

House Resolution 416

By: Representatives Houston of the 170th and Pirkle of the 169th

A RESOLUTION

1 Celebrating Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College's 115th anniversary; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) was instituted when the
4 Georgia General Assembly enacted Public Law 448 on August 18, 1906, establishing a
5 state-run Agricultural and Mechanical School in each of Georgia's 12 congressional districts;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, on November 23, 1906, Tift County sent 30 delegates to Albany to bid to
8 become the site for the Second District A&M School, and, led by the determined effort of
9 Mr. Henry H. Tift, Tifton outbid Camilla, Pelham, Ashburn, and Albany; and

10 WHEREAS, the Second District A&M School opened its doors for classes on February 20,
11 1908; with three instructors; 27 students; and three buildings, Tift Hall, Lewis Hall, and
12 Herring Hall, which still stand today on the front of the campus; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1924, its name was changed to the South Georgia A&M College, and in
14 1929, its name changed again, this time to the Georgia State College for Men, making it the
15 first senior college for men in South Georgia; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1933, it was renamed Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in honor of a
17 Georgia signer of the Constitution and the first president of the University of Georgia; and

18 WHEREAS, since 1908, the college has expanded to include over 700 acres with campuses
19 in Tifton and Bainbridge; and

20 WHEREAS, the Tifton campus includes the J. G. Woodruff Farm, Forest Lakes Golf Club,
21 Langdale Teaching Forest, Georgia Museum of Agriculture, and Beef Unit, where students
22 apply firsthand concepts learned in the classroom; and

23 WHEREAS, this expansion has allowed the college to serve almost 4,000 students from
24 nearly all the counties in Georgia, 17 states, and 26 countries; and

25 WHEREAS, today, ABAC bears witness to its roots of a strong commitment to rural Georgia
26 by being the state's Official Agricultural State College and adding \$429 million to the
27 Georgia economy; and

28 WHEREAS, this designation has allowed ABAC to offer 14 different bachelor's degrees in
29 addition to traditional associate degrees; and

30 WHEREAS, the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources is still the largest school of
31 study with over 1,400 students seeking to be leaders in Georgia's number one industry; and

32 WHEREAS, ABAC has embraced Georgia's need for health care professionals for more than
33 50 years by producing quality nursing, medical, and dentistry students for service in
34 Georgia's health care field; and

35 WHEREAS, the Stafford School of Business is working to solve the unique challenges of
36 growing the economies of our rural communities; and

37 WHEREAS, the School of Arts and Sciences serves every student by providing a strong
38 foundation for their college career with classes in the sciences, math, social sciences, and
39 humanities; and

40 WHEREAS, the intercollegiate sports program at ABAC is one of the best in this state,
41 fielding teams in softball, baseball, tennis, cross country, women's soccer, and men's golf;
42 and

43 WHEREAS, Dr. Tracy Brundage was welcomed to campus in 2022 as its 11th and first
44 female president; and

45 WHEREAS, ABAC is proud of its more than 50,000 active alumni who live in every state
46 of this country as well as in 20 foreign countries; and

47 WHEREAS, many have served this great state, including George T. Smith, the only man in
48 the history of Georgia to be elected to all three branches of state government; Cathy Cox, the
49 first woman elected to be Secretary of State; James "Jimmy" Earl Carter Jr., 39th President
50 of the United States and member of the Georgia State Senate; George Busbee, the first
51 Governor elected to two consecutive four-year terms and member of the Georgia House of
52 Representatives; Justice John Ellington of the Supreme Court of Georgia; Agricultural
53 Commissioner Tyler Harper; and countless other members of the General Assembly; and

54 WHEREAS, the faculty, staff, and alumni look forward to continuing the mission of ABAC
55 to prepare graduates for life through engaging, teaching, coaching, mentoring, and providing
56 lasting experiences.

57 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
58 the members of this body join in the celebration of the 115th anniversary of Abraham
59 Baldwin Agricultural College, congratulate it on its past accomplishments, and look forward
60 to its continued success and achievement.

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
62 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
63 Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.