

*Proclamation congratulating University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
School of Medicine's Inaugural Graduation Class of 2020*

- Whereas* the virtues of the Rio Grande Valley in general and Hidalgo County in particular have long been established; and
- Whereas* despite such virtues a long-term challenge in the South Texas region has always been adequate medical care, particularly as it relates to sufficient numbers of doctors relative to the population of Hidalgo County; and
- Whereas* policymakers have been aware of this concern and have made moves to address this challenge for decades, tracing a lineage of effort to as early as the 1940s; and
- Whereas* diligent efforts to address this shortage of doctors coalesced into a regional coalition of support that manifested itself with Senate Bill 24 in 2013, which merged the University of Texas Brownsville and the University of Texas Pan American into the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley; and
- Whereas* part of this merger included the creation of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine; and
- Whereas* the first cohort of this medical school assembled for instruction on the 27th day of June 2016; and
- Whereas* this cohort evolved into a class of thirty-nine; and
- Whereas* in a touch of irony and a demonstration of the medical needs of the region a pandemic visited not only the world but the Rio Grande Valley in the year 2020 introducing into the lexicon of our times the term "social distancing"; and
- Whereas* out of an abundance of caution the first graduating class of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine practiced social distancing and on the 9th day of May 2020 held a virtual commencement exercise.

Now therefore, be it resolved that the Hidalgo County Commissioners court hereby proclaims 2020 as the year of the first graduating class of UTRGV School of Medicine and extends a hearty congratulations offered to the thirty-nine graduates that have earned the title of Medical Doctor including:

Joy Alvarado
Anna Archbold
Amanda Arreola
Daniel Bajwa
Joseph Boateng
Rachel Boren
Leah Bryan
Alexandra Bulga
Cristina Cepeda
Ye Ji Choi
Daniella Concha
Cleo Desmedt
Zachary Donoviel
Jared Eaves
Danielle Feng
Gabriel Franklin
Keith Garrison
Joseph Garza
Nery Guerrero
Kaitlyn Hall

Shawn Izadi
Christian Lalonde
Michael Lapelusa
Christine Loftis
Katarina Longoria
Dylan Lopez
Julien Mahler
Rogerio Montes
Sraavan
Narapureddy
Shuemara Ondoy
Niral Patel
Eugene Postevka
Victoria Ragland
Rafael Raya
Ramiro Tovar
Veronica Treviño
Ryan Trimble
Ushma Vadher
Shane Wing

Further be it resolved the congratulations extends into a profound gratitude for the pioneering faculty and staff of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine; and

Further be it resolved that sincere thanks are conveyed to the policymakers, the leaders and the people of the Rio Grande Valley and Hidalgo County for their diligent efforts and continued support in making this historic moment happen.

Approved this 12th day of May 2020.

RICHARD F. CORTEZ
County Judge

DAVID L. FUENTES
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

JOE M. FLORES
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

ELLIE TORRES
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

Attest: ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.
County Clerk