

Senate Resolution 648

By: Senator Unterman of the 45th

A RESOLUTION

1 Congratulating the Georgia campus of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
2 upon the grand occasion of its tenth anniversary; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM), a private,
4 not-for-profit institution of higher education with a 116 year history of educating health
5 professionals, established a branch campus in Suwanee, Georgia, that matriculated its first
6 class of 75 osteopathic medical students in August, 2005; and

7 WHEREAS, the Georgia campus of PCOM was established with the primary focus of
8 recruiting and educating students from across Georgia and surrounding states in fields that
9 include osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, biomedical science, and other health care
10 professions in order to serve the health care needs of the region, with enrollment now
11 reaching 1,012 doctoral and master's level students; and

12 WHEREAS, the Georgia campus has consistently been awarded full accreditation for each
13 of its academic programs while receiving commendations for best practices in education and
14 student support from entities such as Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the
15 Georgia Non-Public Postsecondary Commission, and several academic-specific program
16 accreditation bodies; and

17 WHEREAS, the Georgia campus continues to expand its academic offerings in health
18 professions and has instituted a team-based approach to medical and health sciences
19 education; and

20 WHEREAS, the Georgia campus of PCOM fully embraces students of diverse backgrounds
21 and provides a platform for personal growth and fulfillment of students' career interests and
22 passions to serve humankind; and

23 WHEREAS, the Georgia campus encourages and fully supports medical and health science
24 students who have chosen to serve the health needs of soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and
25 their families through service in the medical corps within branches of the United States
26 military; and

27 WHEREAS, the Georgia campus has had a positive impact throughout Gwinnett County and
28 the State of Georgia as students, faculty, and staff collectively volunteer thousands of hours
29 to not-for-profit organizations, including homeless shelters, clinics, schools, prisons, and
30 sports camps; and

31 WHEREAS, the Georgia campus of PCOM has partnered to create new graduate medical
32 education residency programs at Houston Healthcare, Gwinnett Health System, and other
33 Georgia hospital systems to meet the postgraduate educational needs of osteopathic
34 physicians entering primary care and other specialties; and

35 WHEREAS, the Georgia campus trains physicians to become comprehensive,
36 compassionate, and patient-centered practitioners who will serve as leaders within their local
37 communities; and

38 WHEREAS, the Georgia campus of PCOM partners with local community organizations to
39 improve public health; and

40 WHEREAS, the Georgia campus employs more than 145 Georgians as faculty and staff and
41 has been positioned as a strong economic, education, and health care asset to Gwinnett
42 County and the State of Georgia; and

43 WHEREAS, the Georgia campus of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine has
44 contributed significantly during its ten-year tenure toward increasing the number of primary
45 care physicians and pharmacists who provide care to Georgia citizens, largely within rural
46 and underserved communities where the need is greatest.

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
48 congratulate the Georgia campus of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine upon
49 the grand occasion of ten years of educational excellence in health professions, express their
50 appreciation for its service in educating the physicians and health care practitioners of the
51 future, and extend their most sincere best wishes for continued success in its educational,
52 clinical, and research mission.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
54 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Georgia
55 campus of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.