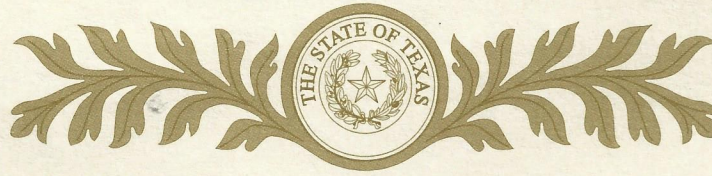


The State of Texas



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley chess team is establishing a tradition of excellence and proving itself a power to be reckoned with during its inaugural year of competition under the UTRGV banner; and

WHEREAS, Since UTRGV opened in the fall of 2015, its chess team has participated in a number of premier tournaments, with several players earning victories against strong grandmasters from around the globe; Holden Hernandez captured the U2550 title at the Millionaire Chess tournament in Las Vegas, and Anton Kovalyov advanced to the third round of the 2015 World Chess Federation World Chess Cup; and

WHEREAS, Composed of a talented, international group of players and guided by coach and grandmaster Bartek Macieja, with the assistance of senior program coordinator and international master Alfonso Almeida, the squad has excelled through vital contributions from each player on the roster: Mr. Kovalyov, grandmaster; Mr. Hernandez, grandmaster; Andrey Stukopin, grandmaster; Joshua Ruiz, international master; Guillermo Vazquez, international master; Felix Ynojosa, international master; Simon Vasquez, expert; Jeffrey Serna, expert; Armando Cortez, expert; and Mkhitar Hobosyan; and

WHEREAS, The team also helps to encourage local interest in the game by providing training to area students through the UTRGV Chess Academy; moreover, UTRGV will play host to both the 2016 Southwest Collegiate Championship and the inaugural South Texas Scholastic Championships in 2017; and

WHEREAS, The players who make up the UTRGV chess team have demonstrated the skill and mental toughness necessary to succeed against top competition, and they are indeed deserving of special recognition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the members of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley chess team be congratulated on their achievements in 2015 and that all those associated with the team be extended sincere best wishes for the future.



Eddie Lucio III
State Representative
District 38