

HJR277 INTRODUCED



1 HJR277
2 ARKD9S7-1
3 By Representative Hall
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 19-Mar-26



1
2
3
4 HJR___ COMMENDING DRAKE STATE COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL
5 COLLEGE ON ITS 65TH ANNIVERSARY.
6

7 WHEREAS, with great pride and special pleasure, Drake
8 State Community and Technical College (Drake State) is
9 highly commended for providing accessible, high-quality
10 education to students in North Alabama for 65 years; and

11 WHEREAS, Drake State was established in 1961 in
12 Huntsville, Alabama, with 27 students enrolled in four
13 technical programs designed to meet regional workforce
14 needs; originally named Huntsville State Vocational
15 Technical School, the institution was renamed in 1966 to
16 honor Joseph Fanning Drake, a distinguished educational
17 leader and long-time President of Alabama Agricultural and
18 Mechanical University; and

19 WHEREAS, in 1973, Drake State achieved technical
20 college status and began awarding the Associate in Applied
21 Technology degree; in 2013, the institution became J.F.
22 Drake State Community and Technical College, uniquely
23 combining comprehensive community college academic transfer
24 programs with advanced technical and workforce training; and

25 WHEREAS, for 65 years, Drake State has served as a
26 critical workforce development partner for Huntsville and
27 North Alabama; the college offers Associate in Applied
28 Science, Associate in Arts, and Associate in Science



HJR277 INTRODUCED

degrees, as well as short-term certificates and industry-recognized credentials aligned with high-demand fields such as advanced manufacturing, aerospace, health care, and information technology; and

WHEREAS, Drake State has demonstrated leadership in workforce innovation, including early designation as a Microsoft Authorized Academic Training partner and serving as an EPA HVAC certification test site; the College participates in employer-driven training initiatives such as the Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (FAME) program and maintains strong partnerships with regional industry leaders; and

WHEREAS, the institution has expanded its training capacity through investments in modern facilities, including the Leidos Advanced Training Complex, supporting aerospace and advanced manufacturing education aligned with Huntsville's economic growth; and

WHEREAS, Drake State has also secured competitive federal and workforce grants, including becoming the first institution in Alabama to receive a U.S. Department of Labor Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grant; additional STEM-focused funding has strengthened student pathways into science and technology careers; and

WHEREAS, as Drake State celebrates its 65th Anniversary during the week of April 27, the milestone represents six and a half decades of educational access, workforce excellence, and sustained contributions to the economic vitality of the City of Huntsville and the State of



HJR277 INTRODUCED

57 Alabama; now therefore,

58 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
59 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That since its founding in 1961,
60 Drake State has served as an educational cornerstone of
61 higher learning, providing accessible, high-quality
62 education to students in Northern Alabama and is highly
63 commended for its many milestones along the way and for the
64 enduring contributions to the State of Alabama and its
65 traditions of excellence in education.