**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DR. JERE KIRKLEY, DIRECTOR OF THE ANDERSON SCHOOL DISTRICTS ONE AND TWO CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER FORTY‑THREE YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE IN EDUCATION, AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, it is altogether fitting and proper that the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives should pause in their deliberations to express their gratitude to Dr. Jere Kirkley for his significant and innovative contributions to education in the Palmetto State and for his twenty-five years of dedicated service as the director of the Anderson School Districts One and Two Career and Technology Center (ACTC); and

Whereas, after earning a bachelor’s from the University of South Carolina and a master’s from Clemson University, Dr. Kirkley received a doctorate from Virginia Polytechnic Institute for vocational and technical education administration in 1977; and

Whereas, at the beginning of his successful career, he served for eight years as the assistant director and guidance coordinator at Golden Strip Career Center in Greenville County before serving as the director of the Darlington Career Center and the district director of vocational education in Darlington County; and

Whereas, in 1988, Dr. Kirkley became the director of ACTC and in 1992 he proposed his vision for restructuring the center. As a result of his vision, ACTC is grounded in the belief that skills and abilities needed to succeed in college and careers are identical, and participation in ACTC has increased almost 400 percent; and

Whereas, Dr. Kirkley has worked tirelessly to expand programming and to acquire and maintain state‑of‑the‑art facilities and equipment, and ACTC’s broad array of career and technical offerings now also includes Project Lead the Way (PLTW) engineering, PLTW biomedical, digital art design, firefighting, culinary arts, and media broadcasting. Numerous facilities have been constructed on the campus, including a health science lab, welding lab, automotive technology lab, and automotive collision lab; and

Whereas, since 2002 ACTC has consistently received the Palmetto Gold Award and Excellent ratings on the South Carolina School Report Card, and it was the first career center in the State to participate in the Southern Regional Education Board’s High Schools That Work and the WorkKeys initiatives; and

Whereas, the influence and effect of Dr. Kirkley’s contributions are immeasurable but because of his dedication and innovation, he is admired by not only students, staff, and faculty, but also by educational leaders across the state and nation; and

Whereas, Dr. Kirkley plans to spend many hours of enjoyment in his retirement with his beloved wife, Debbie, and their fine son and daughter‑in‑law, Brett and Malorie Kirkley; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for twenty‑five years of Dr. Kirkley’s unparalleled dedication to the Anderson County School Districts One and Two Career and Technology Center and wish him many years of enjoyment as he begins his well‑earned retirement on June 30, 2014. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, recognize and honor Dr. Jere Kirkley, director of the Anderson School Districts One and Two Career and Technology Center, upon the occasion of his retirement after forty‑three years of outstanding service in education, and wish him continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Dr. Jere Kirkley.

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