

1       HR319  
2       160005-1  
3       By Representatives Shedd, Standridge, Buttram and Henry  
4       RFD:  
5       First Read: 13-MAR-14

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8 HONORING WALLACE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DURING  
9 COMMUNITY COLLEGE MONTH.  
10

11 WHEREAS, Wallace State Community College in  
12 Hanceville, Alabama, has been ranked among the top 120  
13 community colleges in the U.S. by the Aspen Institute for two  
14 consecutive years; and

15 WHEREAS, Wallace State is ranked No. 20 in the U.S.  
16 in the number of associate degree health care graduates  
17 produced by community colleges in the United States, and No.  
18 32 among all community colleges and universities according to  
19 Community College Week; and

20 WHEREAS, Wallace State has been ranked the first  
21 choice among community colleges for students taking the ACT;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, the Wallace State Licensed Practical  
24 Nursing Program was ranked the No. 1 program in the state by  
25 Practical Nursing.org; and

26 WHEREAS, the College is celebrating the opening of a  
27 new 115,000 square foot state-of-the-art School of Nursing and

1 Center for Science this spring, which provides a hospital-like  
2 setting for collaborative, cross disciplinary and  
3 simulation-based learning; and

4 WHEREAS, Wallace State is ranked No. 2 in the South  
5 for Workforce Development training by Southern Business and  
6 Development Magazine; and

7 WHEREAS, Wallace State was selected as a member of  
8 the prestigious Achieving the Dream national reform network,  
9 focused on student success, and has undertaken such  
10 initiatives as Learning Communities, the Common Read, and Arts  
11 in April series of cultural events which contribute to this  
12 effort; and

13 WHEREAS, Wallace State was one of 10 community  
14 colleges in the U.S. to be chosen to participate in the  
15 American Association of Colleges and Universities Roadmap  
16 Project for its leadership related to student outcomes; and

17 WHEREAS, Wallace State developed a national model  
18 Fast Track Academy, a dual enrollment program for high school  
19 students who attend all classes on Wallace State's campus, and  
20 this program has been so successful that the College has  
21 opened a second Fast Track Academy location at J.B. Pennington  
22 High School in Blount County; and

23 WHEREAS, the College also maintains vibrant  
24 traditional dual enrollment and early college enrollment  
25 programs maintaining its commitment to help students Start  
26 Early, Start Right, Finish, and Succeed; and

1           WHEREAS, Wallace State aggressively pursues new  
2 programs and partnerships that create efficiencies for  
3 students, such as a new Poultry Science partnership with  
4 Auburn University, and a new Joint Admission agreement with  
5 UAB, and special articulation agreements with The University  
6 of Alabama for Nursing, Faulkner University for Criminal  
7 Justice, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University for aviation,  
8 and an Athens State University Center location on campus, in  
9 addition to its participation in the STARS statewide  
10 articulation agreement; and

11           WHEREAS, Wallace State's connection with local  
12 businesses and industries has resulted in the transformation  
13 of its Drafting and Design program to a new Engineering  
14 Technology degree, as well as the addition of an Associate in  
15 Applied Science degree in General Technology that provides an  
16 additional pathway for students in certificate programs in  
17 Agriculture/Horticulture, Automotive Service Technology,  
18 Collision Repair, Diesel Mechanics, HVAC/R and Welding to earn  
19 an Associate Degree; and

20           WHEREAS, Wallace State has introduced new fully  
21 online Associate in Science and Associate in Arts programs, as  
22 well as online Associate in Applied Science degrees in Health  
23 Information Technology, Computer Science, and Business  
24 Administration to address student demand for learning without  
25 boundaries; and

26           WHEREAS, Wallace State developed one of the state's  
27 first Advanced Visualization Centers with capabilities for

1 training in virtual reality, providing 3-D and 4-D content for  
2 classes online, on campus, and for industry training; and

3 WHEREAS, Wallace State introduced a national model  
4 "success coaching" program that provides free one-on-one  
5 coaching to first-time fulltime students in eligible programs  
6 for improved retention as well as providing college credit  
7 through prior learning assessments; and

8 WHEREAS, Wallace State's new Lion Central One-Stop  
9 Center for Student enrollment and advising is providing  
10 enhanced services to new and existing students to ensure  
11 greater ease of accessibility to higher education for our  
12 state's citizens; and

13 WHEREAS, the College's Ottis and Evelyn Burrow  
14 Center for the Fine and Performing Arts is a regional center  
15 for the cultural arts, and The Evelyn Burrow Museum for the  
16 Fine and Decorative Arts within showcases a multi-million  
17 dollar art collection donated to the college by Evelyn Burrow  
18 and features regular visiting exhibitions; and

19 WHEREAS, Wallace State offers international  
20 educational opportunities to students and community members  
21 annually, instilling in citizens a global literacy necessary  
22 for our increasingly interconnected world; and

23 WHEREAS, Wallace State's business incubator program  
24 launched ZeroRPM that was heralded by Governor Robert Bentley  
25 as one of the most innovative new industries in the state; and

26 WHEREAS, Wallace State has established itself as a  
27 Clean Air campus, and has added sidewalks for walking and

1 bicycling trails as well as recycling in an effort to promote  
2 healthy living and a holistic approach to serving students;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Wallace State's nationally recognized  
5 athletic programs have produced a two-time and reigning  
6 national champion softball team, 2013 national champion golfer  
7 Askel Olsen, national champion cheerleading team and numerous  
8 professional athletes, including Craig Kimbrel, All-Star  
9 closer for the Atlanta Braves; Derek Holland, starting pitcher  
10 for the Texas Rangers; and Jake Elmore, second baseman with  
11 the Chicago White Sox; and PGA golfers Fredrik Jacobsen and  
12 former Ryder Cup team member Brett Wetterich; and

13 WHEREAS, other notable alumni from Wallace State  
14 industry include country music star Kip Moore; Jimi Westbrook,  
15 singer with Little Big Town; NASA rocket scientist Mary  
16 Hovater; Jason Simpson, WHNT 19 chief meteorologist, Dr. Lance  
17 Nail, Dean of the School of Business, Texas Tech University,  
18 among others; and

19 WHEREAS, Wallace State annually returns \$9.20 to the  
20 state's economy for every \$1 in state appropriations; and

21 WHEREAS, Wallace State's programs average  
22 outstanding licensure and job placement rates with some  
23 programs, including HVAC, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Diesel  
24 Mechanics, Drafting and Design Technology, Flight Technology,  
25 Machine Tool Technology, Welding, Health Information  
26 Technology, Licensed Practical Nursing, Polysomnography,  
27 Occupational Therapy Assistant, Clinical Lab Technician, and

1 Therapeutic Massage programs reporting a 100 percent pass rate  
2 on state licensure exams; and

3 WHEREAS, Wallace State is a comprehensive community  
4 college, providing associate degrees, certificates, and  
5 transfer opportunities in more than 100 program areas with  
6 retention and graduation rates that exceed state and national  
7 averages; and

8 WHEREAS, the College also provides training for  
9 business and industry, offers continuing and professional  
10 education classes, and provides free adult education classes,  
11 graduating hundreds of adult education students who have  
12 earned the GED annually; and

13 WHEREAS, Wallace State's tradition of outstanding  
14 student success results from a commitment to excellence in  
15 teaching and learning, student-centered services and  
16 activities, and a supportive faculty and staff who provide a  
17 challenging and engaging atmosphere for students to achieve  
18 their goals; now therefore,

19 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
20 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Wallace State is commended  
21 for providing world class education opportunities that  
22 transform lives and communities, and is hereby honored during  
23 Community College Month this April 2014.