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2012 House Resolution A resolution recognizing Edison State College and its students, alumni, faculty, staff, administration, and district board of trustees as they celebrate the college's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an institution of higher education in Florida. WHEREAS, Edison State College is celebrating 50 years of excellence as an institution of higher education in Southwest Florida, and WHEREAS, in 1962, Edison State College offered its first classes in temporary quarters at the Andrew Gwynne Institute, with a second center at Dunbar High School in Fort Myers, and WHEREAS, the college opened its first permanent campus in 1965 thanks to the generous support of community donors, and WHEREAS, Edison State College began offering classes in Charlotte County in 1974 and opened a permanent campus there in 1997, and WHEREAS, Edison State College began offering classes in Collier County in 1974 and moved to a permanent campus in 1992, and WHEREAS, Edison State College has recently opened a permanent center in LaBelle, serving Glades and Hendry Counties, and WHEREAS, Edison State College has continuously adapted to the needs of the students and employers in Southwest Florida by staying at the forefront of innovative education programming,

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28 including college baccalaureate, workforce training, and 29 continuing education, and

30 WHEREAS, Edison State College began offering select 31 baccalaureate degrees in 2007 and currently offers 10 32 baccalaureate degrees in the fields of education, nursing, 33 cardiovascular technology, public safety management, and 34 supervision and management, and

35 WHEREAS, Edison State College has maintained a strong 36 commitment to providing open access to the most relevant and 37 technologically advanced education available at the certificate, 38 Associate in Science, Associate in Arts, and baccalaureate 39 degree levels by using traditional classroom, blended online, 40 and full online program delivery, and

41 WHEREAS, Edison State College continues to seek new ways to 42 increase student success and address barriers to completing a 43 higher education, and

WHEREAS, Edison State College continues to explore new partnerships with institutions in the State University System, enhancing access to higher education through 2+2 partnerships, and

WHEREAS, Edison State College has begun operating collegiate charter high schools to provide more opportunity for parental choice in a child's education, and

51 WHEREAS, Edison State College is home to many community 52 cultural resources such as the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery, which 53 hosts numerous art exhibits annually, and the Barbara B. Mann 54 Performing Arts Hall, which hosts many Broadway-caliber live 55 performances, and

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56 WHEREAS, Edison State College is a part of the "Great 28" 57 in the Florida College System, NOW, THEREFORE, 58 59 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Florida: 60 61 62 That the students, alumni, faculty, staff, administration, 63 and district board of trustees of Edison State College are congratulated on the  $50^{th}$  anniversary of the institution, and the 64

college is recognized for the tremendous benefits it has

provided the State of Florida.

65 66 2012