

SENATE RESOLUTION

8711

By Senators Ranker, Ericksen, Dansel, Frockt, Cleveland, and Bailey

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

38 WHEREAS, President Shepard's legacy and devotion to public higher
39 education will have lasting beneficial effects on the state of

1 Washington and the students, faculty, and staff of Western Washington
2 University for years to come;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
4 recognize President Bruce Shepard for his service in higher education
5 and for his dedication to access, innovation, diversity, equity,
6 sustainability, and academic excellence; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
8 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to President
9 Shepard and the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University.

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