

Senate Resolution 396

By: Senators Gooch of the 51st, Echols of the 49th, Dolezal of the 27th and Ginn of the 47th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending President Bonita Jacobs of North Georgia College and State
2 University upon her retirement; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, President Bonita Jacobs serves as the 17th president of North Georgia College
4 and State University, the first female president of the university and the second woman to
5 lead one of the United States' six senior military colleges; and

6 WHEREAS, President Jacobs was the founder and first executive director of the National
7 Institute for the Study of Transfer Students, which is committed to improving the transfer
8 experience; and

9 WHEREAS, she has held various roles at higher education institutions across the Southeast,
10 including vice president for student development and tenured professor at the University of
11 North Texas, assistant vice chancellor and interim vice chancellor for student development
12 at Western Carolina University, and multiple student development positions at Stephen F.
13 Austin State University; and

14 WHEREAS, she oversaw the consolidation of North Georgia and Gainesville State College
15 to officially establish the University of North Georgia in 2013, which serves nearly 19,000

16 students with all degree levels and is nationally recognized for academic excellence and
17 value; and

18 WHEREAS, under her leadership, the university has become a national top-producer of
19 Fulbright students as well as students who have earned more than \$3.5 million in highly
20 competitive and prestigious national merit awards; and

21 WHEREAS, President Jacobs has overseen the University of North Georgia's Corps of
22 Cadets excel nationally and commission a record 125 cadets as second lieutenants in
23 2021-2022; and

24 WHEREAS, President Jacobs has expanded financial support and academic opportunities
25 for students, leading to an increase in external grants for research and raising \$14 million for
26 need and merit-based scholarships; and

27 WHEREAS, she has served on the Board of Trustees for the Georgia Council on Economic
28 Education, the BB&T Georgia Regional Advisory Board, the American Council on
29 Education National Task Force on the Transfer and Award of Credit, the American
30 Association of State Colleges and Universities Board of Directors, and the Peach Belt
31 Conference Board of Directors; and

32 WHEREAS, while serving as university president, she was recognized by *Georgia Trend*
33 *Magazine* as one of the "100 Most Influential Georgians" and by the *Atlanta Business*
34 *Chronicle* as one of the "Top Education Leaders in Atlanta" and "Women Who Mean
35 Business"; and

36 WHEREAS, President Jacobs has built upon the University of North Georgia's legacies of
37 scholarship, leadership, and services to ensure a bright future for the university and all its
38 students; and

39 WHEREAS, President Jacobs will officially retire from her role as university president on
40 June 30, 2023, concluding her years of valuable service in higher education spent enriching
41 the lives of Georgia's students and students across the nation.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
43 recognize and commend President Bonita Jacobs of North Georgia College and State
44 University for her efficient, effective, unselfish, and dedicated service; congratulate her upon
45 the grand occasion of her retirement; and extend the most sincere best wishes for continued
46 health and happiness.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
48 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to President Bonita
49 Jacobs.