

By: Senator(s) Jackson (11th), Jordan,
Simmons (13th), Barnett, Jackson (32nd),
Norwood, Simmons (12th)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 565

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE TRI-COUNTY WORKFORCE
2 ALLIANCE (TCWA) IN CLARKSDALE, MISSISSIPPI, FOR ITS YOUTH
3 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

4 WHEREAS, the Tri-County Workforce Alliance (TCWA) is a
5 nonprofit community-based organization in Clarksdale, Mississippi,
6 that seeks to improve the economic livelihoods and well-being of
7 families living in rural and economically vulnerable communities.
8 Although its name suggests service in three counties, TCWA has
9 expanded its work to cover a five-county region in the Mississippi
10 Delta: Bolivar, Coahoma, Quitman, Sunflower and Tallahatchie
11 Counties; and

12 WHEREAS, it offers middle school, high-school and young adult
13 health education, and workforce development programs embedded in
14 larger networks to address socioeconomic challenges. Focusing on
15 human resource development in health-related fields, TCWA is
16 building educational and career pathways, reducing the health care
17 workforce shortage, and advancing local capacity to address health
18 disparities; and



19 WHEREAS, the TCWA programs for youth include the Middle
20 School Academy for Science, Math, and Reading for Potential Health
21 Care Professionals and the High School Mentorship Program in
22 Health Care Professions. Additional youth are served through
23 broader initiatives that TCWA engages in, namely: high-school
24 health councils; Problem Solving for Better Health™ workshops;
25 Ready, Set, Go summer camps; and other initiatives. It is also
26 expanding services for young adults and parents. The middle and
27 high-school year-round programs serve 160 students (35 middle
28 school and 125 high school) during the current 2017-2018 academic
29 year; and

30 WHEREAS, the Middle School Academy for Science, Math, and
31 Reading for Potential Health Care Professionals was first
32 implemented in 2011 to serve sixth- through eighth-grade students
33 from two counties. Academic enrichment and professional
34 development programming is provided, including Saturday events
35 during the academic year and a multiweek summer institute (32
36 students participated in the summer institute in 2017), where they
37 received instruction in reading, mathematics and science.
38 Students also engaged in health and wellness assessment projects
39 where they worked with friends, family members, and other
40 community residents facing chronic illnesses. Students must
41 research diseases, engage health care providers, and serve the
42 community; and



43 WHEREAS, the High School Mentorship Program in Health Care
44 Professions was started in 2009 and now works with students in
45 ninth through twelfth grades from all five of the service
46 counties. It provides academic support, college visits,
47 experiential learning opportunities and positive social networks
48 for youth who are interested in attending college and pursuing
49 employment in health care professions. High-school students
50 engage in job shadowing with a nurse, doctor or other health care
51 professional for at least three hours a week up to 60 hours and
52 attend a residential summer institute where they receive college
53 preparatory enrichment (34 students participated in the summer
54 institute in 2017). Partner sites for shadowing range from
55 federally-qualified community health centers and private clinics
56 to hospitals. Thirty-nine students were engaged in job shadowing
57 in the fall of 2017, and 48 students were taking dual enrollment
58 courses; and

59 WHEREAS, TCWA leads these programs, and it collaborates with
60 other organizations through a larger network called the New
61 Pathways to Health and Opportunity Initiative. The network
62 includes the Aaron E. Henry Community Health Services Center,
63 Inc., (AEH), Mississippi Hospital Association Foundation (MHA-F),
64 Dreyfus Health Foundation (DHF) of The Rogosin Institute and its
65 Center for Health Action and Policy, and the University of
66 Mississippi (UM) Center for Population Studies (CPS) and its
67 academic minor in Society and Health (SOHE). These connections



68 benefit TCWA participants. When high-school participants are in
69 their senior year, they are eligible to take classes to become
70 certified nursing assistants (CNA), phlebotomists, or
71 echocardiogram (EKG) technicians through community colleges with
72 the help of MHA-F at no cost to program participants.
73 Alternatively, they can expand academic coursework through
74 dual-enrollment classes in partnership with high schools and
75 community colleges; and

76 WHEREAS, since the fall of 2016, TCWA youth have been able to
77 participate in a community-based research project focused on
78 drinking water quality and health risks from lead, working with
79 the UM CPS, the School of Pharmacy Toxicology Program, and the
80 School of Law Sea Grant Program. To date, 88 families have
81 participated, having their water tested and participating in a
82 survey; and

83 WHEREAS, TCWA seeks to energize students' aspirations for
84 higher education and careers in the health professions. When
85 asked about their aspirations and goals, 91% of former TCWA
86 participants reported that they were more likely to achieve their
87 educational and career goals because of participating in the
88 programs. The range of responses included expanding general
89 knowledge, gaining specific skills, being oriented to school and
90 careers early on, and learning to "aim high"; and

91 WHEREAS, TCWA continues to develop its youth programs to help
92 improve students' educational outcomes, prepare for and enter



93 college and pursue careers in health-related fields. Evaluation
94 has demonstrated positive outputs. short-term outcomes and
95 participant satisfaction. TCWA seeks to improve by using data to
96 inform planning, especially for students' academic skills and
97 family level impacts; and

98 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we commend this
99 Mississippi Delta educational initiative which is a model of
100 inspiration for the State of Mississippi:

101 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
102 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
103 we do hereby recognize the Tri-County Workforce Alliance (TCWA) in
104 Clarksdale, Mississippi, for its youth development program, and
105 extend to the Board of Directors and Executive Director of TCWA
106 our congratulations and encouragement for continued success.

107 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
108 the Executive Director and Board of Directors of the TCWA and made
109 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

