

By: Price

H.R. No. 99

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart stepped down as president
2 of Amarillo College on September 30, 2023, and the conclusion of his
3 service provides a fitting opportunity to recognize his many
4 significant accomplishments; and

5 WHEREAS, Since his appointment in 2014, Dr. Lowery-Hart has
6 worked tirelessly to develop AC as one of the top community colleges
7 in the nation; over the course of his exemplary tenure, he was
8 essential in the implementation of the college's Culture of Caring
9 initiative, and he oversaw the establishment of childcare access
10 for students with children, virtual learning space during the
11 COVID-19 pandemic, and the THRIVE Scholarship Program partnership,
12 as well as the launch of AC's first comprehensive campaign, Badger
13 Bold, and the reestablishment of Badger Athletics; furthermore, the
14 college saw a 75 percent growth rate of first-generation students
15 completing their degree or certificate, and three-year completion
16 rates more than doubled; and

17 WHEREAS, Under Dr. Lowery-Hart's able leadership, AC
18 received a number of honors, including the Leah Meyer Austin Award
19 from Achieving the Dream and the Bellwether Award; the school was
20 also recognized as a Top 5 College and received a Rising Star award
21 from the Aspen Institute in 2021, and it was named a corecipient of
22 the prestigious Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence in
23 2023; and

24 WHEREAS, Before becoming president, Dr. Lowery-Hart served

1 the college as vice president of academic affairs; he holds a
2 bachelor's degree in speech communication and rhetoric from West
3 Texas State University, a master's degree in communication studies
4 from Texas Tech University, and a doctorate in interpersonal
5 communication from Ohio University; in recognition of his myriad
6 accomplishments, he was named the National Council of Instructional
7 Administrators Academic Leader of the Year in 2014 and the 2021
8 Amarillo Globe-News Man of the Year; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Lowery-Hart undertook his new role as the ninth
10 chancellor of the Austin Community College District on October 1,
11 2023; in all his endeavors, he enjoys the love and support of a fine
12 family that includes his wife of almost 30 years, Tara, and their
13 three children; and

14 WHEREAS, Through his dedication, expertise, and visionary
15 leadership, Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart has played a vital role in
16 advancing the proud legacy of Amarillo College, and his
17 achievements will continue to be appreciated for years to come;
18 now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
20 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby commend Dr. Russell
21 Lowery-Hart for his service as president of Amarillo College and
22 extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for Dr. Lowery-Hart as an expression of high regard by the
25 Texas House of Representatives.