

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5

BY SENATOR PEACOCK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Bossier Parish Community College on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary and to extend congratulations to its student body, faculty, administration, prospective graduates, and alumni for fifty years of academic excellence and workforce opportunities afforded to northwest Louisiana and the state.

WHEREAS, it is with great pride that the citizens of the Bossier community commemorate the founding of Bossier Parish Community College (BPCC) from its humble origins as a pilot program that established a small, two-year commuter college to its present status as a professional workforce development institution granting associate degrees, academic certifications, and technical competency area diplomas (TCA) in a myriad of occupations and disciplines; and

WHEREAS, in the 1960s Bossier Parish and the surrounding region experienced a boom in manufacturing and service industries that has continued until present day; during that time, progressive civic leaders addressed the necessity for career education that would provide technical programs and short-term training for entry level employment that would maximize growth potential and expand economic opportunity; and

WHEREAS, when classes began in the fall of 1967, enrollment numbered one hundred students with a faculty of eight instructors; today, over eight thousand students are offered associate degrees and certifications in sixteen different venues designed for individuals who seek occupations in the business, industrial, and military communities; and

WHEREAS, utilizing cooperative endeavors with industry and local governments, BPCC continues to leverage the synergy provided by such partnerships to enhance

progressive economic growth for the state and the nation by the production of a well-trained workforce equipped for the challenges of an ever-changing workplace; and

WHEREAS, BPCC possesses an impressive list of vital disciplines in occupational sciences, general studies, telecommunications, theatre and music, culinary arts, teacher education, childhood development, construction, oil and gas production, engineering, manufacturing, business, retail management, and criminal justice; and

WHEREAS, with a plethora of medical institutions that populates the Caddo-Bossier area, BPCC trains a vast number of medical professionals and provides associate degrees in health care sciences, in particular, the fields of public health, health education specialties, health services, health care management, nursing, and occupational therapy; and

WHEREAS, BPCC is on the cutting edge of the latest digital technology and offers programs in data research, information technology, computer drafting and design, cyber innovation, and information systems security; and

WHEREAS, Bossier Parish Community College has entered into articulation agreements with other degree-granting institutions, which include Louisiana Tech University, Northwestern State University, Grambling State University, Southern Arkansas University, Kilgore Junior College, and Louisiana State University-Shreveport, where students can matriculate to earn college credits and advance their education; and

WHEREAS, nonacademic courses are offered through the Community Education Division that provide training and continuing education to supplement numerous civic, business, and industrial employment needs; and

WHEREAS, throughout its fifty-year history, BPCC has promoted a familial atmosphere between the student body and faculty and has sought to strike a balance between scholarship and career obligations by providing academic flexibility, financial aid, and the opportunity for part-time attendance in day or night classes; and

WHEREAS, Bossier Parish Community College provides an intellectually stimulating environment in which students develop academic and vocational skills with which to compete in a highly specialized technological world and fulfills its mission through the advanced delivery of quality programs that provide a sound academic education with broad vocational and career training innovations.

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ENROLLED

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Bossier Parish Community College on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary and does hereby congratulate its students, alumni, and graduates for their many contributions to the continued prosperity of the Bossier-Shreveport community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Rick Bateman Jr, Chancellor of Bossier Parish Community College.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES