

## Senate Resolution 748

By: Senators Harper of the 7th, Anderson of the 24th, Summers of the 13th, Mullis of the 53rd, Burns of the 23rd and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Dr. David Bridges; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia recognizes and strongly commends the incredible service,  
3 dedication, and career of Dr. David Bridges upon his retirement as President of Abraham  
4 Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC); and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Bridges' 16 year governance of ABAC has made him the longest-serving  
6 president in the school's history and at present the longest-serving president of all 26  
7 presidents in the University System of Georgia; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Bridges earned his degree from ABAC in 1978, making him the first  
9 alumnus to serve as President of the prestigious institution. During his time as a student, Dr.  
10 Bridges met his wife, Kim, in Rosalyn Donaldson's English class; to this day, Dr. Bridges  
11 looks fondly at every graduation ceremony knowing ABAC students have received a  
12 life-changing education; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Bridges' Presidency began on July 1, 2006 and his tenure has led ABAC to  
14 new heights by introducing bachelor degree programs starting in 2008, overseeing and  
15 coordinating the consolidation of Bainbridge State College into ABAC in 2017, and guiding

16 over \$100 million in capital projects around campus. Bridges' impact has allowed enrollment  
17 records to be shattered and made ABAC the leading producer of agricultural education  
18 graduates over every college and university east of the Mississippi River; and

19 WHEREAS, to secure funding for the large-scale renovations and construction to occur on  
20 campus, Dr. Bridges spent five years passionately lobbying during the Legislative Session  
21 to ensure his school received the funding it needed for the Historic Front of Campus Project,  
22 showing Dr. Bridges' tenacity and dedication to improving ABAC; and

23 WHEREAS, notable projects across campus during Bridges' Presidency include the Health  
24 Sciences building at \$7.2 million, ABAC Lakeside at \$17 million, Historic Front of Campus  
25 at \$15.5 million, King Hall at \$2.7 million, Donaldson Dining Hall at \$4 million, Thrash  
26 Wellness Center at \$4.5 million, the Laboratory Sciences building at \$7.2 million, the  
27 Carlton Center/Edwards Hall project at \$24 million, and the Agricultural Facilities project  
28 at \$14.4 million; and

29 WHEREAS, Dr. Bridges also coordinated the addition of the Georgia Museum of  
30 Agriculture into ABAC's campus and doubled the ABAC Foundation's net assets; and

31 WHEREAS, other accomplishments and accolades of Dr. Bridges include receiving the John  
32 Hunt Entrepreneur of the Year Award at the annual Tifton/Tift County Chamber of  
33 Commerce Banquet in 2013; being named along with his wife Kim as the Arts Citizens of  
34 the Year in Tifton in 2008; being presented the Gold Outstanding Customer Service  
35 Leadership Award from Chancellor Erroll Davis of the University System of Georgia in  
36 2009; and the ABAC Alumni Association renaming the top bachelor's degree graduate award  
37 as the David and Kim Bridges Award in 2021.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
39 recognize and commend Dr. David Bridges for his dedication to Georgia and Abraham  
40 Baldwin Agricultural College.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
42 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Dr. David Bridges.