

HR 9005

2004

House Resolution

A resolution honoring Dr. Gwen Stephenson.

WHEREAS, after her appointment to the presidency of Hillsborough Community College in 1997, Dr. Gwen Stephenson has led the institution in an enrollment growth of approximately 10 percent per year for the past 3 years, a dramatic turnaround from the declining enrollments of the prior 5 years, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stephenson and her administrative staff have established strong partnerships with the business community, the University of South Florida, the School District of Hillsborough County, and the Florida Legislature, and a recent study relating to the economic impact of HCC indicates that business sales in the Tampa Bay area are \$1.9 billion higher and labor income is \$757 million greater because of the presence of the college, and

WHEREAS, HCC prepares the region's residents for jobs central to nearly every business and governmental entity through its offering of associate degrees, technical training, and, when required, remediation, as well as a diversity of courses ranging from international education, e-technology, advanced vocational training, and aquacultural and agricultural studies, and

WHEREAS, in addition to four current campus locations and an anticipated fifth, Dr. Stephenson has established centers of learning throughout the area, including those within underserved communities, and, in an effort to increase minority enrollment, has successfully implemented programs that target African-American and Hispanic males, and

WHEREAS, in April 2003, Dr. Stephenson was selected from among 27 nominees as the American Student Association of Community Colleges "President of the Year," recognized for her

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31 inclusion of student groups in her calendar, on most committees,  
 32 and in her own personal advisory group, NOW, THEREFORE,

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34 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
 35 Florida:

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37 That the House of Representatives salutes Dr. Gwen  
 38 Stephenson as one of Hillsborough County's consummate role  
 39 models who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership in  
 40 establishing Hillsborough Community College as a major  
 41 contributor to the education of the county's residents, while  
 42 engaging students, faculty and staff, and the public and private  
 43 sectors as collaborators in attaining stability and garnering  
 44 statewide respect.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be  
 46 presented to Dr. Gwen Stephenson as a tangible token of the  
 47 sentiments expressed herein.