



# Huntsville, Alabama

305 Fountain Circle  
Huntsville, AL 35801

## Cover Memo

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**Meeting Type:** City Council Regular Meeting **Meeting Date:** 4/23/2026

**File ID:** TMP-6699

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**Department:** City Council

**Subject:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Type of Action:** Approval/Action

Resolution Commemorating the 65th Anniversary of Drake State Community & Technical College.

Resolution No.

**Finance Information:**

**Account Number:** N/A

**City Cost Amount:** N/A

**Total Cost:** N/A

**Special Circumstances:**

**Grant Funded:** N/A

**Grant Title - CFDA or granting Agency:** N/A

**Resolution #:** N/A

**Location: (list below)**

**Address:** N/A

**District:** District 1  District 2  District 3  District 4  District 5

**Additional Comments:**

N/A

## **RESOLUTION NO. 26 -**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council and the Mayor of Huntsville, Alabama, recognize the significant role that J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College has played in expanding access to higher education and advancing workforce development opportunities for the citizens of Huntsville and North Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College was established in 1961 in Huntsville, Alabama, as Huntsville State Vocational Technical School, opening its doors with 27 students enrolled in four technical programs designed to meet the workforce needs of a rapidly growing region; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1966 the institution was renamed to honor Joseph Fanning Drake, a distinguished educational leader and long-time President of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University, whose leadership and vision contributed greatly to the advancement of higher education in Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1973 Drake State achieved technical college status and began awarding the Associate in Applied Technology degree, further expanding its mission to prepare students for high-demand careers through specialized technical and workforce-focused education; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2013 the institution became J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College, uniquely combining comprehensive community college academic transfer programs with advanced technical training and workforce development programs designed to meet the evolving needs of industry; and

**WHEREAS**, for 65 years Drake State has served as a critical workforce development partner for Huntsville and North Alabama, offering Associate in Applied Science, Associate in Arts, and Associate in Science degrees, as well as short-term certificates and industry-recognized credentials aligned with high-demand fields such as advanced manufacturing, aerospace, healthcare, and information technology; and

**WHEREAS**, Drake State has demonstrated leadership in workforce innovation, including early designation as a Microsoft Authorized Academic Training partner, serving as an EPA HVAC certification testing site, and participating in employer-driven training initiatives such as the Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (FAME) program while maintaining strong partnerships with regional industry leaders; and

**WHEREAS**, the college continues to expand its capacity to train the next generation of skilled professionals through investments in modern facilities such as the Leidos Advanced Training Complex, supporting aerospace and advanced manufacturing education aligned with Huntsville's continued economic growth; and

**WHEREAS**, Drake State has secured competitive federal and workforce grants that strengthen student pathways into science, technology, and other high-demand career fields,

including becoming the first institution in Alabama to receive a United States Department of Labor Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grant, and as the college celebrates its 65th Anniversary during the week of April 27, this milestone represents six and a half decades of educational access, workforce excellence, and sustained contributions to the economic vitality of the City of Huntsville and the State of Alabama.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council and the Mayor of Huntsville, Alabama, hereby recognize and congratulate J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College on the occasion of its 65th Anniversary and commend the institution for its longstanding commitment to educational excellence, workforce development, and service to the Huntsville community and the citizens of North Alabama.

**ADOPTED** this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the City Council of the  
City of Huntsville, Alabama

**APPROVED** this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

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Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama