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By:  Guerra H.R. No. 60

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley received the Large Employer Award from the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities at its Lex Frieden Employment Awards ceremony on October 26, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Each October, in conjunction with National Disability Employment Awareness Month, the Governor's Committee recognizes Texans who have devoted themselves to empowering their employees, coworkers, and fellow Texans with disabilities; the awards program is named in tribute to disability rights expert Lex Frieden, one of the chief architects of the Americans with Disabilities Act; and

WHEREAS, Located in Edinburg, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley is dedicated to upholding equal employment opportunity and affirmative action principles; UTRGV was nominated for the Large Employer Award for its work with Texas Workforce - Vocational Rehab to place individuals with disabilities in various human resources departments; in addition, the school has established the Sustainable Opportunities for Advancement and Recruitment project, which prepares young adults with autism for their professional careers; through the SOAR project, the university collaborates with Texas Workforce Solutions VR Services, the Valley Association for Independent Living, and the Disability Chamber of Commerce-Rio Grande Valley to address all aspects of the employment experience; and

WHEREAS, Through its outstanding contributions, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley has advanced the mission of building an inclusive, accessible work environment for Texans with disabilities, and the institution is richly deserving of this prestigious accolade; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby congratulate The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley on receiving the 2023 Large Employer Award from the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities Lex Frieden Employment Awards program and extend to its administrators, faculty, staff, and students sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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