

SENATE RESOLUTION

8729

By Senators Hewitt, Conway, Pedersen, Warnick, O'Ban, Brown, Nelson, Schoesler, Rivers, Honeyford, Benton, Becker, Litzow, Mullet, Hasegawa, Padden, Fraser, McAuliffe, Billig, Dammeier, and Ericksen

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Steven VanAusdle worked for over 31 years as the
2 president of Walla Walla Community College and worked tirelessly for
3 the college for more than 45 years; and

4 WHEREAS, Since 1984, Dr. VanAusdle provided Walla Walla Community
5 College with innovative education programs, tailored to the needs of
6 students, producing groundbreaking levels of success for thousands of
7 students across the region; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. VanAusdle's keen ability to combine equal
9 opportunity, academic achievement, and raw instinct supported job
10 growth for his students and for the surrounding communities; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. VanAusdle's utilization of economic modeling and
12 data fostered a prosperous environment to match students to the right
13 career paths, improving both the quantity and the quality of the
14 local, regional, and national workforce; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. VanAusdle is a natural leader among community
16 college presidents across the country due to his continuous,
17 innovative work for over three decades—proving that community
18 colleges can be a hub of prosperity of economic growth; and

19 WHEREAS, In 2011, due to abundant examples of his revolutionary
20 work with the college, Dr. VanAusdle was named Champion of Change by
21 the White House for his invaluable help in creating a stronger
22 community, and in turn, creating a stronger nation; and

1 WHEREAS, Walla Walla Community College and Dr. VanAusdle were
2 named a cowinner of the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence
3 in 2013, highlighting Walla Walla Community College in national news
4 as the cream of the crop over the 1,200 other community colleges in
5 the country; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. VanAusdle made Walla Walla Community College
7 standout for education programs in water management, wind technology,
8 enology, and viticulture; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. VanAusdle spearheaded the college's enology and
10 viticulture programs, which invigorated the local wine industry into
11 an immense source of economic growth, and subsequently implemented a
12 commercial winery, College Cellars, becoming the first community
13 college to do so; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. VanAusdle showcases the innate ability to observe
15 opportunities in the Walla Walla region and then translate growing
16 needs into programs that capitalize on maximizing employment
17 opportunities on behalf of his students;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
19 recognize Dr. Steven VanAusdle for his profound transformation of the
20 lives of students and the worthy communities they serve; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
22 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Dr. Steven
23 VanAusdle.

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