

ACC Chancellor Dr. Richard M. Rhodes Announces Retirement



Dr. Richard M. Rhodes

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the start of a new year. I hope yours is off to a wonderful beginning. As you may know, 2023 is a special year for Austin Community College District. It is our 50th anniversary. For 50 years we have served Central Texas. We have supported hundreds of thousands of students along their academic journeys.

As the new year begins, I find myself reflecting upon my time here at ACC. Coming to Austin Community College and serving this great community are among my top personal achievements. I am immensely grateful to have served as President/CEO and then as Chancellor for nearly 12 years now. Being a Riverbat is part of who I am. It is what makes this email a bittersweet one to write.

As a friend and partner in the work we do at ACC, I want you to be among the first to know that I will be announcing my retirement plan this week. August 31, 2023, will be my last day as Chancellor of ACC.

As I prepare to step down, I find myself reflecting upon our accomplishments. I want to thank you for all you have done to make my time here more engaging, meaningful, and joyful than I could have imagined.

Because of your friendship and support, there has been tremendous growth at ACC. Together, we cultivated a culture of innovation, collaboration, and transformation. We put ACC at the forefront of the future of higher education.

Since I first came to ACC in 2011, we have embraced new ways of teaching and learning through collaborative learning spaces like our ACCelerators and incubators.

We evolved what it is we do as a community college — developing high-demand bachelor's degree programs to provide students a more affordable pathway to an in-demand skill set in the region.

We expanded opportunities to all high school students in the service area to earn college credit while still attending high school at little to no cost through dual credit, Early College High Schools, Career Academies, and P-Techs.

We established Guided Pathways to provide students with easy-to-follow guides that ensure they take the right classes at the right time and stay on track to completion. As a result, our persistence and graduation rates are up. In fact, our graduation rates are the fastest growing in the state, and we are recognized in the region, state, and nation for our good work.

We redefined what collaboration looks like in higher education and created partnerships to build a skilled workforce. Together, we provided students with real-world experiences that put them on a pathway of upward mobility.

Because of this great work, ACC has helped close equity gaps. We're recognized for our leadership in this space. We were awarded the prestigious Seal of Excelencia from Excelencia in Education, named one of the first 10 Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation Campuses in the nation, recognized as an Achieving the Dream leader college, and appointed as a member of the League for Innovation in the Community College.

These are just some of the countless reasons I am proud to be Chancellor of ACC and a member of the Central Texas community.

The work we do at ACC impacts lives every day. It has been the greatest pleasure to serve as Chancellor of this great institution. I would like to share with you a link to the media advisory ACC will share this afternoon.

Thank you for your shared commitment to our work. I am confident ACC will continue to grow and thrive, and I hope you will remain a friend and partner to the college in the months and years ahead.

Regards,

Richard M. Rhodes, Ph.D.
Chancellor

Jerry Jones pushes for sports betting in Texas

(DALLAS, TX) -

Everything is bigger in Texas. Except for legal sports betting. Which is nonexistent.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones recently, appearing Friday on 105.3 The Fan in Dallas, made the case for Texas embracing something that most states have authorized, long ago.

"Well, I think it's really a thing that needs to be addressed at this time," Jones said, via the Dallas Morning News. "One of the reasons why I think it does is because it's happening at this time. There's a huge amount of gaming going on in and around sports at this time. And, so, to have all of the benefits or all of the control over it, it needs to be recog-

by Mike Florio | PRO FOOTBALL TALK



Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones

nized and parameters put on it and discipline put in it. Then, also the benefits that go, can go in Texas, could adhere to

the right kind of people, or some property tax. Certainly help educate our great state's children. All of those things

can be enhanced by something that's presently going on in a big, big way."

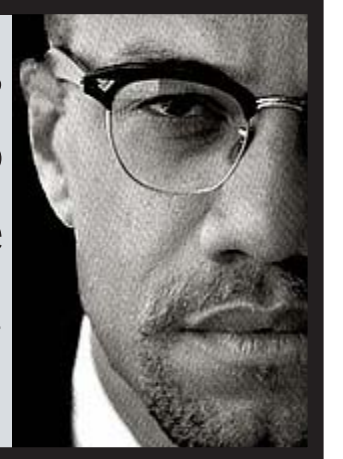
The bottom line is that, in every state where sports betting isn't legalized, sports betting is happening. So why not embrace it, regulate it, and profit from it?

"We should be getting the benefit of it as other states are," Jones said. "Other states surrounding us are. So, it's a time for us to, I think, set the rules up and execute on it and get the benefits of it."

Jones is right, even if he's being motivated by his own self-interests. And he will indeed make plenty of money if/when gambling is legalized in Texas.

If you're not careful, the newspapers will have you hating the people who are being oppressed, and loving the people who are doing the oppressing.

- Malcolm X



Democrat Sheila Jackson Lee Introduces Anti-White Supremacy Bill, then Schools Republican Boebert on Hate



Sheila Jackson Lee

By Stacy M. Brown
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(NNPA) - That's enough of racism and bigotry, says Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee.

The Democratic representative from Texas has introduced House Resolution 61, which would amend Title 18 of the United States Code to broaden the definition of hate crimes, with the goal of preventing and prosecuting hate crimes motivated by white supremacy and conspiracy to commit such crimes.

The text of the bill reads as follows: "A person commits a white supremacy inspired hate crime when white supremacist ideology has motivated the planning, development, preparation, or perpetration of actions that constituted a crime or were undertaken in furtherance of activity that, if effectuated, would have constituted a crime."

With respect to any information or evidence obtained by the Department of Justice of any unlawful action specified in Jackson-Lee's bill, the DOJ shall have the authority to conduct operations and activities pursuant to such crimes.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) would also be authorized to conduct investigations, intervene, and take any other measures it deems necessary and appropriate to prevent, mitigate, or stop any potentially violent action.

The Department of Justice's Uniform Crime Reporting Program would keep track of white supremacist-inspired hate crimes and other related actions, and Justice Department officials would have the authority to prosecute those responsible for them.

Jackson Lee has requested that the DOJ report its findings annually to the relevant Congressional committees.

Rep. Lauren Boebert, a Republican from Colorado, claimed the legislation "makes a mockery of the First Amendment."

While Boebert, a right-wing leader, misrepresented the legislation after reading a misleading news article, Jackson Lee schooled her on Twitter.

"First of all, it took me about 32 seconds of reading the article you cited to understand that none of you know what you are talking about," Jackson Lee scolded.

To be convicted of a hate crime in some jurisdictions, "H.R. 61 simply deals with adding white supremacy to a list of reasons," the Texas Democrat explained.

She elaborated:

"So, when the article states that 'only white people can be charged with' this crime, that's flagrantly false.

"Your argument assumes that only white people can hold white supremacist views and that only certain groups of people can perpetrate violence motivated by white supremacy.

"I would hope now that your argument would not shift to 'why is white supremacy being added to this law?' That would be egregious.

"Yes, white supremacy should be added to this law. Why? Because as Director Wray testified, it's a major domestic terrorist threat."