

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003**

S

1

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1024

Sponsors: Senator Rand.

Referred to: Calendar 6/3/03.

June 2, 2003

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE NORTH CAROLINA
2 COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM ON THE OCCASION OF ITS FORTIETH
3 ANNIVERSARY AND HONORING THOSE WHO HELPED CREATE THE
4 COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM.

5 Whereas, the foresight, commitment, and endeavors of many who embraced
6 the philosophy of total education, including Governor Luther Hodges, Governor Terry
7 Sanford, Dallas Herring, Issac Epps (I.E.) Ready, and State Representatives Ned
8 Delamar, Gordon Greenwood, Russell Swindell, and Edward Wilson led to the
9 legislation creating a system of community colleges; and

10 Whereas, in the years following World War II, North Carolina began a rapid
11 shift from an agricultural to an industrial economy; and

12 Whereas, with that change came an awareness that a different kind of
13 education was needed in the State; and

14 Whereas, in 1957, the General Assembly adopted the first Community
15 College Act and provided funding for community colleges and also provided funding to
16 initiate a statewide system of Industrial Education Centers. These centers were to train
17 adults and selected high school students in skills needed by industry; and

18 Whereas, on May 17, 1963, the General Assembly enacted the law that
19 provided for the establishment of a Department of Community Colleges under the State
20 Board of Education and for the administration of institutions in the Community College
21 System. There were then 20 industrial education centers, six community colleges (three
22 of which became four-year schools in 1963), and five extension units; and

23 Whereas, by 1966, there were 43 institutions with 28,250 full-time equivalent
24 (FTE) enrollments. In 1969, there were 54 institutions with 59,329 FTE. The system
25 grew very rapidly, exceeding 10% annually nearly every year until the late 1970s. In
26 1974-1975, growth reached the 33% mark; and

27 Whereas, the system continues to grow in enrollments nearly every year; and

28 Whereas, the original legislation placed the community college system under
29 the purview of the State Board of Education and created a State Department of
30 Community Colleges. In 1979, the General Assembly changed the State control of the

1 system. A provision was made for a separate State Board of Community Colleges. The
2 Board was appointed and organized in 1980. The new Board assumed full responsibility
3 for the system on January 1, 1981; and

4 Whereas, in 1988, the North Carolina Community College System celebrated
5 its 25th anniversary, recognizing that in its first quarter century of service, the system
6 had emerged as the nation's third largest community college network, educating
7 millions of students during its 32-year history and employing thousands of faculty and
8 staff; and

9 Whereas, the North Carolina Community College System has from its earliest
10 days proudly pursued the philosophy of the "open door" by providing convenient and
11 affordable access to any student seeking to benefit from the resources offered at a
12 community college; and

13 Whereas, during the 40 years since that historic day in 1963, each institution
14 of the North Carolina Community College System has been committed to providing
15 workforce training and retraining, sustained support for economic development, and
16 comprehensive services to communities and individuals; and

17 Whereas, the North Carolina Community College System has had from its
18 inception as its primary mission the training of North Carolina's workforce; and

19 Whereas, in order to carry out that mission, the North Carolina Community
20 College System supports the State's business and industry sector by providing a myriad
21 of services, including focused industrial training, new and expanding industry training,
22 small business centers, joblink career centers, and human resources development; and

23 Whereas, more than 800,000 adults now enroll each year in the North
24 Carolina Community College System; and

25 Whereas, the North Carolina Community College System serves a broad
26 range of persons with differing needs, skills, and interests by providing a wide range of
27 educational opportunities, including basic skills (adult high school, general educational
28 development (GED), adult basic education, and English as a second language);
29 continuing education; college tech prep, curriculum (certificates, diplomas, and
30 associate degrees), and college transfer; and

31 Whereas, the North Carolina Community College System is vital to our
32 State's economic recovery, growth, and future success; Now, therefore,
33 Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

34 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Governor Terry
35 Sanford and the other individuals named in this resolution for their role in helping to
36 create the North Carolina Community College System.

37 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly congratulates the founders, leaders,
38 supporters, faculty, staff, and students of the North Carolina Community College
39 System on four decades of tremendous achievement. The General Assembly further
40 charges these individuals with the task of making a great system better and pledges a
41 continued partnership in this vital task.

42 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
43 resolution to the Chair of the State Board of Community Colleges.

44 **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.