

1 HR203
2 176443-2
3 By Representative Poole
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 05-APR-16

8 RECOGNIZING APRIL AS NATIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
9 MONTH.

10
11 WHEREAS, Alabama's public community college system
12 is the state's single largest system of public higher
13 education and is Alabama's most affordable and accessible
14 system of higher education; and

15 WHEREAS, the three foundational pillars of the
16 Alabama Community College System: academic transfer, workforce
17 development, and adult education, enable the system to make a
18 positive impact on the more than 185,000 people served
19 annually and the people of our great state; and

20 WHEREAS, with a unified network of 25 community and
21 technical colleges, Marion Military Institute (one of only
22 three public military two-year colleges in the country), and
23 89 instructional sites, the Community College System is firmly
24 planted in every county and easily accessible to every
25 community within this state; additionally, the Alabama

1 Technology Network provides innovative technical assistance to
2 hundreds of businesses each year; and

3 WHEREAS, forty-one percent of all Alabamians
4 enrolled in public higher education are enrolled at an ACCS
5 institution, and approximately 14,650 community college
6 degrees and certificates are awarded annually; and

7 WHEREAS, more than 254,000 students in Alabama's
8 community colleges have utilized the Statewide Articulation
9 and Transfer Reporting System to assure the transfer of their
10 academic work toward bachelor's degrees at four-year
11 institutions since the articulation agreement's inception in
12 1998; and

13 WHEREAS, the Alabama Community College System
14 enrolled more than 13,200 high school students in its dual
15 enrollment programs in 2015, providing high achieving students
16 with rigorous courses beyond those offered at the secondary
17 level, increasing college access to those who would not
18 otherwise be college bound, and awarding 5,365 scholarships
19 during the past academic year to students enrolled in ACCS
20 career technical education courses, preparing them for high
21 wage, high demand occupations; and

22 WHEREAS, the Alabama Technology Network has worked
23 with more than 3,500 Alabama companies over the past decade,
24 providing technical assistance that improved efficiency and
25 profitability, ATN's work is credited with saving or retaining
26 14,000 jobs during that period; Alabama businesses, with the

1 help of ATN, increased and retained sales by more than
2 \$267,000,000 during 2015; and

3 WHEREAS, more than 600,000 working-age adults have
4 neither a high school diploma or a GED; the Alabama Community
5 College System awarded more than 2,000 GED Certificates and
6 served more than 27,000 individuals through its adult literacy
7 education programs and services in 2015; and

8 WHEREAS, the community college system remains
9 committed to its mission of educating and training the people
10 of Alabama, thus building stronger communities and a stronger
11 economy; now therefore,

12 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
13 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we hereby recognize the
14 accomplishments of Alabama's public community college system
15 as it continues to fulfill its unique and distinctive mission
16 of providing a unified system of institutions delivering
17 accessible, affordable, and superior educational
18 opportunities, and workforce training and services to all of
19 Alabama, yielding a well-educated, productive citizenry and a
20 better prepared workforce.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we hereby recognize and
22 proclaim April as National Community College Month in Alabama
23 and urge all Alabamians and business and industry leaders, who
24 are committed to developing Alabama's workforce for the 21st
25 Century, to use and support their local community colleges.