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LRB101 11612 ALS 57676 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, In 1868, educators in southern Illinois held meetings throughout the area to discuss the need for a teacher training school in the lower half of Illinois; the General Assembly passed the charter establishing Southern Illinois Normal University on March 9, 1869, and the charter was signed by Governor John Palmer on April 9, 1869; and

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WHEREAS, The University opened in 1874, and the first class had 54 students; the first graduating class consisted of 143 students, including two African-American students; and

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WHEREAS, Southern Illinois Normal University's enrollment grew, and by the late 1930s, the administration and alumni began petitioning the Governor and the General Assembly to expand the university's offerings to include liberal arts degrees in anticipation of increased enrollment following the conclusion of World War II; and

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WHEREAS, On June 30, 1943, the General Assembly granted Southern Illinois Normal University the ability to grant liberal arts degrees and master's degrees in education; in 1947, the 65th General Assembly dropped "Normal" from the university's name, and it became known as Southern Illinois University; and

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1 WHEREAS, Over the next few decades, enrollment and academic
2 programs grew substantially, and university officials took
3 notice of the lack of opportunities for higher education in the
4 Metro East area; in 1957, the university purchased the defunct
5 Shurtleff College and began enrolling and educating students;
6 in 1960, land was purchased, and classes began at the Southern
7 Illinois University at Edwardsville campus in 1965; and

8 WHEREAS, The University continued to expand and
9 established the Southern Illinois University School of
10 Medicine in Springfield in 1970; and

11 WHEREAS, Today, Southern Illinois University is a strong,
12 diverse, student-centered, research-intensive, comprehensive
13 university that embraces a unique tradition of inclusive
14 excellence, innovation, and outstanding teaching to transform
15 the lives of students; and

16 WHEREAS, This year, Southern Illinois University
17 celebrates its sesquicentennial anniversary; and

18 WHEREAS, Southern Illinois University's 150th anniversary
19 celebration included a Day of Giving on March 6, 2019;
20 throughout the year, the University will celebrate with special
21 exhibits, lecture series, and campus and community events;

1 therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare April 9,
4 2019 as Southern Illinois University Day in honor of its 150
5 years of service to southern Illinois and beyond; and be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That we admire their commitment to excellence in
8 teaching and research and to providing a transformative
9 educational experience for all students and wish them 150 more
10 years of excellence; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to the SIU System Board of Trustees, Interim
13 President J. Kevin Dorsey, and Interim Chancellor John Dunn as
14 an expression of our esteem and respect.