

By: Senator(s) Harkins, Frazier, Jackson
(32nd), Norwood

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 632

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION DESIGNATING MARCH 20, 2018, AS
2 "UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH DAY IN MISSISSIPPI" TO EMPHASIZE THE VALUE
3 OF SCHOLARLY INQUIRY AND THE APPLICATION OF RESEARCH TO THE
4 EDUCATION OF FUTURE LEADERS AND TO RECOGNIZE THE "POSTERS IN THE
5 ROTUNDA" PROJECT.

6 WHEREAS, every year thousands of undergraduates at the
7 universities, colleges, and community colleges in Mississippi
8 pursue independent scholarship in collaboration with faculty
9 mentors, providing invaluable experiences that will influence the
10 trajectory of their intellectual and future professional
11 development; and

12 WHEREAS, independent scholarship at the undergraduate level
13 allows both students and faculty members opportunities for
14 improving and assessing the academic and research environment at
15 their institution in developing critical thinking, creativity,
16 problem solving and intellectual independence; increasing rates of
17 graduation and retention; and promoting an innovation-oriented
18 culture; and



19 WHEREAS, students and faculty engaged in undergraduate
20 research contribute to knowledge and its applications across many
21 disciplines, including arts and humanities, social sciences, and
22 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematical (STEM) fields;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, undergraduate research is critical in developing the
25 State of Mississippi's future workforce needs by encouraging
26 specialization in the crucial biomedical and Science, Technology,
27 Engineering and Mathematical (STEM) disciplines and to cultivating
28 aspirations of graduate education after participating in
29 collaborative scholarship efforts with faculty mentors:

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
31 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
32 we do hereby designate March 20, 2018, as "Undergraduate Research
33 Day in Mississippi" to emphasize the value of scholarly inquiry
34 and the application of research to the education of future
35 leaders, to encourage all Mississippians to support their research
36 universities, and to recognize the "Posters in the Rotunda"
37 project.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we do hereby (a) recognize the
39 importance of independent scholarship in collaboration with
40 dedicated faculty and of providing such opportunities at the
41 undergraduate level in the state to cultivate innovative, creative
42 and enterprising scholars in collaboration with dedicated faculty;
43 (b) encourage institutions of higher education, federal and state



44 agencies, businesses and philanthropic foundations to support
45 independent scholarship by undergraduates and their faculty
46 mentors; (c) encourage opportunities, including ones through
47 existing programs, to include underrepresented groups to
48 participate in undergraduate research; and (d) support the role
49 that undergraduate independent scholarship can and does play in
50 crucial work that serves the state's economic, health, cultural,
51 educational and security interests.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
53 the students and faculty participating in the "Posters in the
54 Rotunda" exhibition, forwarded to the Board of Trustees of State
55 Institutions of Higher Learning, and made available to the Capitol
56 Press Corps.

