**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND EXPRESS DEEP APPRECIATION TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM DURING “SOUTH CAROLINA TECHNICAL COLLEGE WEEK” ON MARCH 22 THROUGH 26, 2021, FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS IN EDUCATING AND TRAINING SOUTH CAROLINA’S WORKFORCE FOR COMPETITIVE, HIGH‑DEMAND JOBS IN OUR STATE.

Whereas, serving more than one hundred fifty‑four thousand students across our State through credit and continuing education programs, South Carolina’s technical colleges are dedicated to providing training and education opportunities that promote economic and workforce development in our State; and

Whereas, South Carolina’s technical colleges empower over one hundred fifty‑four thousand students to dream big, overcome obstacles, defy expectations, and refuse to let anything stand in their way as they build a better future for themselves, their families, and their communities; and

Whereas, the sixteen institutions in South Carolina have established an unparalleled record of excellence in meeting the educational and training needs of business and industry in their respective communities; and

Whereas, South Carolina’s technical colleges prepare students for the careers of today and tomorrow by offering seventy‑eight degrees, twenty‑eight diplomas, and nearly one thousand certificate programs designed to meet growing needs in high‑paying, in‑demand fields and industries; and

Whereas, these institutions make a quality higher education accessible and affordable to all South Carolinians and, in turn, educate and train the majority of our State’s first‑generation college students; and

Whereas, ninety‑five percent of the students enrolled in these colleges are South Carolinians being educated and trained to live and work in our State, and the system boasts a ninety‑one percent placement rate for students upon their graduation; and

Whereas, readySC™, the State’s premier economic development recruiting and training program, plays an integral role in South Carolina’s efforts in economic development, having trained more than three hundred thousand people for jobs in our State since 1961; and

Whereas, the State’s registered apprenticeship program, Apprenticeship Carolina™, has earned national and international recognition as the fastest growing, most innovative program in the nation, increasing the total number of registered apprentices in South Carolina from seven hundred seventy‑seven in 2007 to over thirty‑four thousand today; and

Whereas, in recognition and appreciation for the South Carolina Technical College System, Governor Henry McMaster has proclaimed March 22 through 26, 2021, as “South Carolina Technical College Week”; and

Whereas, the General Assembly joins with Governor McMaster in expressing deep appreciation to these fine institutions and statewide programs for their role in enhancing the employability of our citizens by providing quality training and education with job‑ready credentials for successful employment. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize and express deep appreciation to the South Carolina Technical College System during “South Carolina Technical College Week” on March 22 through 26, 2021, for their outstanding contributions in preparing South Carolina’s workforce for competitive, high‑demand jobs in our State.

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