

Senate Resolution 284

By: Senators Sims of the 12th and Davenport of the 44th

### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Albany State University upon its 120th anniversary; and for  
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Albany State University was originally established as the Albany Bible and  
4 Manual Training Institute in 1903 by Dr. Joseph Winthrop Holley with the mission to  
5 provide religious and manual training for the African American youths of Southwest  
6 Georgia; and

7 WHEREAS, the institution became a state-supported two-year college with a Board of  
8 Trustees and its name was changed to Georgia Normal and Agricultural College with the  
9 primary purpose of training of elementary teachers; and

10 WHEREAS, in 1932, the Board of Regents was established and the institution became a part  
11 of the newly established University System of Georgia; and

12 WHEREAS, the college was granted four-year status, its mission was expanded, and its name  
13 was changed to Albany State College in 1943; and

14 WHEREAS, Albany State College was granted university status in July 1996 and became  
15 known as Albany State University; and

16 WHEREAS, on November 10, 2015, the Board of Regents of the University System of  
17 Georgia voted unanimously to begin the process of consolidating Albany State University  
18 and Darton State College; and

19 WHEREAS, the newly established university retains the name Albany State University and  
20 unifies the distinction, values, and missions of the two institutions; and

21 WHEREAS, as one of Georgia's diverse educational gems, Albany State University  
22 continues a combined legacy of more than 100 years of excellence in preparing students to  
23 be effective contributors to a globally diverse society where knowledge and technology  
24 create opportunities for personal and professional success; and

25 WHEREAS, the university has been guided over the past century by the stellar leadership  
26 of presidents Joseph Winthrop Holley, D.D., LL.D. (1903-1943); Aaron Brown, Ph.D.,  
27 LL.D., Ed.D. (1943-1954); William H. Dennis, LL.D. (1954-1965); Thomas Miller Jenkins,  
28 J.D., LL.D. (1965-1969); Charles L. Hayes, Ed.D. (1969-1980); Billy C. Black, Ph.D.  
29 (1980-1996); Portia Holmes Shields, Ph.D. (1996-2005); Everette J. Freeman, Ed.D.  
30 (2005-2013); Arthur N. Dunning, Ph.D. (2013-2018); and Marion Ross Fedrick, Ed.D.  
31 (2018-present); and

32 WHEREAS, Albany State University is a progressive institution that seeks to foster the  
33 growth and development of the region, state, and nation through teaching, research, creative  
34 expression, and public service; and

35 WHEREAS, Albany State University embraces the concept of "students first" as a core  
36 institutional value, fosters global learning, employs a work based paradigm, and is committed  
37 to "education on a personal level" with special emphasis on the underserved while continuing  
38 to serve the educational needs of an increasingly diverse student population; and

39 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this outstanding academic institution be  
40 appropriately honored during this special time.

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
42 recognize and commend Albany State University upon the grand occasion of its 120th  
43 anniversary and extend best wishes for continued success.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
45 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Albany State  
46 University.