
3 by the Texas House of Representatives.