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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 345

Offered January 26, 2017

Commending ECPI University.

Patrons—DeSteph, Black, Carrico, Chafin, Chase, Cosgrove, Dance, Dunnavant, Edwards, Favola, Hanger, Howell, Lewis, Locke, Lucas, Mason, McClellan, McPike, Newman, Norment, Obenshain, Peake, Petersen, Reeves, Ruff, Saslaw, Spruill, Stanley, Stuart, Sturtevant, Surovell, Vogel, Wagner and Wexton; Delegate: Davis

WHEREAS, for 50 years, ECPI University, based in Virginia Beach, has provided students with a practical education tailored to the needs of employers in a wide variety of industries; and

WHEREAS, ECPI University was founded by Alfred Dreyfus, a French immigrant, who arrived in the United States after World War II and brought with him the concept of accelerated hands-on education that was popular in Europe at the time; and

WHEREAS, Alfred Dreyfus, an electrical technician, recognized the importance of the growing computer industry and foresaw the demand for trained professionals who could quickly enter the workforce; he founded ECPI University in 1966 as the Electronic Computer Programming Institute; and

WHEREAS, ECPI University's first campus was located in Norfolk and consisted of two classrooms and a lab with an IBM card sorter and an IBM accounting machine; the inaugural course taught six students the programming languages of the computers used in banks at the time; and

WHEREAS, ECPI University pioneered the practice of consulting with employers on their needs for entry-level employees; the practice has expanded and evolved over the past 50 years and is now represented by academic advisory boards for each program that meet twice yearly to ensure that curricula match real-world needs; and

WHEREAS, ECPI University's strategic ties with some of the nation's leading employers create unique opportunities for students; the university has provided employment services to nearly 10,000 different companies, including AT&T, BMW Manufacturing Co., Lockheed Martin, Rolls-Royce, Hewlett-Packard, Sentara Healthcare, Boeing, Verizon, STIHL, and Northrop Grumman; and

WHEREAS, the original ECPI University campus relocated to Virginia Beach, and additional campuses opened in Newport News, Richmond, Roanoke, and Northern Virginia and in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida; in addition, ECPI University provides flexible and convenient degree programs through its online courses; and

WHEREAS, ECPI University is accredited through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, and it has earned numerous awards and accolades, including the Best for Vets award by the *Military Times* and other national rankings; and

WHEREAS, today, ECPI stands for East Coast Polytechnic Institute, reflecting its origins and ongoing commitment to technological advancement and student achievement in all fields of study; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend ECPI University on the occasion of its 50th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Mark Dreyfus, president of ECPI University, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the institution's commitment to preparing students for careers in a dynamic world.

INTRODUCED

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