**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND EXPRESS DEEP APPRECIATION TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM FOR ITS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS IN EDUCATING AND TRAINING OUR STATE’S WORKFORCE AND TO DECLARE MARCH 25, 2014, AS SOUTH CAROLINA TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM DAY.

Whereas, serving more than a quarter million students across our State through credit and continuing education programs, the South Carolina Technical College System is dedicated to providing training and education opportunities that promote economic and workforce development in the Palmetto State; and

Whereas, located across South Carolina, the System’s sixteen institutions have established an unparalleled record of excellence in meeting the education and training needs of business and industry in their respective communities; and

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

Whereas, nearly sixty percent of all South Carolinians enrolled as undergraduates in the state’s public institutions of higher education attend one of the System’s sixteen technical colleges; and

Whereas, these colleges educate and train South Carolinians to live and work in our State, with ninety‑six percent of students being residents of South Carolina and eighty‑five percent remaining in the State after graduation; and

Whereas, readySC™, the state’s premier economic development recruiting and training program (formerly known as Special Schools), continues to play an integral role in South Carolina’s economic development efforts, training over 275,000 people for high‑demand 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 of its kind in the nation and has increased the number of registered apprentices in South Carolina from 777 in 2007 to nearly 9,000 today; and

Whereas, to honor the South Carolina Technical College System, Governor Nikki Haley has proclaimed March 25, 2014, as South Carolina Technical College System Day. Taking great pleasure in joining with Governor Haley, and speaking on behalf of a grateful citizenry, the General Assembly salutes the System’s 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 for its outstanding contributions in educating and training our state’s workforce and declare March 25, 2014, as South Carolina Technical College System Day.

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