

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1204

By Coley

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Confucius Institute at the University of Memphis upon its third anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those extraordinary organizations who, through their abiding commitment to cross-cultural communication, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, the Confucius Institute at the University of Memphis (CIUM) is one such extraordinary organization and will be celebrating its third anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, for three years, the CIUM has assisted the State of Tennessee in promoting Chinese language and culture; and

WHEREAS, founded in August 2007 under the leadership of Dr. Hsiang-te Kung, who is a 75<sup>th</sup>-generation descendant of Confucius, the CIUM is the only Confucius Institute that also has a full academic undergraduate program; and

WHEREAS, the Confucius Institutes are non-profit public institutions that aim to promote Chinese language and culture and support local Chinese teaching internationally; their headquarters is in Beijing and is under the Office of Chinese Language Council International, known colloquially as Hanban; and

WHEREAS, the CIUM is presently teaching over 4,000 students in some capacity in twenty-four different partner schools, which include full-time Chinese language and cultural studies, as well as after-school, summer, and enrichment programs; in addition, the CIUM recently received a grant from Hanban for five Confucius Classrooms for schools in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the CIUM has assisted five other Tennessee institutions and schools to establish Confucius Classrooms with approval and support of Hanban to promote Chinese language and culture and to build bridges between the United States and China; and

WHEREAS, in addition to partnering with other educational institutions, the CIUM is working with the Tennessee State Board of Education to develop a Chinese language licensure program and is the only host site in the Mid-South for Chinese proficiency testing; and

WHEREAS, greatly prolific in its outreach and mission, the CIUM also has a study abroad component for high school students, faculty, and community leaders, and it hosts local Chinese immersion camps in Memphis to expose children to the Chinese language and culture; and

WHEREAS, always keeping its worthy vision in clear focus, the CIUM tirelessly pursues its five highest priorities: Chinese language and teaching, Chinese language teachers' training and certification, study abroad programs, comparative research, and Chinese language proficiency tests and assessments; and

WHEREAS, during the past three years, the students and staff of the CIUM have proven to be of the highest caliber and have represented their school, the State of Tennessee, and the United States of America with honor, ability, and distinction, and this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to congratulate them on their accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend the Confucius Institute at the University of Memphis upon its third anniversary and extend to Dr. Hsiang-te Kung and the staff and students of the CIUM our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.