

1 American woman elected to the Texas Legislature, where she went on
2 to serve for 26 years; she is noted for her exceptional work as a
3 proponent of higher education and of equal rights for minorities
4 and the poor; she was the recipient of multiple honors for her
5 pioneering service, including induction into the Texas Women's Hall
6 of Fame in 1994; and

7 WHEREAS, The internship program is designed to inspire
8 students to follow in the footsteps of such legends; it gives
9 participants insight into the legislative process and challenges
10 them to make a difference in their communities; the admission
11 standards are high, and the students selected must commit to
12 working in Austin for at least 40 hours per week while completing
13 six credit hours of course work; and

14 WHEREAS, Participants are placed in legislative offices as
15 staff members with responsibilities and duties ranging from
16 assistant committee clerk to legislative policy analyst; they must
17 develop a keen understanding not only of legislative policy, but of
18 the inherent intricacies of the Texas Legislature as an entity; and

19 WHEREAS, The undergraduate students chosen as this year's
20 interns are Andrea Chavez, in the office of Representative David
21 Leibowitz; Carolina Hernandez and Sarah Linares, in the office of
22 Representative Joaquin Castro; Mark Reyna, in the office of Senator
23 Carlos Uresti; and Matthew Reyna, in the office of Senator John
24 Carona; the graduate students are Ayed Ahbabi, in the office of
25 Representative Roland Gutierrez; Saad Aldosari, in the office of
26 Representative Tara Rios Ybarra; and Sherita Simmons, in the office
27 of Senator Leticia Van de Putte; and

1 WHEREAS, These interns have received weekly on-site
2 classroom instruction and have become familiar with the inner
3 workings of the Texas House of Representatives and Senate while
4 learning how to research and draft legislation, analyze policy, and
5 interact with constituents and the press; and

6 WHEREAS, The program benefits from the assistance and
7 direction of Professor Arturo Vega, who serves as its on-campus
8 coordinator, and David C. Courreges, who serves as the on-site
9 adjunct professor; and

10 WHEREAS, Saint Mary's University is well known for its
11 long-standing tradition of instilling in its students the spirit of
12 public service, and its legislative internship program will be a
13 valuable asset in preparing its graduates to take on leadership
14 roles in their communities and in the governmental arena; now,
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
17 hereby commend Saint Mary's University on implementing the Frank
18 Madla, Jr., and Irma Rangel Legislative Internship Program and
19 extend congratulations to this year's interns, who have
20 distinguished themselves in their challenging roles; and, be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared in honor
23 of this exemplary program.