

Senate Resolution 564

By: Senators Burns of the 23rd, Hickman of the 4th, Hatchett of the 50th, Summers of the 13th, Albers of the 56th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Georgia Independent College Association for its
2 leadership in private higher education and its enduring commitment to making Georgia the
3 top state for talent and economic development; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the Georgia Independent College Association (GICA) serves as the unified and
5 trusted voice of Georgia's private, not-for-profit colleges and universities, advancing the
6 cause of independent higher education with purpose and integrity since its founding; and

7 WHEREAS, GICA's 24 colleges enroll more than 75,000 students annually and provide a
8 variety of choices in academic excellence, including nationally recognized colleges and
9 universities, historically Black institutions, faith-based campuses, and regionally anchored
10 colleges serving rural and underserved communities; and

11 WHEREAS, the association works collaboratively with the University System of Georgia
12 and the Technical College System of Georgia to strengthen Georgia's workforce, supporting
13 the state's goal of becoming the top state for talent by producing graduates prepared for high-
14 demand careers and lifelong civic leadership; and

15 WHEREAS, the Georgia Independent College Association serves as a trusted partner to the
16 State of Georgia, providing research, analysis, and institutional insight to the General
17 Assembly, the Office of the Governor, as well as key state agencies and commissions
18 involved in education and workforce development; and

19 WHEREAS, GICA has championed affordability and access through its direct scholarship
20 programs, awarding over \$630,000 in scholarships last year, as well as through steadfast
21 advocacy for critical state-funded programs, including the HOPE Private Scholarship and the
22 Georgia Tuition Equalization Grant; and

23 WHEREAS, the association fosters innovation and shared efficiency through collaborative
24 services such as a Multiple Employer Retirement Plan, compliance training, and formal
25 articulation agreements with the Technical College System of Georgia that expand student
26 mobility and reduce administrative barriers; and

27 WHEREAS, the colleges and universities of GICA are not only academic institutions but
28 also economic engines producing graduates in healthcare, education, business, and STEM
29 fields, contributing significantly to Georgia's economic vitality, and achieving graduation
30 rates that consistently exceed national and regional benchmarks; and

31 WHEREAS, it is both fitting and proper to recognize the Georgia Independent College
32 Association for its leadership, vision, and steadfast commitment to advancing opportunity,
33 excellence, and making Georgia the top state for talent.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
35 recognize and commend the Georgia Independent College Association for its outstanding

36 contributions to higher education and extend deep appreciation for its continued service to
37 the students, families, and communities of Georgia.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
39 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Georgia
40 Independent College Association.