**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND VIRGINIA COLLEGE IN COLUMBIA FOR FIVE YEARS OF PROVIDING EXCEPTIONAL AND WORTHY EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND TO WISH THE ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY, AND STUDENTS CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THE YEARS TO COME.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to learn that for five years Virginia College in Columbia has provided quality education in fields that have a high demand in today’s labor market; and,

Whereas, since the first graduation ceremony in April 2011, Virginia College has successfully prepared and delivered eight hundred forty‑six graduates into the workforce; and

Whereas, the Columbia campus today trains and delivers workforce‑ready graduates in nine associate degrees and certificate‑level programs, including medical assisting, medical billing and coding, medical office administration, healthcare reimbursement, pharmacy technician, surgical technician, cosmetology, business administration, and network technician; and

Whereas, every allied health or medical program includes a required three‑month long externship at an approved site where students practice their clinical skills in a real‑world setting; and

Whereas, meeting the standards of the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education and of Virginia College’s accrediting body, all faculty members have worked or are currently employed in their field of instruction; and

Whereas, many programs include training and testing for a nationally‑recognized and accredited professional certification or licensing credential; and

Whereas, in 2014, all programs met or exceeded retention benchmarks, and the campus achieved its placement benchmark; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate appreciate the significant educational service provided by Virginia College in Columbia and look to hear of the institution’s continued achievements in the days ahead. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and commend Virginia College in Columbia for five years of providing exceptional and worthy educational opportunities and wish the administration, faculty, and students continued success in the years to come.

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