

RESOLUTION NO. 27184

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CHATTANOOGA REGION
TALENT DIVIDEND FACILITATING COLLEGE LEVEL
LEARNING.

WHEREAS, it is in the vital interest of the City of Chattanooga and our entire economic region to have a well-trained and educated workforce; and,

WHEREAS, it is projected that by 2020 fifty-six percent (56%) of all jobs in the State of Tennessee will require a career certificate or college degree and for many area students, the path through college ends with no degree and a significant amount of debt; and by 2018 over sixty-three percent (63%) of jobs will require a post-secondary education; and,

WHEREAS, a program acknowledging and giving credit for experiential learning (college level equivalent) will help increase the number of quality college degrees earned by the area workforce, will help reduce college debt, will result in increased employee skills, will produce effective, efficient investments in training and education and will produce more engaged employees, which will result in a return on investment that includes cost savings, safer working conditions, satisfied employees, greater health and wellness (with reduced healthcare costs), increased productivity, lure and keep a strong workforce in the region; and,

WHEREAS, the Chattanooga Region Talent Dividend has been established as a partnership between business, government entities, insurers, healthcare providers, manufacturers, and accredited higher education institutions (public and private) to increase by at least one percent (1%) within successive three (3) year time periods (5107 by 2013 in the TN-GA MSA;

8171 by 2015 in the Chattanooga Region and so forth every successive three year time periods) as workforce and economic development are ongoing; and,

WHEREAS, the collective impact of at least 1% gain (8171 by 2015) economically will result in approximately \$850 million annually that grows financially (\$) with each successive three (3) year time periods;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE, That the City of Chattanooga supports the Chattanooga Region Talent Dividend initiative and its goal of supporting sustainable human capital for the 16 country tri-state region, *i.e.*, “Making Life Better by Degrees,”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Chattanooga supports employees interested in pursuing a quality college degree by encouraging them to consider among their various options the efforts of Chattanooga Region Talent Dividend, and this City further including said entity among our current Educational Reimbursement Policy/Program for the Prior Learning Courses and for evaluation and credit hour transcript as reimbursable expenses to the employee contingent upon successful completion.

ADOPTED: July 31, 2012.

/mms