

SENATE RESOLUTION

8704

By Senators Hasegawa, Ranker, Bailey, Baumgartner, Conway, Becker, Frockt, Carlyle, Lias, McCoy, McAuliffe, and Hobbs

1 WHEREAS, In June 2016, Cyndie Shepard is retiring from her
2 position as the first lady of Western Washington University and as
3 the executive director of Western's award-winning Compass 2 Campus
4 mentoring program; and

5 WHEREAS, Cyndie Shepard has excelled as the first lady of Western
6 Washington University in working with her husband, Western President
7 Bruce Shepard, to develop friendships and partnerships on campus and
8 in the community, state, and nation; and in creating opportunities
9 for people from all walks of life; and

10 WHEREAS, Cyndie Shepard has proven to be a true champion for
11 education in three states, particularly in raising aspirations for
12 students from traditionally underrepresented, diverse, and first
13 generation backgrounds to pursue higher education through mentoring
14 programs in Washington and Wisconsin; and

15 WHEREAS, Cyndie Shepard has taught at several universities and
16 colleges across the nation including the University of Wisconsin-
17 Green Bay, Murray State University, Eastern Oregon University, and
18 Blue Mountain Community College; and has extensive experience in P-12
19 education, special education, and administration; and

20 WHEREAS, The Western community and the people of Washington have
21 benefited from the contributions and leadership of Cyndie Shepard,
22 who has particularly distinguished herself for her creation,
23 development, and leadership of Western's Compass 2 Campus program, a

1 nationally recognized, award-winning mentoring initiative that
2 places Western students in local school districts to encourage
3 students to graduate from high school and pursue higher
4 education; and

5 WHEREAS, The Compass 2 Campus program was transported to
6 Central Washington University last year, in recognition of its
7 great success at Western and in Whatcom and Skagit counties; and

8 WHEREAS, The Western Washington University Compass 2 Campus
9 Mentorship Initiative is a pilot program implemented by House
10 Bill No. 1986 which was signed by the governor on May 11, 2009;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Cyndie Shepard served as director and co-founder of
13 the Phuture Phoenix program at University of Wisconsin-Green
14 Bay, where the program continues to be successful and has been
15 transported to University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and Silver
16 Lake College; and

17 WHEREAS, Compass 2 Campus and the Phuture Phoenix programs
18 have proven to increase GPA and reduce truancy among elementary,
19 middle, and high school students; empower students to make good
20 choices about the future; increase students' leadership and
21 commitment to giving back to their communities; and empower more
22 students to graduate from high school and encourage them to
23 consider some form of higher education; and

24 WHEREAS, Cyndie Shepard presents on mentorship and student
25 engagement at numerous conferences and community events, teaches
26 at Western in the Woodring College of Education and in the dance
27 department, is past president of Western's chapter of Phi Kappa
28 Phi, is on the Woodring Diversity Committee, and is an advisory
29 board member for the GRADS Program in Bellingham Public Schools;
30 and

31 WHEREAS, Cyndie Shepard's legacy and devotion to public
32 education will have lasting beneficial effects on the people of
33 the state of Washington, those who come from disadvantaged
34 backgrounds, and those college students who served as mentors to
35 those students in area schools, for years to come;

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
37 Senate recognize Cyndie Shepard for her service to Western

1 Washington University and for her dedication to K-16 education
2 and to student access and success; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
4 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Cyndie
5 Shepard and the Board of Trustees of Western Washington
6 University.

7 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,
8 do hereby certify that this is a true and
9 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8704,
10 adopted by the Senate
11 March 4, 2016

12 HUNTER G. GOODMAN
13 Secretary of the Senate