

Hidalgo County

Resolution honoring Dr. Shirley Reed with the Spirit of the Valley Award for Hidalgo County

Whereas

Dr. Shirley A. Reed, founding president of South Texas College, announced last year her decision to retire after a four-decade career in higher education; and

Whereas

Dr. Reed's retirement prompted communitywide reflection about the value of STC to the Rio Grande Valley. Part of that reflection was the realization that Dr. Reed came to South Texas in 1994 with the mission of developing an institute of higher education that was initially called South Texas Community College; and

Whereas

that mission included making higher education accessible to all in the Rio Grande Valley with campuses to be located in Hidalgo and Starr counties; and

Whereas

as a graduate of a community college herself, Dr. Reed understood the value of having a community college in an area previously unserved. Over the course of 26 years Dr. Reed, with strong community support, led an institution that has grown to a student enrollment of more than 28,000 with a faculty and staff of more than 2,700 people; and she helped guide the growth of an institution that has expanded to five campuses in two counties and continues to expand to online learning. South Texas College now offers more than 137 degree and certificate programs; and

Whereas

another measure of the value of STC is the fact that 63 percent of its students are the first in their families to attend college; and

Whereas


in May of 2020, the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court created the Spirit of the Valley Award for Hidalgo County to memorialize not the dark days of a pandemic, but how the spirit of our community had emerged to give us all hope; and


Whereas


in creating the Spirit of the Valley Award for Hidalgo County, Hidalgo County Commissioners Court declared this would be the highest honor bestowed by the government of Hidalgo County.


Now therefore, be it resolved that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court bestows onto Dr. Shirley A. Reed its first Spirit of the Valley Award for Hidalgo County to thank her for her tireless efforts on behalf of higher education in Hidalgo County and to recognize that her dedication to the community is precisely the intent of the Spirit of the Valley Award for Hidalgo County and to wish her well in her retirement.

Approved this 9th day of March, 2021.



RICHARD F. CORTEZ
County Judge


DAVID L. FUENTES
County Commissioner, Pct. 1


EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU
County Commissioner, Pct. 2


EVERARDO "EVER" VILLARREAL
County Commissioner, Pct. 3


ELLIE TORRES
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

Attest: 
ARTURO GUJARDO, JR.
County Clerk

