**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR PIEDMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOR THE INSTITUTION’S USE OF LEAN IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND TO CONGRATULATE THE STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND ADMINISTRATION FOR BEING AWARDED THE PRESTIGIOUS 2013 BELLWETHER AWARD.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to learn that Piedmont Technical College was awarded the celebrated 2013 Bellwether Award at the Community College Futures Assembly (CCFA) annual meeting in Orlando, Florida, on January 29, 2013; and

Whereas, given annually since 1995, the award focuses on cutting‑edge, trendsetting programs that other colleges might find worthy of replicating and recognizes outstanding and innovative programs in community‑college education in three categories: Instructional Programs & Services; Planning, Governance & Finance; and Workforce Development; and

Whereas, chosen out of a pool of hundreds of entries from all over the United States, Piedmont Technical College is the first and only college from the Palmetto State to be recognized with this award; and

Whereas, for the institution’s program, entitled Lean in Higher Education: How It Continues to Change Our Culture, Piedmont Technical College won in the Planning, Governance & Finance category, which recognizes programs or activities that improve efficiency and effectiveness in the community college; and

Whereas, Lean, a methodology made famous by Toyota and widely adopted throughout the private sector, is designed to increase efficiency, decrease waste, and use empirical methods to redesign processes that produce the maximum value; and

Whereas, beginning its organizational change with the Lean program in the summer of 2008, the college focused its presentation on the cost savings and efficiencies gained over the course of its Lean implementation and presented a roadmap for implementation at other colleges; and

Whereas, Piedmont administrators felt that Lean was the right tool to help the institution move forward because Lean focuses on eliminating waste and increasing efficiency, which are two critical factors in the current national and statewide economy; and

Whereas, grounded in data‑driven, problem‑solving processes and the empowerment of faculty and staff to drive change, Lean methodology has allowed the college to increase efficiency, trim costs without cutting services, and be more responsive to students and customer needs; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate appreciate the pride and recognition that Piedmont Technical College has brought to their institution, their community, and our State, and they expect to hear of continued success in the future through their effective implementation of innovative programs. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor Piedmont Technical College for the institution’s use of Lean in Higher Education and congratulate the students, faculty, and administration for being awarded the prestigious 2013 Bellwether Award.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Dr. Ray Brooks, President of Piedmont Technical College.

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