

Agenda Item No.

**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

Office of the Chancellor

October 18, 2024

Members, Board of Regents  
The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Adoption of a Resolution Honoring the Memory of Dr. Pablo Arenaz, President of Texas A&M International University

I respectfully request the Board of Regents' approval of the following resolution honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Pablo Arenaz, President of Texas A&M International University.

“WHEREAS, Dr. Pablo Arenaz lived a life that exemplified the academic excellence and leadership required of a truly great university president; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Arenaz was critical in securing over \$6 million in funding from the 87<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to launch the innovative Path to Academic and Student Success Program, which directly correlated to a campus persistence rate of over 80%; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Arenaz encouraged several new degrees, including petroleum engineering, computer engineering, clinical lab sciences, and physical therapy; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Arenaz tirelessly and wisely managed the university's resources to keep the university accessible, affordable, and exceptional; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Arenaz committed resources to students to help establish enviable 6-year graduation rates at the top among A&M System institutions; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Arenaz doubled the number of Laredoans who have earned a Bachelor's degree from 11% to 22%; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Arenaz led the university's celebration of its 30,000<sup>th</sup> student graduate since opening; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Arenaz successfully advocated for the importance of affordability initiatives from the Legislature, including Comprehensive Regional University funding, for the 82% of Texas A&M International University students considered economically disadvantaged; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Arenaz focused on building and growing enrollment to become the nation's leading institution of higher education with the largest percentage of Hispanic students in the country; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Arenaz launched the Presidential Research Development Awards to encourage and support new and promising research by faculty members; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Arenaz created a successful college dropout re-enrollment program, “Closer Than Ever,” that has seen more than 430 students complete their undergraduate degrees; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Arenaz instituted automatic, merit-based Presidential Scholarships for students;  
and

WHEREAS, Dr. Arenaz secured \$4 million in funding to start two new health sciences programs — physical therapy and clinical lab sciences to address critical healthcare needs in South Texas;  
and

WHEREAS, Dr. Arenaz managed a continuous program of physical campus growth including the addition of the Academic Innovation Center with its Trailblazer Tower and the \$71.2 million construction and expansion projects now underway with the Health Science Education Research Center and Western Hemispheric Trade Center; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Arenaz completed a visionary Master Plan to guide the university’s development for decades to come; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Arenaz aligned Texas A&M International University with the overarching goals and guidance of The Texas A&M University System and leading its presence in South Texas; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Pablo Arenaz built enduring community collaborations that squarely place and secure the university as the nexus of the community’s academic, cultural, and economic life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that The Texas A&M University System honors the life and powerful legacy of Dr. Pablo Arenaz, President of Texas A&M International University; and be it, further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be included in the minutes, and copies thereof signed by the Chairman of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, and be presented to the Archives of The Texas A&M University System as a permanent mark of the respect of this Board of Regents for the life and work of the late Dr. Pablo Arenaz.

ADOPTED, this 7th day of November 2024.”

Respectfully submitted,

John Sharp  
Chancellor  
The Texas A&M University System

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

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Ray Bonilla  
General Counsel