

By: Senator(s) Frazier, Harkins,
Witherspoon, Dearing, Hopson, Jackson (11th),
Jackson (32nd)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 622

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
2 LEADERSHIP OF COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION DR. GLENN BOYCE
3 UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT.

4 WHEREAS, Commissioner of Higher Education Dr. Glenn Boyce has
5 announced his intention to retire at the end of the current fiscal
6 year. Named Commissioner on April 17, 2015, he has enjoyed an
7 expansive career in secondary and postsecondary education; and

8 WHEREAS, as Commissioner of Higher Education, Dr. Boyce has
9 provided leadership for the state's university system, which
10 includes four research and four regional universities, one
11 Academic Health Science Center and the Executive Office. Offering
12 891 degree programs, the universities include two land-grant
13 universities, three historically black institutions, a Law Center,
14 a School of Veterinary Medicine, and 320 Institutes and Centers;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, the university system serves more than 95,000
17 students, with almost 28,000 faculty and staff members, 1,666
18 buildings with 36.7 million square feet, and a \$4.5 Billion



19 operating budget. The system received \$420.7 Million in external
20 research funding, supporting 2,407 projects in the last fiscal
21 year; and

22 WHEREAS, under his leadership, the university system has set
23 record enrollments, has seen record numbers of degrees awarded,
24 launched a statewide program to increase the number of degree
25 holders in the state exponentially, worked to be more responsive
26 to the needs of business and industry, and has streamlined
27 operations to increase efficiencies; and

28 WHEREAS, in Academic Year 2017, there were 95,857 total
29 students enrolled in the university system. The universities
30 awarded 17,760 degrees in 2017, representing an 8.9% increase in
31 the past five years. The number of Science, Technology,
32 Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) graduates has increased by
33 37.9% in that timeframe. In 2017, there were 3,727 STEM graduates
34 and 2,849 health care graduates, including nurses; and

35 WHEREAS, a collaborative effort between the university and
36 community college systems, Complete 2 Compete (C2C) is a statewide
37 program focused on encouraging Mississippi adults who have
38 completed some college, but no degree, to return to college and
39 complete the requirements necessary to earn their degrees. Since
40 launching the C2C website, there have been almost 24,000 visits to
41 the website and almost 7,000 applications submitted. There have
42 been 261 associates and bachelor's degrees awarded through the
43 program; and



44 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Business Engagement Network (MBEN),
45 a partnership effort between the university system, the
46 Mississippi Research Consortium, the Mississippi Economic Council,
47 Mississippi Development Authority, and the Mississippi Economic
48 Development Council was designed to connect business leaders and
49 economic developers with the resources, experts and research
50 capabilities housed within Mississippi's four research
51 institutions. As part of the effort, a website was launched as a
52 portal to access these resources quickly and easily; and

53 WHEREAS, prior to being named Commissioner, Dr. Boyce served
54 as Associate Commissioner of Academic Affairs for the Institutions
55 of Higher Learning. He joined IHL after serving as President of
56 Holmes Community College for more than nine years. Dr. Boyce
57 served for several years as Co-Chair of the Education Achievement
58 Council, working collaboratively with all levels of education,
59 state leaders and the business community to increase educational
60 attainment in the state. Dr. Boyce served as a Trustee for the
61 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on
62 Colleges, the regional body for the accreditation of
63 degree-granting higher education institutions in the Southern
64 states. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the
65 Mississippi Commission on College Accreditation. Dr. Boyce holds
66 a Bachelor's Degree in Education from the University of
67 Mississippi, a Master's Degree in Education Administration from



68 Mississippi College, and a Doctorate in Education Leadership from
69 the University of Mississippi; and

70 WHEREAS, "Dr. Boyce has provided tremendous leadership for
71 the university system," said Trustee C.D. Smith, President of the
72 Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning. "He
73 understands the needs of our students and our state, and has
74 worked tirelessly to ensure that the university system addresses
75 both in our rapidly changing world." "I have had the pleasure of
76 serving with an amazing group of IHL Trustees," said Dr. Boyce.
77 "I will always cherish the relationships we shared. They serve
78 the state with such a selfless attitude and give of their time
79 endlessly to help students succeed. They are all in on their
80 commitment to moving the state forward, and I appreciate their
81 steadfast support for me and their unwavering dedication to the
82 system"; and

83 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we commend this record
84 of higher education achievement and legacy of leadership by an
85 individual held in the highest esteem by his colleagues in the
86 university system:

87 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
88 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
89 we do hereby recognize the university system leadership of
90 Commissioner of Higher Education Dr. Glenn Boyce upon the occasion
91 of his retirement, and extend our best wishes to Dr. Boyce and his
92 family for future success.



93 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
94 Dr. Boyce and the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of
95 Higher Learning, and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

