

RESOLUTION 2013-02

WHEREAS, The University of Texas System Board of Regents has unanimously endorsed the creation of a new institution to serve the Lower Rio Grande Valley through the consolidation of The University of Texas-Pan American, The University of Texas at Brownsville, and a transformed Regional Academic Health Center; and,

WHEREAS, envisioned as an emerging research university with Tier One potential, this noteworthy addition to the UT System would incorporate a long-anticipated independent, comprehensive South Texas medical school; the combined university would be located in Brownsville, Edinburg, Harlingen, and McAllen, greatly expanding educational opportunities, health care access, and economic development throughout the region; and,

WHEREAS, the institution would incorporate many existing facilities, including the UT Brownsville and UT Pan Am campuses, and would build on prior investments by the Texas Legislature and the UT System in medical education in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy Counties; it would realize some \$6 million in savings annually by eliminating duplicative administrative functions, and at the same time bring in millions of dollars in public and private investment; equally important as the widespread economic benefits that would result from the new institution is the capacity for a medical school to address the region's critical need for health care; and,

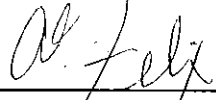
WHEREAS, with a projected enrollment of almost 28,000 students, the new university would rank as one of the two largest Hispanic-serving institutions in the nation; it would be exceptionally well-positioned to capitalize on the area's bicultural heritage, rapid population growth, and strategic border location, strengthening the state's ability to compete in an increasingly global economy; and,

WHEREAS, the establishment of this emerging research university and school of medicine in the Lower Rio Grande Valley will be an engine of prosperity and will benefit all Texans now and in the years to come; in order for the proposed merger and related plans to take final effect and for the institution to gain access to the Permanent University Fund, the Texas Legislature must take action, and measures are being introduced to complete the approval process.

Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED by the Mercedes City Commission that legislation to consolidate the facilities and programs of The University of Texas-Pan American, The University of Texas at Brownsville, and the Regional Academic Health Center into a single institution within and as proposed by The University of Texas System be enacted and that all those involved with the approval of the plan be commended for taking action.

Dated: February 19, 2013

ATTEST:



Arcelia L. Felix,
City Secretary



(signature) Henry Hinojosa, Mayor