

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.

