**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE SOUTH CAROLINA TRIO PROGRAMS FOR THEIR EXCELLENCE IN PROVIDING INVALUABLE SERVICES TO NONTRADITIONAL COLLEGE‑BOUND STUDENTS IN THIS GREAT STATE AND TO CELEBRATE THE OCCASION OF SOUTH CAROLINA TRIO PROGRAMS’ FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY.

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is pleased to learn that South Carolina TRIO Programs are commemorating a half century of service to low‑income and first‑generation college students in the Palmetto State; and

Whereas, TRIO Programs, composed of Talent Search, Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math‑Science, Veterans Upward Bound, Student Support Services, the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program, and Educational Opportunity Centers, were established fifty years ago to help low‑income students overcome class, social, academic, and cultural barriers to higher education and to provide invaluable services to low‑income and/or first‑generation college‑bound students to heighten their chances of successful matriculation at the postsecondary education level; and

Whereas, there are fifty‑eight TRIO Programs at sixteen South Carolina institutions of higher education. These programs are represented jointly by South Carolina TRIO; and

Whereas, 17,293 low‑income and/or first‑generation college students in South Carolina, including veterans and individuals with disabilities, benefit from the precollege to graduate‑level services provided by South Carolina TRIO Programs, which receive $16,623,780 in federal funding; and

Whereas, South Carolina TRIO Programs have played a major role in accomplishing the following goals: 1. decreasing South Carolina’s dropout rate by encouraging and supporting high school completion, 2. increasing the number of college graduates by providing guidance and support for successful matriculation, and 3. reducing defaults in student‑loan programs by helping low‑income students better understand their financial obligations; and

Whereas, South Carolina TRIO Programs are recognized both locally and nationally for their dedication in assisting low‑income and/or first‑generation college students and students with disabilities, as well as their families; and

Whereas, grateful for the commitment to serving low‑income and first‑generation college students that South Carolina TRIO Programs have demonstrated over the past half century, the Senate takes great pleasure in honoring the significant benchmark this fifty‑year celebration represents for the past, present, and future of higher education in our State. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize South Carolina TRIO Programs for their excellence in providing invaluable services to nontraditional college‑bound students in this great State and celebrate the occasion of South Carolina TRIO Programs’ fiftieth anniversary.

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