



Resolution in Support of the Proposal by Texas A&M University to Host a 2016 Presidential or Vice Presidential Debate

Whereas Texas A&M University, the first public institution of higher education in Texas, opened in 1876 under the Morrill Land-Grant Act, is now the 5th largest university in the country with a student body of more than 62,000;

Whereas Texas A&M University remains committed to the values of its land-grant heritage by expanding educational access, outreach and service to people of all backgrounds in the community, the region, the state and the country;

Whereas Texas A&M University is one of a select group of national Tier One research universities to have land, sea and space-grant designations that help garner research expenditures of more than \$850 million;

Whereas Texas A&M University is helping to create multi-disciplinary solutions to the grand challenges facing the state, the nation and the world; as well as raise awareness of many of these pressing issues and stimulate interest in finding solutions;

Whereas Texas A&M University continues to maintain and uphold its core values of excellence, integrity, leadership, loyalty, respect and selfless service; as well as its purpose, which is to develop leaders of character dedicated to serving the public good;

Whereas Texas A&M University's commitment to public service contributed to the university being chosen as the home of the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum (which brings millions of visitors to the local community) and spawned the highly ranked Bush School of Government and Public Service;

Whereas Texas A&M University and the twin cities of Bryan/College Station have enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship for generations; both cities have grown exponentially as Texas A&M has grown and each continues to develop and thrive as diverse, multi-ethnic environments, fostering a friendly and inclusive hometown for Aggie students, faculty and staff that far exceeds the average college town;

Whereas Texas A&M University engages with the state, region and community in a multitude of ways, through service learning projects, such as the largest one-day, student-run service project in the nation, The Big Event, as well as countless other service organizations; and through educational enrichment programs and summer camps from teacher education to STEM to 4-H; and entertainment not just for Aggie students but for the entire community, through high-quality direct-from-Broadway shows to the many notable events and distinguished speakers who have addressed the university -- from former presidents to renowned scientists to civil rights leaders and numerous others;

And, **whereas** Texas A&M University has also long recognized the demands of a global society and the necessity for global reach, maintaining a center in Costa Rica, facilities in Italy and Mexico and branch campuses in Galveston and Doha, Qatar (fully funded by Qatar Foundation) as well as nurturing a long history of international cooperation and collaboration to facilitate study abroad, global competence, international research partnerships such as the collaborative research grant program between Texas A&M and Mexico's CONACYT, and membership in such initiatives as The Confucius Institute to enhance Chinese language and culture at the university; all to enhance educational, cultural and research opportunities around the world and prepare students to live and compete in a global society;

Whereas Texas A&M University and other members of the Texas A&M University System based locally continue to increase their economic impact on the area; in 2013 the economic impact was \$4.42 billion, an increase of almost \$113 million from 2012 levels (based on the use of a standard 2.5 multiplier effect representing the number of times such generated dollars are typically spent and re-spent in the local economy) and;

Whereas Texas A&M University and the cities of Bryan/College Station and the Brazos Valley have partnered to mutual advantage on projects such as the agreement between the city of College Station regarding the expansion of Kyle Field; expenditures by visitors attending sporting events and other campus activities totaled an estimated \$385 million, almost \$8 million more than for the previous year. The estimated number of visitors totaled more than 1.3 million, with the average visitor from out-of-town staying 2.5 days in the local community;

Therefore, be it RESOLVED that the cities of Bryan and College Station, Brazos County and the region known as the Brazos Valley, as well as the Bryan Independent School District and the College Station Independent School District join and fully support Texas A&M University in its bid to host a Presidential or Vice Presidential Debate.