**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA SYSTEM FOR ITS MANY AND SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EDUCATION AND CULTURE OF OUR CITIZENS AND TO DECLARE JANUARY 26, 2022, AS “CAROLINA DAY” AT THE STATE HOUSE.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate appreciate the outstanding opportunities that the University of South Carolina (UofSC) and the entire UofSC system affords to the Palmetto State and to our citizens; and

Whereas, with sixty nationally ranked academic programs, South Carolina was named the State’s top global university, ranks in the top one percent of patent‑producing universities in the world, and boasts the number one international business program and the best public honors college in the United States; and

Whereas, on eight campuses and twenty locations across the State, the university’s accessibility to education enables more than 34,000 South Carolinians to receive a world‑class education; and

Whereas, the UofSC system confers nearly 12,000 degrees a year, accounting for 40% of all bachelor’s and graduate degrees awarded within the State; and

Whereas, innovative programs, such as Gamecock Guarantee, Opportunity Scholars, Gamecock Gateway, Raise.me, and Palmetto Pathway, have put UofSC on the forefront of creating programs that help low‑income and first‑generation students succeed; and

Whereas, the comprehensive universities of Aiken, Upstate, and Beaufort are consistently ranked as top public regional colleges in America, and the award‑winning Palmetto College campuses of Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter, and Union serve a combined five thousand students each year; and

Whereas, South Carolina is in the top 3% of universities in graduating African American students in the nation, and provides more opportunities for African American and minority students than any other institution in the State by leading in both enrollment and graduation, preparing all its graduates to lead in an increasingly diverse and global workforce. Since Fall 2016, African American freshman enrollment on the Columbia campus has increased by more than 85%; and

Whereas, nationally recognized by U.S News & World Report, Kiplinger’s and Forbes as a great value, South Carolina is listed amid the most efficient universities in the nation and offers one of the most cost‑effective paths to a bachelor’s degree in the State; and

Whereas, pumping 6.2 billion dollars into the state’s economy annually, the economic activity of the university system supports more than sixty‑three thousand jobs statewide and each dollar invested in higher education returns twenty‑five to the State; and

Whereas, recognized as a top‑tier university for research and community engagement, UofSC grows the state’s economy through innovative partnerships with companies like Boeing, IBM, Siemens, Apple, Nephron, Yaskawa, and Samsung; and university faculty members have garnered more than 225 million dollars in sponsored awards last year; and the Office of Economic Engagement is leveraging these innovative partnerships so UofSC students can solve real industry problems today and become the technology workers of the future; and

Whereas, in Division I athletics, South Carolina has won the Palmetto State’s Learfield IMG College Directors’ Cup measuring total athletics success from all sports teams in nineteen of the last twenty‑two years, and its student athletes excel in the classroom, as well as on the field. South Carolina just completed twenty‑nine straight semesters with student athletes whose GPA’s average 3.0 or higher and, since 2015, has had more Southeastern Conference (SEC) Academic Honor Roll recipients than any other SEC school; and

Whereas, South Carolina’s athletics program generates almost 300 million dollars in economic activity annually for state and local economies; and

Whereas, with historic roots dating back over 175 years, the University of South Carolina Alumni Association, continues ardently serving the University community, connecting students and alumni to advance their careers, their passions and their University, operating the Pastides Alumni Center as a place to gather and celebrate important moments in the life of our alma mater and the greater Midlands community; and

Whereas, the members of the Senate of the State of South Carolina value the commitment of the State’s flagship university and entire UofSC System to continued academic, educational and athletic excellence, affordability, and availability to the citizens of our great State. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor the University of South Carolina and the entire UofSC System for its many and significant contributions to the education and culture of our citizens and declare January 26, 2022, as “Carolina Day” at the State House.

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