**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE AIKEN TECHNICAL COLLEGE UPON THE OCCASION OF ITS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY AND TO COMMEND THE COLLEGE FOR ITS MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO AIKEN COUNTY, THE CENTRAL SAVANNAH RIVER AREA, AND THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to recognize Aiken Technical College as it celebrates this important milestone; and

Whereas, in 1969, a feasibility study for a technical education center was conducted per the request of leaders in Aiken County. The results of the study led to the recommendation of establishing a technical education center in the county; and

Whereas, Mr. Ashley J. Little was named the founding director of the Aiken Technical Education Center in 1970; and on September 1, 1972, Aiken Technical Education was founded as a vocationally based training center with one hundred seventy-seven students enrolled in the first class; and

Whereas, the current campus location on Jefferson Davis Highway opened in the winter of 1973 with three buildings; and

Whereas, Aiken Technical Education Center received accreditation in 1975, which recognized Aiken Technical as a two‑year technical college, and the institution changed its name to Aiken Technical College in March of 1978; and

Whereas, Aiken Technical College seeks to be the first choice for higher education in the region. As a public, open‑door, two‑year, comprehensive institution of higher education, Aiken Technical College provides citizens of greater Aiken County and the Central Savannah River Area opportunities for educational and workforce development; and

Whereas, Aiken Technical College values collaboration, commitment, diversity, academic excellence, innovation, and integrity; and

Whereas, Aiken Technical College offers over forty programs in the areas of business, computer technology, health sciences, manufacturing, nuclear, nursing, public services, and university transfer. Nursing, computer technology, and welding are the top three academic programs based on enrollment; and

Whereas, Aiken Technical College has served over fifty thousand people over the past fifty years, and the college has more than thirteen thousand alumni; and

Whereas, over the years, Aiken Technical College has received many awards, including the Military Friendly School designation for eleven consecutive years by Viqtory Media; the 2021 Best Place to Further Your Education in The Aiken Standard’s annual “Best” contest; and the 2021 PEBA Partners Award from the South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority for promoting a physically, emotionally, and financially healthier workplace; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate greatly appreciate the dedication and commitment of Aiken Technical College to serving both the people and the State of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Aiken Technical College upon the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary and commend the college for its many years of dedicated service to Aiken County, the Central Savannah River Area, and the State of South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Aiken Technical College.

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