HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2021-4623, by Representatives Gregerson and Entenman

WHEREAS, The State of Washington helped start Western Governors University (WGU) in 1998 to provide access to affordable education and training opportunities through online, competency-based programs and pledged, along with member states of Western Governors Association, to take appropriate actions to create policies that support the goals of WGU; and

WHEREAS, Ten years ago this spring, the State of Washington enacted policy expanding access to affordable bachelor's and master's degrees for Washington residents through online, competency-based offerings at Western Governors University Washington (WGU Washington); and

WHEREAS, WGU Washington offers high quality, career-focused degree programs in fields vital to the state's economy, including business, health professions, teaching, and information technology; and

WHEREAS, WGU Washington contributes to Washington's educational attainment goal of at least 70 percent of Washington adults achieving a postsecondary credential by 2023; and

WHEREAS, WGU Washington has demonstrated success in providing affordable education and training opportunities for Washington adult learners; improving education quality; expanding access to underserved populations, including veterans; graduating students; and meeting workforce needs; and

WHEREAS, WGU Washington has experienced an enrollment increase from its beginning 850 students in 2011, growing to more than 14,000 full-time students and making Washington home to more WGU students than in any other state in the nation; and

WHEREAS, WGU Washington has awarded more than 25,000 degrees to hard-working, motivated men and women, helping develop the business leaders, nurses, teachers, and information technology professionals needed to keep Washington's economy strong; and

WHEREAS, WGU Washington is committed to helping Washingtonians achieve their dreams for a university degree and career success;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House of Representatives congratulate Western Governors University on its 10th anniversary in serving the students of Washington State.

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of

Resolution 4623 adopted by the House of Representatives

April 2, 2021

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Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk