



HR1546

LRB099 23831 GRL 51351 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Waubonsee Community  
4 College on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its founding  
5 in 2016; and

6           WHEREAS, Waubonsee Community College, a two-year public  
7 institution of higher learning, came into existence in August  
8 of 1966, when the electorate of 12 school districts in most of  
9 Kane and portions of Kendall, DeKalb, LaSalle, and Will  
10 Counties voted to establish Community College District 516; and

11           WHEREAS, From the beginning, the philosophy of Waubonsee  
12 Community College has been that education is the cornerstone of  
13 a literate, democratic society, that learning is a lifelong  
14 process, and that the pursuit of knowledge must be supported by  
15 institutional policies demonstrating accessibility, service,  
16 quality, innovation, and value; and

17           WHEREAS, Waubonsee Community College truly began taking  
18 shape in early 1967, when its first president took office and  
19 subsequently began assembling a staff, developing a  
20 multi-level curriculum, and locating classroom space; in March  
21 of 1967, in order to give the college a suitable name, the  
22 school called upon its community through a district-wide naming

1 contest; from among the 600 entries, Susan Miller of Aurora and  
2 Patricia Ann Dillon of Batavia suggested Waubonsee, a  
3 Pottawatomie Native American chief who lived in the Fox River  
4 Valley during the 1800s, so the Fox Valley Community College  
5 officially became Waubonsee Community College; and

6 WHEREAS, Waubonsee Community College had a permanent name  
7 but not a permanent campus; when the college opened its doors  
8 for classes on September 11, 1967, the doors were those of a  
9 variety of community facilities; the school had an initial  
10 enrollment of 1,603 students, 403 full-time and 1,200  
11 part-time; in December of 1967, a successful bond referendum  
12 allowed the college to begin planning its first permanent  
13 campus; the campus, situated on a 243-acre tract of land north  
14 of Sugar Grove on Route 47, still serves as the main campus; a  
15 second Waubonsee campus opened in 1986 in downtown Aurora at  
16 the corner of Galena Boulevard and Stolp Avenue, which ceased  
17 operations in May of 2011; and

18 WHEREAS, In June of 2011, Waubonsee Community College moved  
19 its downtown campus to a new 132,000-square-foot facility at 18  
20 South River Street, while the Aurora Downtown Campus remains  
21 the headquarters for Workforce Development, Adult Education,  
22 GED, English as a Second Language, and the Adult Literacy  
23 Project; Waubonsee established another major extension in  
24 January of 1997 on the Rush-Copley Medical Center campus, which

1 was renovated and renamed the Aurora Fox Valley Campus in the  
2 summer of 2016; in the spring of 2011, courses began at a  
3 fourth permanent campus in Plano; classes are also held at  
4 nearly 16 other extension sites throughout the district; and

5 WHEREAS, In accordance with the Waubonsee Community  
6 College 2020 College Master Plan, five building projects were  
7 completed at the Sugar Grove Campus: the Campus Operations  
8 facility, which opened in August of 2005; the new Science  
9 Building, which opened during the Fall 2006 semester; the  
10 Academic and Professional Center, which held classes for the  
11 first time in the fall of 2007; the Student Center, which  
12 opened in the spring of 2009; and the Field House, which opened  
13 in the spring of 2015; and

14 WHEREAS, Waubonsee Community College has always been a  
15 leader in distance learning; the college was a founding member  
16 of the Illinois Virtual Campus and has provided courses to  
17 students statewide through Illinois Community Colleges Online;  
18 the college offers nearly 200 online courses and delivers  
19 fully-accredited associate degrees and certificates to  
20 students on an online platform; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
22 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
23 congratulate Waubonsee Community College on the occasion of the

1 50th anniversary of its founding in 2016 and wish the college  
2 continued success in the future; and be it further

3       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
4 presented to Waubonsee Community College as a symbol of our  
5 esteem and respect.