

By: Representative Weathersby

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 108

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER, SELFLESS
2 SERVICE AND ENDURING CONTRIBUTIONS OF MRS. COLLEEN HARTFIELD
3 RENDERED TO HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

4 WHEREAS, Mrs. Colleen Hartfield, former vice president for
5 Community Relations and Governmental Affairs for Hinds Community
6 College, retired June 30, 2016 with a combined 18 years of service
7 to the institution, and a combined total of 37 years shared
8 between Hinds and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community Colleges; and

9 WHEREAS, Mrs. Hartfield, who is described as a passionate,
10 persistent, positive and consummate professional, earned both her
11 bachelor's and master's degrees from Southeast Missouri State
12 University, and completed Mississippi State University's Community
13 College Leadership Program and the Education Policy Fellowship
14 Program; and

15 WHEREAS, now serving as president of Hartfield Creative and
16 Consulting, Mrs. Hartfield spent the first eight years of her
17 career as assistant director of Public Relations for Hinds after
18 her initial hire in 1984 and subsequent promotion to district



19 director of Public Relations in 1985, before departing in 1992 to
20 spend the next 14 years at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community
21 College, where she rose in the ranks to vice president for
22 Institutional Relations; and

23 WHEREAS, the ultimate pacesetter, Mrs. Hartfield organized
24 the first statewide Community College Month Celebration, and
25 became one of the youngest individuals to receive Hinds'
26 prestigious 3E Award in acknowledgement of her work with the
27 Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC)
28 on its legislative affairs, a capacity in which she functioned to
29 showcase her innate ability to craft communication pieces,
30 organize advocacy efforts for the state's 15 community colleges,
31 helped secure funding and develop policy that advanced all
32 community colleges; and

33 WHEREAS, Mrs. Hartfield returned to Hinds in 2006, assuming
34 President's Cabinet level responsibilities, and because of her
35 visionary leadership skills, her areas of responsibility grew
36 until she oversaw marketing, public relations, community
37 relations, sports information, student publications, adult
38 education, grants management, economic development and
39 governmental relations; and

40 WHEREAS, while managing internal and external communications
41 for the college, Mrs. Hartfield's role expanded as the needs of
42 the college and its service district changed, initiating the
43 college's first grants office in 2009 and working to bring



44 millions of dollars in external funding to Hinds as a staunch
45 advocate for adult education and economically disadvantaged
46 students who labored to expand Hinds' efforts to serve high school
47 dropouts and at-risk students through the Gateway to College,
48 Single Stop, MI-BEST and the Minority Male (M2M) Leadership
49 Initiative programs; and

50 WHEREAS, her integrity, knowledge of the system and her
51 ability to bring all community colleges together with a common
52 voice were the most valuable assets to her approach to service
53 that would benefit not just the student body, but every community
54 touched by the college footprint, as evidenced by her
55 collaboration with Dr. Chad Stocks, vice president for Workforce
56 Development and Career/Technical Education, to help Mississippi
57 land the state's largest economic development package, Continental
58 Tire, which is located a short drive away from the Raymond campus;
59 and

60 WHEREAS, after retiring in 2016, Mrs. Hartfield returned to
61 Hinds as executive assistant to the president for special
62 projects, and continued to serve as a legislative liaison, in
63 addition to directing the nation's largest Predominantly Black
64 Institution (PBI) federal grant and serving as the Institute for
65 Evidence-Based Change's (IEBC) Caring Campus Liaison for the
66 college; and

67 WHEREAS, upon her second retirement from Hinds, Mrs.
68 Hartfield established Hartfield Creative and Consulting to work



69 with higher education institutions and other entities dedicated to
70 improving the lives of Mississippians; and

71 WHEREAS, the 2015 recipient of the Women in Higher Education
72 Mississippi Network's Leadership Award, Mrs. Hartfield currently
73 serves on the board of directors for 2nd Chance Mississippi, which
74 supports adult education students at community colleges, and on
75 the Mississippi Balance of State Continuum of Care Governing
76 Council, which is devoted to homelessness prevention; and

77 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
78 recognize the selfless dedication and passion of remarkable
79 individuals such as Mrs. Hartfield, whose heart for improving the
80 outcomes and empowering entire communities is personified through
81 her service to the State of Mississippi's community college system
82 and beyond, and established as an exemplary benchmark of
83 excellence:

84 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
85 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
86 commend the distinguished career, selfless service and enduring
87 contributions of Mrs. Colleen Hartfield rendered to Hinds
88 Community College, express grateful appreciation for the strides
89 undertaken to advance the state's community college system, and
90 extend best wishes for continued success in all her future
91 endeavors.



92 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
93 furnished to Mrs. Colleen Hartfield and to the members of the
94 Capitol Press Corps.

