House Resolution 453

By: Representatives Reeves of the 34th, Cantrell of the 22nd, Dubnik of the 29th, Pirkle of the 155th, Lumsden of the 12th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Dr. G. P. "Bud" Peterson upon his retirement as president of Georgia Tech; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Dr. G. P. "Bud" Peterson has served as president of Georgia Tech for ten years, during which Georgia Tech was invited to join the Association of American Universities (AAU), the first institution to receive an invitation in the previous ten years; and

3 WHEREAS, under his leadership, enrollment at Georgia Tech increased by 69 percent, with undergraduate applications more than tripling, graduate applications doubling, and the number of women in the first-year class increasing from 32 to 40 percent; and

4 WHEREAS, for the fourth consecutive year, Georgia Tech's first to second-year retention is 97 percent, and upon graduation, bachelor's degree recipients earn an average of $70,500 per year, with master's graduates earning an average of $100,000 per year; and

5 WHEREAS, as part of his commitment to affordability and access for Georgia's top students, Georgia Tech implemented automatic acceptance and four-year in-state tuition scholarships to all Atlanta Public School valedictorians and salutatorians as well as automatic acceptance for all valedictorians and salutatorians in accredited Georgia high schools; and

6 WHEREAS, by his leadership, the Institute is exploring innovative approaches to higher education in order to provide alternative educational models that reduce costs, improve processes and approaches, and increase accessibility for lifetime learning, including K-12 outreach and enhanced learning opportunities for high school STEM teachers; and

7 WHEREAS, he led the Institute to exceed the $1.5 billion goal for Campaign Georgia Tech by 20 percent, raising more than $1.8 billion; and

H. R. 453

- 1 -
WHEREAS, he enhanced Georgia Tech's campus with the addition of major facilities, including the Marcus Nanotechnology Building, the Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons, and the Roger A. and Helen B. Krone Engineered Biosystems Building; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, research expenditures at Georgia Tech have increased 71 percent, from $522.1 million to $891.7 million, with research awards nearly doubling from $445 million to $851 million and new industry sponsored awards have increased from $70 million to $111 million; and

WHEREAS, innovation neighborhoods have grown significantly in the areas surrounding campus during his tenure, including the Global Center for Medical Innovation, the Carbon Neutral Energy Solutions Laboratory, the Boeing Manufacturing Development Center, and Technology Square; and

WHEREAS, since 2013, he significantly expanded Georgia Tech's presence in Tech Square, connecting more than 30 individual corporate innovation, design, engineering, technology, and development operations, as well as several corporate headquarters, with the talent and technologies being developed at Georgia Tech; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Dr. Peterson has played an active role in helping establish the national education and research agendas, serving on many industry, government, and academic task forces and committees as well as congressional task forces, research councils, and advisory boards; and

WHEREAS, he currently serves on the National Science Board, the board of directors of the American Council on Education, the NCAA Board of Governors as chair, the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics, and the National Space Council's User Advisory Group.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that the members of this body commend Dr. G. P. "Bud" Peterson for his many years of dedicated public service to Georgia Tech, his community, this state, and this nation; congratulate him upon the occasion of his retirement as president; and extend to him their most sincere best wishes for continued success, health, and happiness.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is hereby authorized and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Dr. G. P. "Bud" Peterson.