

By Senator Miller

18-351A-04

1 Senate Resolution No. ____

2 A resolution honoring Dr. Gwen Stephenson,

3 President of Hillsborough Community College.

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5 WHEREAS, Dr. Gwen Stephenson was appointed president of

6 Hillsborough Community College in 1997, and

7 WHEREAS, under Dr. Stephenson's stewardship, enrollment

8 has increased approximately 10 percent each year for the past

9 3 years, a dramatic reversal from the previous 5 years, which

10 period experienced declining enrollments, and

11 WHEREAS, a recent study of the economic impact of

12 Hillsborough Community College indicates that business sales

13 in the Tampa Bay area are \$1.9 billion higher and labor income

14 is \$757 million greater because of the college's presence, and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Stephenson and her administrative staff

16 have established strong partnerships with the business

17 community, the University of South Florida, the School

18 District of Hillsborough County, and the Florida Legislature,

19 and

20 WHEREAS, Hillsborough Community College educates the

21 region's workforce through the awarding of associate degrees,

22 the provision of technical training, and remediation when

23 required, while offering a diverse selection of courses and

24 choices ranging from international education, e-technology

25 training, advanced vocational training, and aquacultural and

26 agricultural studies to a traditional curriculum, and

27 preparing residents to fill jobs critical to nearly every

28 business and governmental entity, and

29 WHEREAS, Dr. Stephenson has successfully implemented

30 programs that target African American and Hispanic males, as

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1 well as persons within underserved communities, in order to
2 increase minority enrollments, and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Stephenson has expanded access to include
4 centers of learning in addition to its four campus locations,
5 while accepting a gift of 60 acres in Hillsborough County's
6 rapidly developing SouthShore District to allow the addition
7 of a fifth campus, and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Stephenson and her administrative staff
9 have successfully implemented numerous technologies designed
10 to better serve the students and otherwise increase the
11 productivity and efficiency of the college, and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Stephenson has served her staff by sending
13 a clear and unequivocal message that their success is critical
14 to the success of the college, and she has implemented
15 numerous programs and benefits, many of which parallel those
16 in the private sector, in order to attract and retain quality
17 administrative, instructional, and support personnel, and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Stephenson was selected as President of
19 the Year in April 2003 by the American Student Association of
20 Community Colleges from among 27 nominees, being recognized
21 for including student groups on her calendar, on most
22 committees, and on her own personal advisory group, NOW,
23 THEREFORE,

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25 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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27 That Dr. Gwen Stephenson is recognized as one of
28 Hillsborough County's consummate role models, demonstrating
29 extraordinary leadership in firmly establishing Hillsborough
30 Community College as a major contributor to the education of
31 the people of Hillsborough County, while engaging students,

1 her faculty and staff, and many others in the public and
2 private sectors as collaborators in attaining stability and
3 garnering statewide respect as a result of her stewardship.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution,
5 with the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Dr. Gwen
6 Stephenson, as a tangible token of the sentiments of the
7 Florida Senate.

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