

SENATE RESOLUTION

8711

By Senators Ranker, Ericksen, Dandel, Frockt, Cleveland, Bailey, McCoy, Nelson, Lias, Hasegawa, McAuliffe, and Habib

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  
3 university, highlighted by the fact that nine out of ten Western  
4 students are from the state of Washington, and the vast majority  
5 of Western alumni live in Washington, including in every county  
6 throughout the state; and

7       WHEREAS, President Shepard led the University to  
8 successfully navigate the Great Recession, effectively managing  
9 the University's finances while protecting Western's distinctive  
10 academic excellence 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  
15 commitment to serving, educating, and graduating first-  
16 generation, low-income, and traditionally underserved students,  
17 helping to establish an empathetic campus culture that values  
18 inclusivity and diversity; and

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

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

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

36       WHEREAS, Under President Shepard's leadership, Western has  
37 invigorated a culture of philanthropy and elevated its  
38 reputation throughout the state, leading to the success of the

1 sixty million dollar *Western Stands for Washington* fundraising  
2 campaign; and

3 WHEREAS, President Shepard's legacy and devotion to public  
4 higher education will have lasting beneficial effects on the  
5 state of Washington and the students, faculty, and staff of  
6 Western Washington University for years to come;

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

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
12 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to  
13 President Shepard and the Board of Trustees of Western  
14 Washington University.

15 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,  
16 do hereby certify that this is a true and  
17 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8711,  
18 adopted by the Senate  
19 March 4, 2016

20 HUNTER G. GOODMAN  
21 Secretary of the Senate