

## House Resolution 1230

By: Representatives Tankersley of the 160<sup>th</sup>, Parrish of the 158<sup>th</sup>, and Burns of the 159<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Georgia Southern University and inviting Dr. Brooks A. Keel to be recognized  
2 by the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, when First District Agricultural & Mechanical School's inaugural academic  
4 year began in 1908, few could have foreseen a major American university growing out of  
5 four faculty members and 15 students; and

6 WHEREAS, over 100 years later, Georgia Southern University boasts more than 20,000  
7 students, 2,000 faculty and staff, and more than 100 programs of study at the bachelor's,  
8 master's, and doctoral levels; and

9 WHEREAS, located an hour outside of historical Savannah, Hilton Head Island, and the  
10 Atlantic coast, Georgia Southern's 900-plus acre campus is nestled in the classic Main Street  
11 community of Statesboro, Georgia, which is home to more than 70,000 residents; and

12 WHEREAS, Georgia Southern's current enrollment stands at 20,517 students, and for the  
13 third consecutive year has been recognized by *U.S. News and World Report* on its annual list  
14 of best online education programs, which included the graduate computer information  
15 technology, graduate education, graduate business, and online bachelor's programs; and

16 WHEREAS, Georgia Southern has been named a military-friendly school for the third year  
17 in a row by *Military Advanced Education* in its 2014 Guide to Military-Friendly Colleges and  
18 Universities; and

19 WHEREAS, the university's Fashion and Merchandising and Apparel Design program was  
20 named one of the top fashion merchandising schools in the United States by  
21 *fashion-schools.org* and was also ranked ninth on the list of Top 15 Fashion Schools in the  
22 South; and

23 WHEREAS, Georgia Southern's Master of Business Administration (MBA) program was  
24 ranked in the top ten as one of the nation's Top Online MBA programs by *M* magazine, the  
25 number one online MBA magazine for students;

26 WHEREAS, the university's College of Business Administration (COBA) was recognized  
27 as one of the best business schools for United States veterans by *Military Times*; and

28 WHEREAS, student-athletes earned top honors in the classroom this year, with a total of 175  
29 Georgia Southern University Eagles named to the Southern Conference's academic honor  
30 roll; a record high of 18 Eagles posted a 4.0 grade point average and 89 student-athletes  
31 earned the Commissioner's Medal for attaining a GPA of 3.5 or higher throughout the  
32 2012-2013 academic year; and

33 WHEREAS, Georgia Southern University's online Bachelor of Information Technology has  
34 been ranked as one of the top 20 "best buys" in the country by the education website,  
35 *geteducated.com*; and

36 WHEREAS, for the second year in a row, the university has been ranked one of the top ten  
37 most popular universities in the nation by *U.S. News and World Report*; Georgia Southern  
38 tied with Yale University for the number seven spot on the 2012 list; and

39 WHEREAS, Georgia Southern University has been named one of America's Best Colleges  
40 by *Forbes* magazine, whose rankings include the top 20 percent of colleges and universities  
41 based on the students' point of view; and

42 WHEREAS, Georgia Southern's College of Business Administration has been named one  
43 of the best business schools in the country by *The Princeton Review*; the publication  
44 recognized Georgia Southern in *The Best 294 Business Schools*; and

45 WHEREAS, the university's online Master of Science in computer science has been ranked  
46 as one of the top ten "best buys" in the country by the education website, *geteducated.com*,  
47 a consumer group that rates, ranks, and verifies the cost and credibility of online colleges and  
48 universities; and

49 WHEREAS, Georgia Southern's Master of Science in Nursing-Family Nurse Practitioner  
50 program has been ranked in the top 20 nationally by *U.S. News and World Report*; the

51 program has also secured top honors among all colleges and universities in Georgia, both  
52 public and private; and

53 WHEREAS, the School of Nursing itself is ranked in the top 80 nationally by *U.S. News and*  
54 *World Report's* Best Graduate Schools; and

55 WHEREAS, the Construction Management program at Georgia Southern is the largest of its  
56 kind in the state; and

57 WHEREAS, the ROTC Eagle Battalion (Military Science) at Georgia Southern is now the  
58 largest in the Southeastern United States at a nonmilitary university campus; and

59 WHEREAS, Georgia Southern University's ROTC program is a consecutive winner of the  
60 prestigious MacArthur Award, which is presented to the top eight ROTC programs in the  
61 country; and

62 WHEREAS, Dr. Brooks A. Keel became the 12th president of Georgia Southern University  
63 on January 1, 2010; and

64 WHEREAS, prior to joining Georgia Southern, Dr. Keel was the Vice Chancellor for  
65 Research and Economic Development and Professor of Biological Sciences at Louisiana  
66 State University; and

67 WHEREAS, Dr. Keel is a native of Georgia and received his Ph.D. in reproductive  
68 endocrinology from the Medical College of Georgia in 1982, and also served as the  
69 Associate Vice President for Research, Vice President of the Research Foundation, and  
70 Professor of Biological Sciences at Florida State University; and

71 WHEREAS, he was the first recipient of the Daniel K. Roberts Distinguished Professorship,  
72 an endowed chair in Obstetrics and Gynecology, in 1995; and

73 WHEREAS, Dr. Keel is a member of numerous professional organizations and societies,  
74 including the Society for Gynecologic Investigation, American Society for Reproductive  
75 Medicine, Society for the Study of Reproduction, and the Endocrine Society, and has  
76 authored 65 peer-reviewed scientific publications.

77 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
78 the members of this body commend Georgia Southern University on its many  
79 accomplishments and invite Dr. Brooks A. Keel to be recognized by the House of  
80 Representatives at a date and time to be determined by the Speaker of the House.

81 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
82 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to Georgia Southern University  
83 and Dr. Brooks A. Keel.