

By: Senator(s) Polk, Dearing, Jackson  
(11th), Jackson (32nd)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 624

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS  
2 AND COMMUNITY SERVICE OF RETIRING UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN  
3 MISSISSIPPI PROFESSOR DR. GWEN PATE AND COMMENDING HER LEGACY OF  
4 LEADERSHIP.

5 WHEREAS, we join the administration and faculty colleagues of  
6 retiring Director of The University of Southern Mississippi (USM)  
7 School of Accountancy Professor Dr. Gwen Pate in commending a  
8 legacy of leadership and community outreach; and

9 WHEREAS, Gwen R. Pate received her Doctoral Degree in 1990  
10 from the University of Tennessee, her Master of Professional  
11 Accountancy in 1981 from The University of Southern Mississippi,  
12 and her Bachelor of Music in 1977 from The University of Southern  
13 Mississippi. She passed the CPA exam in 1982; and

14 WHEREAS, since 1973, Dr. Gwen Pate has been involved with The  
15 University of Southern Mississippi, not only as a student of music  
16 and accountancy, but also as a faculty member promoted through the  
17 ranks with tenure as follows:

- 18 • Assistant Professor, School of Professional Accountancy
- 19 (1990-1997);



20           • Associate Professor, School of Professional Accountancy  
21 and tenured (1997);

22           • Professor, School of Professional Accountancy (2013);

23           • Director of Undergraduate Programs, College of Business  
24 (2004-2014);

25           • Associate Dean, College of Business (2011-2013);

26           • Director of the School of Accountancy (2014-2015 and  
27 2017-2018); and

28           WHEREAS, Dr. Pate's professional achievements include the  
29 following:

30           • As a faculty member, Dr. Pate received the "Faculty of the  
31 Year" Award from the Gamma Tau Chapter of Delta Sigma Pi (1992)  
32 and the "Most Outstanding Faculty Adviser" Award from Kappa Alpha  
33 Theta (2003). She engaged in scholarship and published in  
34 peer-reviewed journals in the accounting profession;

35           • In her capacity as Director of Undergraduate Programs, Dr.  
36 Pate guided thousands of students through career progress in the  
37 College of Business and shepherded curriculum revisions to the  
38 accounting degree and to those in the College of Business;

39           • In her capacity as Director of the School of Accountancy,  
40 Dr. Pate successfully guided the program through the Association  
41 to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business's (AACSB) accounting  
42 accreditation process with commendations for the infusion of  
43 technology into the curriculum;



44           • In her capacity as Associate Dean, Dr. Pate initiated  
45 efforts to create a facility for computerized testing and a  
46 Business Academic Success and Excellence (BASE) Center for  
47 tutoring in writing and communication;

48           • She encouraged the formation of a Volunteer Income Tax  
49 Assistance Program (VITA) and supported Beta Alpha Psi, the  
50 accounting honorary for AACSB-accredited programs;

51           • She typically taught students in Cost Accounting or  
52 Managerial Accounting but has also team-taught Regression Analysis  
53 or Accounting Theory whenever it was needed to assist the program  
54 or college;

55           • She expanded the Advisory Board for the School of  
56 Accountancy and involved them in strategic planning and  
57 initiatives for the school;

58           • Dr. Pate will be honored as the Accounting Professor of  
59 the Year by the Mississippi Society of CPAs during their annual  
60 meeting in June 2018;

61           • She also plays the flute in the Community Band and has  
62 supported the efforts of her son, Andy, as he has developed his  
63 expertise on the drums in jazz bands at USM and in the community;  
64 and

65           WHEREAS, Dr. Pate's career, promotions in academic rank,  
66 service in administration, and outreach to the community all  
67 provide exemplars for an academic career. She has provided  
68 remarkable service to the State of Mississippi, to the field of



69 accounting, and to thousands of graduates at the undergraduate and  
70 masters levels in this state. We join The University of Southern  
71 Mississippi in paying tribute to her work:

72 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
73 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
74 we do hereby recognize the academic achievements and community  
75 service of retiring University of Southern Mississippi Professor  
76 Dr. Gwen Pate and commend her legacy of leadership, and extend the  
77 best wishes of the Legislature to Dr. Pate and her family for  
78 future success.

79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
80 Dr. Pate and the President of The University of Southern  
81 Mississippi, Rodney D. Bennett, forwarded to the Board of Trustees  
82 of State Institutions of Higher Learning, and made available to  
83 the Capitol Press Corps.

