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By:  Turner H.R. No. 63

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The University of Texas at Arlington Center for Mexican American Studies is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2023; and

WHEREAS, An interdisciplinary ethnic studies program within the College of Liberal Arts, CMAS was authorized by the 73rd Texas Legislature in 1993; State Representative Roberto Alonzo, the first Mexican American elected to the legislature from North Texas, played a key role in the drive to create the center, which formally opened on October 12, 1994, under founding director José Ángel Gutiérrez; and

WHEREAS, The center promotes research and the recruitment, retention, and professional development of UTA faculty actively engaged in studies on Latino issues; students can pursue an 18-hour academic minor in Mexican American and Latina/o Studies, with classes on literature, history, and politics; CMAS offers scholarships for students as well as funding for faculty members studying related subjects; and

WHEREAS, Engaging the wider UTA community, the center sponsors events in both Spanish and English, such as career workshops and speaker series; among undergraduate students at UTA, 36 percent identify as Latino, and CMAS helps to ensure that their experiences are reflected and their needs for representation are met; and

WHEREAS, The university's mariachi group, Mariachi Los Jinetes, found support through the center when it was established, and CMAS hires the group to perform for occasions throughout the year; serving as a bridge between UTA and the Latino community in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, the center hosts a variety of service outreach activities; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, CMAS has advanced knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of Latino heritage and contributions, equipping Texans to participate more fully in our diverse society and advance more successfully in an increasingly global economy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby congratulate The University of Texas at Arlington Center for Mexican American Studies on its 30th anniversary and extend to all those associated with the center sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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