

By: Representatives Faulkner, Karriem,  
Kinkade

To: Rules

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 55

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND  
2 ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE OF RUST COLLEGE AS A PREMIER INSTITUTION OF  
3 HIGHER LEARNING IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, founded in 1866 by the Freedman's Aid Society of the  
5 Methodist Episcopal Church, who opened a school in Asbury  
6 Methodist Episcopal Church, accepting adults of all ages, as well  
7 as children, for instruction in elementary subjects, Rust College  
8 is the second-oldest private college in the state, the oldest of  
9 11 historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) associated  
10 with The United Methodist Church, and is one of ten historically  
11 HBCUs founded before 1868 that are still operating; and

12 WHEREAS, chartered in 1870, initially as Shaw University in  
13 honor of benefactor, Reverend S.O. Shaw, the name was changed in  
14 1892 to Rust University in tribute to Richard S. Rust to avoid  
15 confusion with another Shaw University in North Carolina, and  
16 eventually the institution's official nomenclature became Rust  
17 College in 1915; and



18 WHEREAS, situated on the expanse of approximately 126 acres  
19 in Holly Springs, Marshall County, Mississippi, Rust graduated its  
20 first two students in 1878, and has since established and  
21 maintained five divisions of study with associate's and bachelor's  
22 degree programs in 16 areas of study within the Division of  
23 Education, Division of Humanities, Division of Science and  
24 Mathematics, Division of Social Sciences and the Division of  
25 Business; and

26 WHEREAS, currently progressing forward with dynamic momentum  
27 under the leadership of interim president, Dr. Robert M. Dixon,  
28 whose aspirations and ambitions for excellence chronicles that of  
29 the twelve individuals who have served as president of the  
30 college, Rust remains committed to its mission to "equip and  
31 inspire students for excellence and service in their communities  
32 and throughout the world," never losing sight of its vision which  
33 "reflects an institution of learning inside and outside of the  
34 classroom" in an "environment that nurtures academic and personal  
35 development"; and

36 WHEREAS, with an enduring legacy of superior academic and  
37 civic distinction that was birthed at the college's founding, Rust  
38 boasts a treasure trove of notable alumni, who have made  
39 remarkable contributions to society as athletic, civic, literary,  
40 musical and political aristocrats, including the likes of: Larry  
41 Anderson, MIT basketball coach; Lucie Campbell, composer and  
42 hymnwriter; Alvin Childress, actor; Melerson Guy Dunham, educator



43 and women's right activist; Ruby Elzy, operatic soprano; Perry  
44 Wilbon Howard, assistant U.S. Attorney General; Leslie B.  
45 McLemore, civil rights activist and interim mayor of Jackson,  
46 Mississippi, Clinton LeSueur, journalist and congressional  
47 candidate; Godwin Maduka MD, founder of Las Vegas Pain Institute  
48 and Medical Center; Alexander Preston Shaw, Methodist bishop;  
49 Anita Ward, disco singer; Ida B. Wells, newspaper editor, activist  
50 and cofounder of the NAACP; Willie Mitchell, record executive,  
51 musician and producer; and Susie Revels Cayton, activist,  
52 journalist and editor; and

53 WHEREAS, endowed with a rich history of achievement, the  
54 foundational principles upon which Rust College was founded  
55 continue to serve as the sustaining driving force and catalyst for  
56 innovation, propelling the pioneering scholastic advancement of  
57 current and prospective students, and the banner upon which alumni  
58 proudly proclaim the allegiance to their alma mater; and

59 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
60 recognize and commend scholastic brilliance as exemplified by  
61 institutions of higher learning, such as Rust College, which  
62 serves as an oasis of educational distinction, valor and  
63 camaraderie:

64 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
65 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
66 commend the historical significance and academic excellence of  
67 Rust College as a premier institution of higher learning in the



68 State of Mississippi, and extend sincere wishes for many more  
69 years of continued and awe-inspiring success.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
71 furnished to Dr. Robert M. Dixon, on behalf of Rust College, and  
72 to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

