

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1384

By Campbell

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Nashville State Community College on the occasion of its twentieth anniversary as a community college.

WHEREAS, since 1970, Nashville State Community College has been building bridges and changing lives for Metro Nashville and Middle Tennessee residents to learn and train in industries with long-term career fields; and

WHEREAS, when the first campus of what would become Nashville State Community College was opened on White Bridge Pike in West Nashville, the institution served 398 students and offered five associate degree programs; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, a Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce taskforce recommended establishing a community college to serve all of Nashville/Davidson County to meet the increasing needs of a well-trained workforce; and

WHEREAS, due to the dedication of supporters such as Francis Guess, Judge Richard Dinkins, Nancy Eisenbrandt, Darrell Freeman, Mike Rollins, Randy Rayburn, Tennessee Board of Regents member Bobby Thomas, State Senator Douglas Henry, and countless others, Public Chapter 618 of the 102<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly was enacted on April 29, 2002, making Nashville State a community college as of July 1, 2002; and

WHEREAS, for the last twenty years as a community college, Nashville State has been dedicated to making higher education accessible and affordable to students throughout its service area in their pursuit of economic success through associate degree and technical education programs and the advancement and transfer to baccalaureate degree programs; and

WHEREAS, the mission change to a community college led to opening the Southeast campus in Antioch in 2005, the Dickson campus in the Renaissance Center in 2009, the

Clarksville campus in 2012, and the East Davidson campus in Donelson in 2017, expanding access to postsecondary education for thousands of students; and

WHEREAS, in April 2022, the North Davidson campus will open in the Madison/Rivergate area; and

WHEREAS, Nashville State Community College offers more than eighty degrees and certificates for in-demand fields, such as accounting, business management, nursing, and information technology; and

WHEREAS, Nashville State Community College has the most diverse student population and more nontraditional adult learners than any other community college in Tennessee; it serves some 6,700 students, of which 948 are dual enrollment, 1,161 are Tennessee Promise students, and 1,175 are Tennessee Reconnect students, according to Fall 2021 enrollment reports; and

WHEREAS, Nashville State Community College offers classes online, virtually, in hybrid format, and on seven campuses serving seven counties: Cheatham, Davidson, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, Montgomery, and Stewart; and

WHEREAS, Nashville State Community College annually provides thousands of Tennesseans with a traditional college experience through programming and activities. To name a few examples, Nashville State has a nationally recognized award-winning band in the blues, pop, and rock category, and its Kung Fu Society has produced national champions; and

WHEREAS, Nashville State Community College has taken a holistic community approach to education, where it not only focuses on current students. Nashville State has a vested interest in K-12 students and adults looking for career changes; and

WHEREAS, Nashville State Community College established articulation agreements with traditional public and private four-year institutions for students looking to continue their education beyond the associate degree level; and

WHEREAS, Nashville State Community College continues to develop relationships and establish official agreements with business industry leaders that will offer students hands-on experience and networking opportunities, while creating a workforce talent pipeline; and

WHEREAS, Nashville State Community College is committed to providing exceptional educational instruction for students and making sure high-level talent for Middle Tennessee's diversifying workforce is available; and

WHEREAS, Nashville State Community College has embarked on an ambitious plan to become a Student-Ready College to continuously identify and remove barriers to student success while increasing access, completion, and post-completion success; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the faculty, staff, students, alumni, and supporters of Nashville State Community College for their commitment to higher education, congratulate them upon their twentieth anniversary, and extend our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.