

SENATE RESOLUTION

8613

By Senator Torres

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Michael Lawler faithfully served as the longest-
2 tenured President of Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences
3 (PNWU), providing exemplary leadership that transformed the
4 institution from a single-program entity into a thriving health
5 sciences university encompassing five mission-focused programs; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Lawler dedicated his career to advancing health care
7 education, with a particular focus on addressing the needs of rural
8 and medically underserved communities, embodying the highest ideals
9 of service, compassion, and professional excellence; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Lawler's professional career spanned over 35 years,
11 during which he held esteemed positions such as Dean and Professor at
12 the University of South Dakota's School of Health Sciences and as a
13 leader at the University of California, Davis, while authoring over
14 80 scholarly publications and contributing significantly to global
15 child well-being through the Children's Worlds survey; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Lawler's tenure at PNWU was marked by the
17 cultivation of meaningful partnerships, including his work with the
18 14 confederated tribes and bands of the Yakama Nation and his efforts
19 to establish a formal land acknowledgment recognizing the shared
20 reverence for the land and its significance to the university; and

21 WHEREAS, Dr. Lawler's leadership created an enduring legacy of
22 innovation, inclusivity, and excellence, profoundly shaping the
23 culture, mission, and future of PNWU; and

1 WHEREAS, His tireless commitment to health and human
2 services extended beyond his professional responsibilities,
3 inspiring students, faculty, staff, and the broader community
4 with his passion, vision, and unwavering dedication to improving
5 lives;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
7 Senate formally recognize and honor the life and legacy of Dr.
8 Michael Lawler, whose leadership and contributions have left an
9 indelible mark on Pacific Northwest University of Health
10 Sciences, the Pacific Northwest region, and the field of health
11 sciences; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
13 extend its deepest condolences to Dr. Lawler's wife, Kimberly
14 Lawler, his son, Sebastian, and the entire Lawler family during
15 this time of profound loss; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
17 transmitted to the family of Dr. Michael Lawler and to the
18 leadership of Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences as
19 a symbol of the Washington State Senate respect and recognition
20 of his extraordinary life and work.

21 I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate,
22 do hereby certify that this is a true and
23 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8613,
24 adopted by the Senate
25 February 12, 2025

26 SARAH BANNISTER
27 Secretary of the Senate