

**RESOLUTION No. 16-850**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama are apprised that Oakwood University will celebrate its 120<sup>th</sup> Founders Day during worship service at the Oakwood University Church on November 12, 2016; and,

**WHEREAS**, Oakwood University was founded as the Oakwood Manual Training School 120 years ago on November 16, 1896, with an initial enrollment of 16 students, as an industrial school to educate African-Americans in the South; and,

**WHEREAS**, today, Oakwood University is a historically black, Seventh-day Adventist, liberal arts institution in Huntsville, Alabama, with the mission to transform students through biblically-based education for service to God and humanity; and,

**WHEREAS**, Oakwood is considered one of Huntsville's historical landmarks, with current land holdings of over 1200 acres, and a student enrollment of over 1700; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University is very much a part of the Huntsville community, with students carrying out their mission of service by participating in local tutoring, disaster relief, community improvement, and child development programs; and,

**WHEREAS**, in 1958, Oakwood College was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award associate and baccalaureate degrees; and,

**WHEREAS**, the name of the institution was changed to Oakwood University on January 1, 2008, when the school achieved university status after adding its first graduate program, the Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies; and,

**WHEREAS**, U.S. News & World Report has consistently ranked Oakwood University among top-tier, private, liberal arts colleges and universities in the South; and,

**WHEREAS**, Oakwood University views education as an indispensable preparation for wider services to God and the human family; and,

**WHEREAS**, Oakwood University began its celebration of 120 years of transforming lives during 2016, and concludes its celebration during Founders' Day activities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama hereby acknowledge, congratulate and extend best wishes to Oakwood University on the celebration of 120 years of service to the work of higher education in Alabama. May you have continued success in all future endeavors.

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**ADOPTED** this the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November, 2016.

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

**APPROVED** this the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November, 2016.

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Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama