

# PROCLAMATION

## THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHESS TEAM

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Chess Team had an outstanding performance at the 2018 President's Cup, the Final Four of College Chess competition on March 31 – April 1, 2018 at the Marshall Chess Club in New York City, claiming their first National Championship Title.

**WHEREAS**, UTRGV Chess Team members Grandmaster Andrey Stukopin a Senior from Russia majoring in Mathematics, Grandmaster Carlos Hevia a Junior from Cuba majoring in Computer Science, Grandmaster Vladimir Belous a Sophomore from Russia majoring in Finance, Grandmaster Kamil Dragun a Freshman from Poland majoring in Management, and Hovhannes Gabuzyan a Freshman from Armenia majoring in Computer Science led the team to a National Championship victory under the direction of Chess Coach, Grandmaster Bartek Macieja; and,

**WHEREAS**, The President's Cup is an annual invitational team tournament open to the top four U.S. schools from the most recent Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship; and,

**WHEREAS**, This year's final four, hosted at the Marshall Chess Club in New York City, included UTRGV, Webster University, St. Louis University, and Texas Tech (Lubbock); and,

**WHEREAS**, The UTRGV Chess Team beat five-time champs Webster 7.5 to 7.0 after what FIDE arbiter Mike Hoffpauir called "The strongest Final Four in the history of this tournament;" and,

**WHEREAS**, The standings at the end of the first round had UTRGV in the lead over Webster by half a point, but Webster gained ground in the second round to pull ahead of UTRGV by half a point. In a surprising upset, the final match between Webster and St. Louis ended in a draw, sealing the win for the UTRGV Chess Team; and,

**WHEREAS**, The UTRGV Vaqueros have been chasing this goal since the program began at UTRGV. At the 2016 Final Four, UTRGV's first time in the national contest, they placed second behind Webster; and,

**WHEREAS**, The National Championship victory is the UTRGV Chess Team's first National Championship.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD R. MOLINA, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF EDINBURG, TEXAS:** By the power vested in me by law, do hereby recognize as National Champions the

## UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHESS TEAM

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Edinburg, Texas, a Municipal Corporation, to be affixed on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2018.



CITY OF EDINBURG, TEXAS

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Richard R. Molina, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Ludivina Leal, City Secretary

**Edinburg Prospers because of the Spirit of Its People**