

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 503

By Powers

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Roane State Community College upon its fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should honor those institutions of higher learning that foster a sense of community while providing exceptional education to the citizens of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Roane State Community College is one such estimable entity that is worthy of our respect and commendation; and

WHEREAS, Roane State opened in temporary quarters at the former Fairmont Elementary School in Harriman in the fall of 1971, enrolling 323 students in thirty-five classes taught by twenty faculty members; and

WHEREAS, two years thereafter, the college moved into its first permanent building on the main campus in Roane County; as the facilities of the college continued to grow, so too did the student population, which has consistently trended upward, with notable growth in off-campus and distance learning; and

WHEREAS, now in its fiftieth year, Roane State Community College serves more than 6,000 students who are enrolled for credit and thousands more who take various non-credit courses or participate in seminars, workshops, cultural activities, exposition events, and special education services offered by the college; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the main campus, Roane State has campuses in Oak Ridge and Campbell, Cumberland, Fentress, Knox, Loudon, Morgan, and Scott counties, in addition to offering various other satellite locations and distance-learning opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the college boasts a job placement rate of over ninety percent and a 19:1 student to faculty ratio, and last year alone, Roane State students were awarded \$15 million in grants and scholarships; and

WHEREAS, Roane State Community College plays a vital role in the economic and community development of its service area by engaging in partnerships with business, industry, and government and providing training opportunities to the workforce; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the Tennessee Board of Regents named Roane State the Community College of the Year, presenting the college with a SOAR (Statewide Outstanding Achievement Recognition) award; and

WHEREAS, the college has been hailed as a life-changing, transformative institution, applauded for its cutting-edge innovations, from the Success Coach program for first-year students to Middle College, where high school students can attend Roane State and simultaneously receive high school diplomas and associate degrees, as well as the college's expanding programs to serve students with food insecurity; and

WHEREAS, for fifty years, Roane State has remained true to its vision of being a premier learning institution that transforms lives, strengthens community, and inspires individuals to attain excellence; and

WHEREAS, this fine institution has served its community and enriched the lives of countless Tennesseans, and for its noteworthy contributions, Roane State Community College should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Roane State Community College on the celebration of fifty years of dedicated service to the State of Tennessee, extending our gratitude

for the significant impact this esteemed institution continues to have on the citizens of Tennessee and wishing the faculty, staff, and students every success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.