

Senate Resolution 539

By: Senators Davenport of the 44th, Jones II of the 22nd, Seay of the 34th, Butler of the 55th, Williams of the 39th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Clayton State University upon the grand occasion of its 50th anniversary and
2 recognizing January 14, 2020, as Clayton State University Day at the state capitol; and for
3 other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, in 1966, the citizens of Clayton County provided \$4.9 million in funds to build
5 the new campus, marking the beginning of a partnership between local governments and the
6 university that currently produces an annual economic impact of more than \$283 million; and

7 WHEREAS, in September 1969, Clayton Junior College opened its doors to 942 students,
8 and as of September 2019, it has more than 7,000 students, over 70 percent of which are from
9 south of I-20 with 115 counties represented; and

10 WHEREAS, Clayton State University has evolved from a junior college to a state university,
11 offering more than 40 undergraduate and eight graduate programs through its four colleges:
12 arts and sciences, business, health and information, and mathematical sciences; and

13 WHEREAS, the university's Center for Continuing and Professional Education has educated
14 more than 11,000 students in the last five years through professional certificate programs and
15 courses for those that seek to advance their careers; and

16 WHEREAS, the university's learning centers in Henry and Fayette counties have expanded
17 access to higher education and career readiness to hundreds of dual-enrolled high school
18 students each year, many graduating with their associate degrees; and

19 WHEREAS, the Film and Digital Media Center at the Clayton State University Lucy Huie
20 Hall Film Studio is fulfilling the goals of the High Demand Career Initiative program through
21 the training and development of below-the-line technicians for Georgia's \$2.9 billion film
22 and television production industry; and

23 WHEREAS, graduates of Clayton State University play an essential role in the economics
24 of the south metropolitan area, especially in the healthcare, supply chain management, film
25 production, business management, computer science, cybersecurity, and strategic leadership
26 industries; and

27 WHEREAS, the university now partners with more than 2,500 private, nonprofit, and
28 government entities throughout the region to make dreams real by providing scholarships,
29 internships, and employment opportunities to students; and

30 WHEREAS, Clayton State University raised more than \$15 million during its first
31 comprehensive campaign, Greater In Mind, a four-year effort to offer greater financial
32 support to students who may otherwise not be able to complete their degree without some
33 form of financial aid; and

34 WHEREAS, the support of the legislature combined with the support of donors and business
35 partners has enabled Clayton State University to perform effectively and produce substantial
36 economic growth; and

37 WHEREAS, Clayton State University is ranked third among state universities for its
38 economic impact and fifth overall among public regional colleges in the south by US News
39 and World Report; *James Magazine* designated Clayton State University as the 2nd Best
40 Value Public University in Georgia; and

41 WHEREAS, the success of Clayton State University is due to the implementation of strategic
42 plans that emphasize student success through career-based learning, leadership opportunities,
43 community engagement, and the recognition that those achievements are possible through
44 shared values of excellence, integrity, innovation, transparency, and collegiality.

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
46 commend Clayton State University upon the grand occasion of its 50th anniversary and
47 recognize January 14, 2020, as Clayton State University Day at the state capitol.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
49 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to President Thomas
50 J. Hynes; Dr. Kevin Demmitt, provost and vice president of academic affairs; Dr. Shakeer
51 Abdullah, vice president of student affairs; Reginald Turner, executive director of continuing

52 and professional education; and Ms. Danielle Eubanks, president of the Student Government
53 Association.