

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2016-4665, by Representatives Lytton, Morris, Van Werven, and Buys

1           WHEREAS, Dr. W. Bruce Shepard is retiring from his position as  
2 President of Western Washington University in June 2016, after  
3 serving as the University's 13th President; and

4           WHEREAS, President Shepard is a true public servant in higher  
5 education, with four decades of experience as an educator and  
6 academic leader, including eight years as President of Western  
7 Washington University, seven years of public service as Chancellor of  
8 the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, six years of service as  
9 Provost at Eastern Oregon University, and twenty-three years with  
10 Oregon State University, where he earned tenure as a Professor of  
11 Political Science and served in various roles in the University's  
12 administration; and

13           WHEREAS, Under President Shepard's leadership, Western Washington  
14 University has been recognized as a regional and national leader for  
15 academic success and community engagement, including repeated  
16 recognition by *U.S. News & World Report* as the highest ranking public  
17 master's degree granting university in the Pacific Northwest and one  
18 of the best values in public higher education by *Kiplinger's*; ranking  
19 first in the nation three years in a row among medium-sized  
20 universities in sending graduates to the Peace Corps; and being the  
21 top national producer in 2013 among public master's degree granting  
22 institutions for Fulbright Scholarship winners; and

1       WHEREAS, President Shepard has prioritized Western's role in  
2 building a stronger Washington as a publicly-purposed university,  
3 highlighted by the fact that nine out of ten Western students are  
4 from the state of Washington, and the vast majority of Western alumni  
5 live in Washington, including in every county throughout the state;  
6 and

7       WHEREAS, President Shepard led the University to successfully  
8 navigate the Great Recession, effectively managing the University's  
9 finances while protecting Western's distinctive academic excellence  
10 as well as affordability for students; and

11       WHEREAS, During President Shepard's tenure at Western, STEM  
12 degree production has increased by fifty percent, including a  
13 tripling of the number of computer science degrees produced; and

14       WHEREAS, President Shepard has strengthened Western's commitment  
15 to serving, educating, and graduating first-generation, low-income,  
16 and traditionally underserved students, helping to establish an  
17 empathetic campus culture that values inclusivity and diversity; and

18       WHEREAS, Through his leadership, President Shepard has  
19 consistently challenged the Western community and residents  
20 throughout Washington State to consider tough questions around racial  
21 privilege, equity, and social justice, and worked to ensure that  
22 quality higher education is accessible to students of all backgrounds  
23 and demographics; and

24       WHEREAS, Through his leadership, President Shepard has fostered  
25 greater equity and inclusion on the Western Washington University  
26 campus through multiple initiatives that have enhanced the quality of  
27 life for students, faculty, and staff; and

28       WHEREAS, President Shepard has been a champion of shared  
29 governance and leading by listening, beginning his service at Western  
30 by holding listening sessions involving several thousand faculty,  
31 staff, and students on campus, followed by over one hundred  
32 conversations with diverse constituency groups around Washington and  
33 beyond; and

34       WHEREAS, Under President Shepard's leadership, Western has  
35 invigorated a culture of philanthropy and elevated its reputation  
36 throughout the state, leading to the success of the sixty million  
37 dollar *Western Stands for Washington* fundraising campaign; and

