

## Senate Resolution 990

By: Senators Henson of the 41st, Tate of the 38th, Fort of the 39th, Jackson of the 2nd, Davenport of the 44th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Celebrating Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College's 106th 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. Henry H. Tift, Tifton outbid Camilla, Pelham, Ashburn, and Albany; and

10 WHEREAS, the Second District A&M School opened its doors for classes on  
11 February 20, 1908, with three instructors, 27 students, and three buildings, Tift Hall, Lewis  
12 Hall, and 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, by being named the state's  
19 Official Agricultural State College by the Board of Regents, and the School of Agriculture  
20 and Natural Resources is still the largest school of study with over 1,000 students; and

21 WHEREAS, since 1908, the college has expanded its curriculum to include 48 programs of  
22 study, which are preparing the state's next leaders in the fields of agriculture, business, health  
23 care, the humanities and arts, science and mathematics, and social sciences; and

24 WHEREAS, ABAC also embraces Georgia's search for solutions for issues facing our rural  
25 areas with its program in rural studies, which continues to send highly skilled graduates into  
26 government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and local businesses; and

27

28 WHEREAS, among these include, Illya Copeland of the City of Ashburn, Sara Ervin of the  
29 United States Senate's Agriculture Committee, Devin Gibbs of Magnolia Manor in Americus,  
30 Stacy Ladson of the City of Forsyth's Main Street Authority, Ashley Morris of the  
31 Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Economic Development Authority, and Andrew Smith of the  
32 Office of State Senator Steve Henson; and

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

35 WHEREAS, ABAC recorded a 5 percent increase in enrollment during the 2013 fall  
36 semester with 3,394 students from 151 Georgia counties, 19 other states, and 24 countries,  
37 and housed more students than ever before on campus, with more than 1,200 students living  
38 in the modern ABAC Place apartments and the ABAC Lakeside complex; and

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

41 WHEREAS, ABAC is proud of its many alumni, including the Honorable George T. Smith,  
42 the only man in the history of Georgia to be elected to all three branches of state government,  
43 Cathy Cox, the first woman elected to be Secretary of State, and countless members of the  
44 General Assembly.

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
46 join in the celebration of the 106th anniversary of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College,  
47 congratulate it on its past accomplishments, and look forward to its continued success and  
48 achievement.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
50 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.