

## House Resolution 1279

By: Representatives Scott of the 153<sup>rd</sup>, Roberts of the 154<sup>th</sup>, and Houston of the 170<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Celebrating Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College's 100th anniversary; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) was instituted when the  
4 Georgia General Assembly enacted Public Law 448 on August 18, 1906, establishing a  
5 state-run Agricultural and Mechanical School in each of Georgia's 12 congressional districts;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, on November 23, 1906, Tift County sent 30 delegates to Albany to bid to  
8 become the site for the Second District A&M School, and, led by the determined effort of  
9 Mr. H.H. Tift, Tifton outbid Camilla, Pelham, Ashburn, and Albany; and

10 WHEREAS, the Second District A&M School opened its doors for classes on February 20,  
11 1908, with three instructors, 27 students, and three buildings, Tift Hall, Lewis Hall, and  
12 Herring Hall, which still stand today on the front of the campus; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1924, its name was changed to the South Georgia A&M College, and in  
14 1929, its name changed again, this time to the Georgia State College for Men, making it the  
15 first senior college for men in south Georgia; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1933, it was renamed Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in honor of a  
17 Georgia signer of the Constitution and the first president of the University of Georgia; and

18 WHEREAS, today, ABAC bears strong witness to its roots, the Division of Agriculture and  
19 Forest Resources being the largest division of study on the 421 acre campus; and

20 WHEREAS, since 1908, the college has expanded its curriculum to include 57 programs of  
21 study, including two new Bachelor of Applied Science degrees in Diversified Agriculture

1 and Turfgrass and Golf Course Management, the first four-year degrees offered by ABAC  
2 under its new state college status within the University System of Georgia; and

3 WHEREAS, ABAC also embraces Georgia's search for health care workers with its Division  
4 of Nursing, which sends highly skilled nursing graduates into the health care industry each  
5 year and has over 700 nursing program students; and

6 WHEREAS, the college offers outstanding programs in humanities, social science, business,  
7 science and mathematics, and health and physical education; and

8 WHEREAS, ABAC recorded its all-time record enrollment during the 2007 fall semester  
9 with 3,665 students from 154 Georgia counties, 12 other states, and nine countries, and it  
10 housed more students than ever before on campus with over 1,300 students living in the  
11 ultramodern ABAC Place apartments and the new ABAC Lakeside complex; and

12 WHEREAS, the intercollegiate sports program at ABAC is one of the best in this state with  
13 five national championships to its credit, two in men's tennis and three in softball; and

14 WHEREAS, ABAC is proud of its many alumni, including the Honorable George T. Smith,  
15 the only man in the history of Georgia to be elected to all three branches of state government.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
17 the members of this body join in the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Abraham  
18 Baldwin Agricultural College, congratulate it on its past accomplishments, and look forward  
19 to its continued success and achievement.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
21 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Abraham Baldwin  
22 Agricultural College.