

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013

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HOUSE RESOLUTION 566*

Sponsors: Representatives Blackwell, Tolson, McGrady, and Horn (Primary Sponsors).

For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.

Referred to:

April 4, 2013

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING THE LEADERSHIP AND FORESIGHT OF THOSE
2 NORTH CAROLINIANS WHO CREATED AND ESTABLISHED THE COMMUNITY
3 COLLEGES AND JOINING NORTH CAROLINA'S FIFTY-EIGHT COMMUNITY
4 COLLEGES AND THE COMMUNITY COLLEGES SYSTEM OFFICE WHILE
5 OBSERVING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTH CAROLINA
6 COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM.

7 Whereas, Dr. W. Dallas Herring responded to Governor Luther Hodges in 1957 and
8 prepared a plan for industrial education that resulted in the establishment by the General
9 Assembly of a statewide system of industrial education centers and the creation of a system of
10 public junior colleges; and

11 Whereas, Dr. Herring worked tirelessly with Governor Terry Sanford and others to
12 merge the two systems into a comprehensive community college system encompassing
13 workforce training and college studies; and

14 Whereas, the Omnibus Higher Education Act, also known as Senate Bill 72, was
15 passed on May 17, 1963, by the General Assembly, creating the North Carolina Department of
16 Community Colleges, which included the original 20 industrial education centers, along with
17 six junior colleges and five extension units; and

18 Whereas, this act became effective on July 1, 1963; and

19 Whereas, in 1963, there were 31 community colleges with a total of 79,117
20 students; and

21 Whereas, since 1963, North Carolina has supported the growth of this education and
22 training system into the 58 community colleges that serve all 100 North Carolina counties
23 today; and

24 Whereas, today, North Carolina community colleges serve over 850,000 students
25 annually; and

26 Whereas, the North Carolina Community College System has been recognized,
27 nationally and internationally, through the decades as a leader in workforce development; and

28 Whereas, the 58 community colleges in North Carolina have responded to the call
29 for employee preparedness for thousands of North Carolina businesses and industries; and

30 Whereas, millions of North Carolinians have taken their first steps toward technical
31 and higher education certificates, diplomas, and degrees at these colleges through the years;
32 and

33 Whereas, generations of North Carolina families have received education and
34 training that has improved their quality of life; and



1 Whereas, the community colleges have been supported in their work through the
2 dedication of faculty, staff, trustees, county commissioners, and State leaders; and

3 Whereas, community colleges have responded to the needs of their communities
4 through service, support, leadership, and educational efforts; and

5 Whereas, leaders at the local, State, and national levels continue to recognize
6 community colleges as offering pathways to successful careers and educational attainment; and

7 Whereas, the System serves one in eight North Carolina adults annually and
8 continues to work toward improving student success at all levels through new accountability
9 standards and a focus on data-driven policies, decisions, and performance funding; and

10 Whereas, May 17, 2013, marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the
11 North Carolina Community College System; Now, therefore,

12 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

13 **SECTION 1.** The House of Representatives honors the leadership and foresight of
14 those North Carolinians who created and established the community colleges and joins North
15 Carolina's 58 community colleges and the Community Colleges System Office in observing the
16 50th anniversary of the North Carolina Community College System.

17 **SECTION 2.** The House of Representatives expresses appreciation for the
18 System's contribution to the workforce development of millions of North Carolinians.

19 **SECTION 3.** The Principal Clerk shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the
20 President of the North Carolina Community College System.

21 **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.