

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 207

By Williams

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A RESOLUTION to honor Patricia Roark, RN, on her selection as Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year for the Tennessee Technology Centers.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize and salute an esteemed individual who has devoted her career to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, such a distinguished individual is Patricia Roark, RN, Director of the Tech Foundations Lab at the Tennessee Technology Center at Elizabethton, and the 2009 Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year for the twenty-seven Tennessee Technology Centers across the great State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as an educator and nurse, Ms. Roark was presented the award in Chattanooga on March 11, 2009, at the national meeting of the American Technical Education Association; and

WHEREAS, in presenting the award, Mr. Tom Hall, former Vice Chancellor for Technology Centers of the Tennessee Board of Regents, rightfully praised Ms. Roark for her numerous innovative approaches to education, her high expectations for her students, and her diligent assistance in helping them meet, and ultimately exceed, those expectations; and

WHEREAS, a Registered Nurse, Patricia Roark holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree and has served as a staff nurse at Veterans Affairs Medical Center and as Head Nurse at Carter County Memorial Hospital prior to joining the faculty of the Tennessee Technology Center at Elizabethton in 1989; and

WHEREAS, serving as an instructor in the Practical Nursing program from 1989-1997, Ms. Roark quickly earned the respectful admiration of both her colleagues and students for her

steadfast commitment to helping her students attain the knowledge and skills necessary to provide quality nursing care; and

WHEREAS, Patricia Roark's vision and admirable work ethic sparked her efforts to establish new innovations in education coursework and training delivery, resulting in online courses and professional training programs reaching students not only in Tennessee but across the nation; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Roark has developed an online Dietary Manager training program, in conjunction with the Dietary Managers Association, which has now produced more than 150 graduates in thirty states as well as a partnership with Ivy Tech Community College System in Indiana to offer the training program to their students; and

WHEREAS, she has developed online courses in Dementia Care and Dosage Calculations for Nurses that are offered as online curriculum by the Tennessee Board of Regents, and an online food safety course for those employed in the food service industry; and

WHEREAS, Patricia Roark established a Nurse Assistant Training Program, which is offered every nine weeks, to prepare graduates for the state exam to become a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA). In 2008, there were 192 graduates of the 135-hour CNA program at the Tennessee Technology Center at Elizabethton; and

WHEREAS, reaching out to assist students at Elizabethton High School, Ms. Roark developed a "credit recovery" program to allow students to earn academic credits needed to graduate with their peers. She has also created an "after school" CNA program for high school students; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of the nursing profession, Patricia Roark serves as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Nursing Assistant State Testing and Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society; and

WHEREAS, recognized and appreciated for her expertise, integrity, and insight, Ms. Roark served with distinction during a term as the faculty representative on the Tennessee Board of Regents; and

WHEREAS, devoted to her family, Patricia Roark is the proud mother of two exemplary young men: Matt, who is completing law school, and Lucas, a pre-law student at East Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, Patricia Roark epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; her dedication to her profession, her students, and the good people of Tennessee is unparalleled; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Patricia Roark, RN, for her meritorious service to the State of Tennessee as a nursing professional, educator, and public servant, and applaud her selection as Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year for the Tennessee Technology Centers as we extend to her 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.