

## Senate Resolution 689

By: Senators Jones II of the 22nd, Burns of the 23rd, Anderson of the 24th, Watson of the 1st and Orrock of the 36th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Brooks A. Keel, PhD, for his dedicated service to advancing  
2 higher education in the State of Georgia, the University System of Georgia, Georgia  
3 Southern University, and Augusta University; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Brooks A. Keel, PhD, is a native son of the State of Georgia, born and raised  
5 in Augusta, and a distinguished member of the Augusta community; and

6 WHEREAS, he attended and graduated from both of Augusta University's legacy  
7 institutions, earning a bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry from Augusta College in  
8 1978 and a doctorate in reproductive endocrinology from the Medical College of Georgia in  
9 1982; and

10 WHEREAS, following graduation, he rose to the standing of an internationally recognized  
11 expert in reproductive medicine, serving as a member of the Society for the Study of  
12 Reproduction, the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, and the Society for  
13 Gynecologic Investigation, among others; and

14 WHEREAS, he served on numerous boards, including the American Board of Bioanalysis,  
15 the American Association of Bioanalysts as both president and chair, the Oak Ridge

16 Associated Universities, the Southeastern Universities Research Association, and the  
17 Executive Committee of the Council on Research Policy and Graduate Education of APLU;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, as a basic science and clinical researcher, he served as principal investigator or  
20 co-principal investigator on externally funded grants and contracts totaling more than \$26  
21 million; and

22 WHEREAS, he is the author of 65 peer-reviewed scientific publications, 78 peer-reviewed  
23 abstracts, and 19 book chapters and has edited four books in the areas of reproductive  
24 medicine and biology; and

25 WHEREAS, he worked for 20 years as a professor and researcher before moving into  
26 administration; and

27 WHEREAS, while serving as president of Georgia Southern University (GSU) in Statesboro,  
28 he focused on expanding undergraduate and graduate education through research and  
29 community experience; and

30 WHEREAS, under his leadership, GSU launched the Allen E. Paulson College of  
31 Engineering and Information Technology and the Institute for Interdisciplinary STEM  
32 Education; and

33 WHEREAS, during his tenure at Augusta University, it has expanded its academic offerings  
34 and campus infrastructure through the founding of the School of Computer and Cyber  
35 Sciences, the School of Public Health, Augusta University Online, the Transdisciplinary  
36 Research Initiative in Inflammaging and Brain Aging, the Immunology Center of Georgia,

37 the four-year Medical College of Georgia Partnership Campus in Savannah, a new College  
38 of Science and Mathematics building, two on-campus residence halls, and a major expansion  
39 of research laboratory space in the M. Bert Storey Cancer Research Building; and

40 WHEREAS, under his leadership, Augusta University's Medical College of Georgia created  
41 the 3+ Primary Care Pathway Program to guide more medical students toward primary care  
42 careers in Georgia to improve the health of all Georgians, particularly those in rural and other  
43 underserved areas; and

44 WHEREAS, during his tenure, the Medical College of Georgia, Dental College of Georgia,  
45 and the College of Nursing have created partnerships to expand education outreach  
46 throughout the state to meet the critical health care needs of rural and other underserved areas  
47 as well as the evolving educational needs and professional career imperatives of health care  
48 students; and

49 WHEREAS, under his leadership, Augusta University increased enrollment by more than 27  
50 percent, increased National Institutes of Health funding by 37 percent, and increased Augusta  
51 University's economic impact on the state by 48 percent; and

52 WHEREAS, under his leadership, Augusta University is today the only university in the  
53 country that has more than \$50 million in annual NIH funding while also being part of the  
54 United States Cyber Command's Academic Engagement Network and in the top 5 percent  
55 of universities that improve economic outcomes for students with low- and moderate-income  
56 backgrounds; and

57 WHEREAS, he has been named to Georgia Trend's list of 100 Most Influential Georgians  
58 for 10 consecutive years; and

59 WHEREAS, he is highly respected amongst his peers as a tireless advocate for ensuring all  
60 Georgians have access to a quality education and world-class health care; and

61 WHEREAS, it is abundantly proper and fitting that the accomplishments of this remarkable  
62 and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized on the occasion of his retirement.

63 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
64 commend Brooks A. Keel, PhD, for his dedicated service to the University System of  
65 Georgia, higher education, and health care in the State of Georgia and beyond as well as  
66 Georgia Southern University and Augusta University, without which students would not have  
67 access to quality education and research would not have been conducted and health care  
68 access would not have expanded as broadly across the state.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
70 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Brooks A. Keel,  
71 PhD.