

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 571

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to honor the faculty, staff, and administration of Pellissippi State Community College on the College's fortieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly should specially honor those educational institutions that through their abiding commitment to the citizens of Tennessee are a credit to their communities and this State; and

WHEREAS, Pellissippi State Community College is one such estimable institution, and this year is celebrating its fortieth anniversary; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, by act of the Tennessee General Assembly, State Technical Institute of Knoxville was founded as a technical institution in Knoxville, with forty-five students, twelve faculty and staff members, and three associate's degree programs, all in engineering technology; and

WHEREAS, the new institution provided customized training programs for business and industry to prepare students to be technicians and paraprofessionals in engineering and scientific vocations; and

WHEREAS, the institution experienced steady growth in the 1970s, adding business technology programs to its original core of engineering technology programs; and

WHEREAS, from a humble beginning, on July 1, 1983, State Tech became a member of the State University and Community College System of Tennessee, thereby transferring governance of the school from the State Board of Education to the Tennessee Board of Regents; and

WHEREAS, in October 1986, State Tech, having outgrown its facilities, moved to a new campus, a 144-acre site on Hardin Valley Road off the Pellissippi Parkway in West Knox County; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, the Tennessee General Assembly approved the expansion of the technical institute's mission to include college transfer programs, accompanied by a name change to Pellissippi State Technical Community College, and the mission to serve the citizens of Knox and Blount counties; and

WHEREAS, Blount County donated the former Bungalow Elementary School in 1991 as a new home for the Blount County campus, which moved in the fall of 2010 to a newly constructed state-of-the-art facility on property purchased in the Friendsville community; and

WHEREAS, Pellissippi State's growth and expansion continued, and in 1995 two major capital projects were completed: the Educational Resources Center, which housed the library and computer labs, and the 500-seat Performing Arts Center; and

WHEREAS, always on the cutting edge of technology, in 1998, Pellissippi State opened its "Classroom of the Future," to prepare displaced workers for the job market through the Workforce Innovation Project; and

WHEREAS, Pellissippi State's Magnolia Avenue Campus opened its doors to students in the fall of 2000 to provide educational opportunities to South and East Knox County residents and housed the Heart of Knoxville Career and Resource Center, a one-stop facility for career services; and

WHEREAS, Pellissippi State was chosen in 2005 as one of ten founding institutions to participate in the national Foundations of Excellence program, with the goal of improving the percentage of first-year students completing their educations; and

WHEREAS, with community and state support, Pellissippi State began offering classes in 2007 in the newly constructed Art and Media Technologies building to meet the needs of area media-related businesses; and

WHEREAS, in 2009 the General Assembly voted to shorten the institution's name to Pellissippi State Community College; and

WHEREAS, the College has experienced enrollment growth, in part due to increased transfer partnerships with the University of Tennessee and other four-year institutions, culminating in an all-time-high enrollment of 11,049 in the fall of 2010; and

WHEREAS, Pellissippi State awarded 1,262 associate's degrees in the 2012-2013 school year, more than any other two-year college in the state, and 935 certificates, the second highest in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, as a strong supporter of international education opportunities, Pellissippi State led two-year colleges nationwide in the number of students who studied abroad during the 2010-2011 academic year; and

WHEREAS, in the fall of 2012, Pellissippi State further expanded its offerings in East Knox County by opening the Strawberry Plains Campus, which also will house the Knox County Schools Career Magnet Academy; and

WHEREAS, Pellissippi State continues to support and develop career-path associate degrees, associate degrees for transfer to four-year institutions, certificates, and continuing education and dual enrollment opportunities for the citizens of Knox, Blount, and surrounding counties; and

WHEREAS, in partnership with the community, the College sustains the effort toward an ever-improving quality of life for residents of East Tennessee and continues to achieve success, one story at a time; and

WHEREAS, for 40 years this dynamic institution of higher education has followed a path of steady advances in the quality of its programs; excellence of its faculty, staff, and facilities; and commitment to the provision of the best educational opportunities to its student body; this outstanding record is clearly worthy of our praise and approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we pause in our deliberations to offer our heartiest congratulations to the faculty, staff, and administration of Pellissippi State Community College on the occasion of the

College's 40th anniversary, and express our profound appreciation for their commitment to excellence in education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an appropriate copy of the resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.