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By:  Hinojosa H.R. No. 463

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Austin Community College is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2023; and

WHEREAS, In the fall of 1973, ACC opened under the auspices of the Austin Independent School District, welcoming more than 1,700 students; the former L. G. Anderson High School building in East Austin served as its main campus, dubbed Ridgeview, and it also offered night courses at Crockett, Reagan, and Austin High Schools; just two years later, nearly 10,000 students registered for fall classes; ACC was able to accommodate them by taking over the former Austin High campus on Rio Grande Street, as that school moved to a new location; and

WHEREAS, ACC was fully accredited as a public, two-year community college by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1978; in the 1980s, it established its own board of trustees, expanded to serve Leander ISD residents, and opened a third campus on East Riverside Drive with vital space for the health sciences program; and

WHEREAS, Helping to meet ever greater workforce needs, ACC has grown to become one of the largest colleges or universities in the country; it serves approximately 70,000 students annually at 11 campuses across Central Texas; in recent years, it has transformed the former Highland Mall into centers of learning, completely renovated the Rio Grande Campus, and developed the ACC Bioscience Incubator, which supplies research space for biotech companies and real-world training for aspiring professionals; and

WHEREAS, ACC has earned wide recognition for innovation and academic excellence; data from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board indicates that it has the fastest-growing graduation rate among its peer colleges; nearly 80 percent of the school's alumni stay in the area; in 2022, voters in its district approved a $770 million general obligation bond to increase training capacity for high-demand fields, build and upgrade campuses, and expand student support services; and

WHEREAS, For half a century, Austin Community College has provided students with an outstanding education and a solid foundation for advancement, and it has been an important engine for economic prosperity in the region; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate Austin Community College on its 50th anniversary and extend to all those associated with the institution sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

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