

Resolution congratulating Dr. Joseph R. Sharkey

Whereas Dr. Joseph R. Sharkey is a Tenured Professor in the Department of Health Behavior at Texas A&M School of Public Health at College Station, and was the Founding Director of the Program for Research and Outreach-Engagement on Nutrition and Health Disparities Solutions; and

Whereas Dr. Sharkey serves as Principal Investigator and Co-Principal Investigator for numerous programs to help improve public health in communities. One of the most important contributions Dr. Sharkey has made has been working specifically with South Texas communities, including San Carlos, Texas, which has been one of the largest beneficiaries of his work. Since 2007, Dr. Sharkey has been leading research and outreach-funded efforts to develop innovative solutions to improve access and utilization of healthy foods by low-income and vulnerable children, adults, and seniors in rural and underserved areas, particularly colonias; and

Whereas statistics show those without access to nutritious foods, including adequate knowledge are more likely to experience chronic illnesses such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and obesity. Each year, chronic disease accounts for 70% of all deaths in the United States; and

Whereas Dr. Sharkey actively works with Promotoras de Salud (Community Health Workers), three Community Advisory Boards, and one Youth Advisory Board and his work has been supported by the USDA, AARP Foundation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The Robert Johnson Foundation, and the National Institutes of Health; and

Whereas throughout his career, Dr. Sharkey has received numerous accolades, too many to list, however, some of the most prestigious include the 2011 Hispanic Heritage Amigo Award from the Hispanic Presidents' Council at Texas A&M University, the 2016 Excellence in Faculty Leadership Award from the Hispanic/Latino Graduate Student Association; and designation as Research Fellow with the Texas Hunger Initiative at Baylor University. Dr. Sharkey has also published more than 125 peer-reviewed articles; and

Whereas after twenty years of coming up with innovative solutions to address health disparities, specifically centered on nutrition and the impacts it has on individual's health and improving the quality of life, Dr. Joseph R. Sharkey has decided to retire and open up the next chapter in his life.

Now therefore, be it resolved that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court hereby recognizes and congratulates Dr. Joseph R. Sharkey for the outstanding efforts and contributions he has made by providing lasting and positive impacts to the residents of South Texas, especially the community of San Carlos. May your retirement be blessed with success.

Approved this 12th day of July, 2022.

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 GUAJARDO, JR.
County Clerk