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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Southern Illinois University (SIU) Carbondale was founded in 1869 as the State's second teachers college and has grown into a nationally-ranked comprehensive doctoral research university with six colleges, a school of education, a school of law, and a school of medicine; the flagship campus of the Southern Illinois University System offers more than 200 majors, minors, and specializations; and

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WHEREAS, SIU Carbondale serves students from all 50 states and 100 nations, attracting students to the State with its commitment to affordability and access; for several years, the university has not raised undergraduate tuition; in 2020, it launched the Saluki Commitment and the Saluki Transfer Commitment to close financial gaps for Illinois families, using AIM HIGH funds, and it has eliminated out-of-state tuition; and

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WHEREAS, In the fall of 2023 and for the first time since 2014, there was an overall enrollment increase at SIU Carbondale, being the highest percentage increase in more than 30 years and the first time in at least 50 years that it has had four consecutive freshman class increases; and

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WHEREAS, SIU Carbondale launched Saluki Step Ahead through

1 an agreement with the Illinois Community College Board,  
2 allowing place-bound community college graduates to complete  
3 their bachelor's degree in select academic programs online and  
4 at a lower cost; so far, the school has four dozen agreements  
5 with community college campuses in Illinois, Missouri, and  
6 Texas; and

7 WHEREAS, SIU Carbondale is classified by the Carnegie  
8 Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as a Research  
9 University: High Research Activity, the second-highest tier;  
10 it is among the top four percent of U.S. higher education  
11 institutions for research; and

12 WHEREAS, SIU Carbondale offers several rare and  
13 distinctive academic programs, including Illinois' only  
14 baccalaureate programs in automotive technology, dental  
15 hygiene, and mortuary science and funeral service; it has a  
16 unique partnership with major airlines to fly prospective  
17 students to campus for Aviation Career Day events; and

18 WHEREAS, SIU Carbondale is one of a few dozen public  
19 institutions in the United States to host both a law school and  
20 a medical school and is one of three public institutions in  
21 Illinois to be a member of the Association of Research  
22 Libraries along with the Urbana-Champaign and Chicago campuses  
23 of the University of Illinois; and

1           WHEREAS, For more than 50 years the SIU School of Medicine  
2 has boasted of a nationally recognized MEDPREP program as a  
3 post-baccalaureate academic enhancement program serving more  
4 than 1,000 students since its inception and now has the  
5 Lincoln Scholars Program to prepare and equip Illinois' next  
6 generation of rural primary care physicians; and

7           WHEREAS, SIU Carbondale was the host to more than 30,000  
8 people for the 2017 total solar eclipse and will be the only  
9 campus in the nation to have the privilege of also being a site  
10 for the 2024 total solar eclipse; and

11           WHEREAS, In 2019, SIU Carbondale joined other state  
12 institutions as a hub in the Illinois Innovation Network, an  
13 initiative to harness the research expertise of Illinois  
14 universities to drive the State's economic growth; and

15           WHEREAS, SIU Carbondale continues to serve the community,  
16 including the provision of services through the Office of  
17 Innovation and Economic Development and the SIU Research Park,  
18 cultural enrichment through myriad arts and culture programs,  
19 including through the SIU School of Music and the SIU School of  
20 Theater and Dance, Division I NCAA sports through Saluki  
21 Athletics, WSIU Public Broadcasting, which reaches five  
22 million households and covers two-thirds of Illinois counties

1 and parts of five other states, the Paul Simon Public Policy  
2 Institute, and the Head Start Program; in 2015, the university  
3 earned the prestigious community engagement classification  
4 from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, SIU Carbondale's Touch of Nature Outdoor  
7 Education Center is the site that originated and fostered the  
8 idea for what became the internationally acclaimed Special  
9 Olympics; and

10 WHEREAS, SIU Carbondale reaffirmed a long-standing  
11 commitment to sustainability by becoming one of more than 800  
12 colleges and universities across the nation dedicated to  
13 addressing climate change through research and action in  
14 signing the Second Nature Climate Commitment in February 2020;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, In 2021, a new tradition began, Saluki Takeover  
17 Tours; in the inaugural year of the events, university  
18 officials visited Chicago and St. Louis, focusing on alumni  
19 and donor engagement, recruitment and retention, and brand  
20 awareness; each city visit included several events over  
21 multiple days; the tours have continued to expand to  
22 additional cities in Illinois and throughout the country;  
23 therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate  
3 Southern Illinois University System President Dan Mahony, SIU  
4 Carbondale Chancellor Austin Lane, and administration, staff,  
5 and faculty on making SIU Carbondale a world-class  
6 institution; and be it further

7           RESOLVED, That we welcome the inaugural 2023 Saluki  
8 Takeover Tour to Springfield on October 25 - 26, 2023; and be  
9 it further

10           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
11 presented to Southern Illinois University System President Dan  
12 Mahony and SIU Carbondale Chancellor Austin Lane as a symbol  
13 of our respect and esteem.