

1 SJR44  
2 168154-1  
3 By Senators Reed, Albritton, Allen, Beasley, Blackwell,  
4 Brewbaker, Bussman, Chambliss, Coleman, Dial, Dunn, Figures,  
5 Glover, Hightower, Holley, Holtzclaw, Livingston, Marsh,  
6 McClendon, Melson, Orr, Pittman, Ross, Sanders, Sanford,  
7 Scofield, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smith, Smitherman, Stutts,  
8 Waggoner, Ward, Whatley and Williams  
9 RFD:  
10 First Read: 28-APR-15

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8 RECOGNIZING APRIL AS NATIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
9 MONTH.

10  
11 WHEREAS, Alabama's public community college system  
12 is the state's single largest system of public higher  
13 education and is Alabama's most affordable and accessible  
14 system of higher education; and

15 WHEREAS, the three foundational pillars of the  
16 Alabama Community College System, academic transfer, workforce  
17 development, and adult education, make a positive impact on  
18 the more than 250,000 people served annually and the people of  
19 our great state; and

20 WHEREAS, with our unified network of 25 community  
21 and technical colleges, Marion Military Institute (one of only  
22 three public military two-year colleges in the country), and  
23 89 instructional sites, community and technical colleges are  
24 firmly planted in every county and are within easy reach of  
25 every community in this state; additionally, the Alabama  
26 Technology Network provides innovative technical assistance to  
27 hundreds of businesses each year; and

1           WHEREAS, forty-one percent of all Alabamians  
2 enrolled in public higher education are enrolled at an ACCS  
3 institution, and approximately 15,000 community college  
4 students transfer annually to a public four-year institution;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, more than 254,000 students in Alabama's  
7 community colleges have utilized the Statewide Articulation  
8 and Transfer Reporting System to assure the transfer of their  
9 academic work toward bachelor's degrees at four-year  
10 institutions since the articulation agreement's inception in  
11 1998; and

12           WHEREAS, the Alabama Community College System  
13 enrolled more than 8,100 high school students in its dual  
14 enrollment and early college programs in 2014, providing high  
15 achieving students with rigorous courses beyond those offered  
16 at the secondary level, increasing college access to those who  
17 would not otherwise be college bound, and awarding 3,700  
18 scholarships during the past academic year to students  
19 enrolled in ACCS career technical education courses, preparing  
20 them for high wage, high demand occupations; and

21           WHEREAS, the Alabama Technology Network has worked  
22 with more than 3,500 Alabama companies over the past decade,  
23 providing technical assistance that improved efficiency and  
24 profitability; ATN's work is credited with saving or retaining  
25 14,000 jobs during that period; Alabama businesses, with the  
26 help of ATN, increased profits by more than \$129,000,000  
27 during 2014; and

1           WHEREAS, more than 450,000 working-age adults have  
2 neither a high school diploma nor a GED; the Alabama Community  
3 College System awarded more than 4,900 GED Certificates and  
4 served more than 29,000 individuals through its adult literacy  
5 education programs and services in 2014; and

6           WHEREAS, the community college system remains  
7 committed to its mission of educating and training the people  
8 of Alabama, thus building stronger communities and a stronger  
9 economy; now therefore,

10           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
11 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby recognize the  
12 accomplishments of Alabama's public community college system  
13 as it continues to fulfill its unique and distinctive mission  
14 of providing a unified system of institutions delivering  
15 accessible, affordable and superior educational opportunities,  
16 and workforce training and services to all of Alabama,  
17 yielding a well-educated, productive citizenry and a better  
18 prepared workforce.

19           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we recognize April as  
20 National Community College Month in Alabama and urge all  
21 Alabamians and business and industry leaders, who are  
22 committed to developing Alabama's workforce for the 21st  
23 century, to use and support their local community colleges.