



RESOLUTION
Houston Community College Board of Trustees
“American Graduation Initiative”

Whereas, Fifty years ago, President Harry Truman called for a national network of community colleges to dramatically expand opportunities for veterans returning from World War II; and

Whereas, Today faced with rapid technological change and global competition, community colleges are needed more than ever to raise American skills, education levels, and to keep American businesses competitive; and

Whereas, Community colleges are the largest part of our higher education system, enrolling more than 6 million students, and growing rapidly; and

Whereas, Business and industry play an important role in training the workforce of the future and meeting the on-going demands of the marketplace. Many community colleges are already working with businesses to develop programs and classes ranging from degrees to certified training courses for retraining and on-going training for enhancing skills.

Whereas, There is a national consensus that the United States needs to provide greater numbers and percentages of its citizens with a higher education, as a moral, social, and economic imperative; and

Whereas, Community colleges continue to need greater financial and related support as well as a new national focus, in order to fully realize their potential in helping more Americans obtain a college education and meet related career and personal goals; and

Whereas, President Obama has specifically set the goal of increasing the number of community college graduates by 5 million by 2020, along with ambitious national goals concerning postsecondary education; and

Whereas, President Obama’s “*America Graduation Initiative*” recognizes the centrality of community colleges to America’s well-being, and need for financial resources to help those institutions; and

Whereas, The American Graduation Initiative will build on the strengths of community colleges and usher in new innovations and reforms for the 21st century economy; now

Therefore be it resolved, that the Houston Community College Board of Trustees endorses the American Graduation Initiative.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this _____ 20th day of August, 2009.


Diane Olmos Guzman, Secretary


Abel Davila, Board Chair