SLS 22RS-3576

2022 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 142

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH. Recognizes Tuesday, May 24, 2022, as Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Day at the Capitol.

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To recognize Tuesday, May 24, 2022, as Historically Black Colleges and Universities
3	(HBCU) Day at the Capitol.
4	WHEREAS, Louisiana is proud to be home to eight Historically Black Colleges and
5	Universities: Dillard University, Grambling State University, Southern University and A&M
6	College, Southern University Agriculture Research and Extension Center, Southern
7	University Law Center, Southern University at New Orleans, Southern University
8	Shreveport, and Xavier University of Louisiana; and
9	WHEREAS, Louisiana is also home to the nation's only HBCU System (Southern
10	University System) which is uniquely positioned as an exemplar of successful HBCU
11	policies and practices; and
12	WHEREAS, it would be remiss not to recognize the contributions to Louisiana's
13	HBCU prowess upon the retirement of two of its notable leaders; and
14	WHEREAS, Dr. Ray Belton will retire after serving as a chief executive officer for
15	more than twenty-one years, the first fourteen years as Chancellor of Southern University
16	Shreveport and then seven years as President-Chancellor of the System and Southern
17	University and A&M College, comprising thirty-five years of service to Southern
18	University; and

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1	WHEREAS, over the course of the last four years at Southern University and A&M
2	College, both retention and graduation rates have grown, the enrollment of first-time
3	freshmen has increased by an average of 15%, and resources to support campus
4	enhancements have expanded by 220 percent; and
5	WHEREAS, under Dr. Belton's leadership Southern University and A&M College
6	was recently designated as a Carnegie R2 institution with "high research activity", the
7	second-highest classification for American research universities; and
8	WHEREAS, Dr. Walter Kimbrough will retire May 31, 2022, as president of Dillard
9	University after ten years of service, having also led Philander Smith College as president
10	for nearly eight years; and
11	WHEREAS, Dr. Kimbrough is known internationally as the legendary social media
12	"Hip Hop Prez" and recognized nationally for sharing his expertise on the value of HBCUs;
13	and
14	WHEREAS, Dillard's endowment now stands at \$150 million, growing by more than
15	115% during Dr. Kimbrough's tenure, giving the 152-year-old institution one of the best-
16	funded endowments among HBCUs across the nation; and
16 17	funded endowments among HBCUs across the nation; and WHEREAS, under Dr. Kimbrough's leadership Dillard's academic profile increased
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17 18	WHEREAS, under Dr. Kimbrough's leadership Dillard's academic profile increased with the introduction of its nursing school into the College of Nursing; and
17 18 19	WHEREAS, under Dr. Kimbrough's leadership Dillard's academic profile increased with the introduction of its nursing school into the College of Nursing; and WHEREAS, the university has also seen increases in its retention and graduation
17 18 19 20	WHEREAS, under Dr. Kimbrough's leadership Dillard's academic profile increased with the introduction of its nursing school into the College of Nursing; and WHEREAS, the university has also seen increases in its retention and graduation rates since 2012; and
17 18 19 20 21	WHEREAS, under Dr. Kimbrough's leadership Dillard's academic profile increased with the introduction of its nursing school into the College of Nursing; and WHEREAS, the university has also seen increases in its retention and graduation rates since 2012; and WHEREAS, Louisiana HBCUs collectively enrolled 21,168 students in 2020-2021;
17 18 19 20 21 22	WHEREAS, under Dr. Kimbrough's leadership Dillard's academic profile increased with the introduction of its nursing school into the College of Nursing; and WHEREAS, the university has also seen increases in its retention and graduation rates since 2012; and WHEREAS, Louisiana HBCUs collectively enrolled 21,168 students in 2020-2021; and
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 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 	WHEREAS, under Dr. Kimbrough's leadership Dillard's academic profile increased with the introduction of its nursing school into the College of Nursing; and WHEREAS, the university has also seen increases in its retention and graduation rates since 2012; and WHEREAS, Louisiana HBCUs collectively enrolled 21,168 students in 2020-2021; and WHEREAS, since their establishment 186 years ago, HBCUs have provided black students with a powerful avenue, and for some, the only path to a college degree; and WHEREAS, as Louisiana grappled with both the global COVID-19 pandemic and historic national civil unrest, HBCUs have proven to be invaluable assets based on their history, student experiences, and societal contributions; and

1	communities, states, and regions; and
2	WHEREAS, HBCUs enroll and successfully graduate greater numbers of
3	low-income, first-generation, and academically under prepared college students compared
4	with non-HBCUs; and
5	WHEREAS, evidence demonstrates high levels of student-faculty engagement and
6	mentorship at HBCUs, leading to stronger student success; and
7	WHEREAS, HBCUs are credited with building the black middle class in America
8	with black graduates of HBCUs who are significantly more likely to be better off financially
9	and socially; and
10	WHEREAS, research has found that, on average, 58% of black HBCU graduates
11	strongly agree that professors at their university cared about them as individuals (compared
12	to 25% of black non-HBCU graduates); and
13	WHEREAS, black HBCU graduates are nearly twice as likely as black graduates of
14	non-HBCUs to strongly agree that their university prepared them well for life outside of
15	college (55% vs 29%); and
16	WHEREAS, the pageantry, traditions, bands, and rivalries of HBCUs are second to
17	none; and
18	WHEREAS, Louisiana's HBCUs have distinguished themselves in numerous ways,
19	both nationally and in the state as follows:
20	Dillard University is one of the nation's leading producers of black physicists; and
21	Grambling University is the leading producer of computer science graduates in the
22	state of Louisiana and the only institution to offer bachelor's degree programs in cyber
23	security and cloud computing; and
24	Southern University and A&M College (SUBR) is the leading producer of black
25	engineers in Louisiana whose graduates play significant, creative, and administrative roles
26	at NASA, Boeing, IBM, Entergy, and Dow Chemical, among other leading companies; and
27	Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) is the only HBCU in the state to
28	offer a forensic science program; and
29	Southern University Shreveport (SUSLA) is the only comprehensive two-year

30 community college in north Louisiana with an aerospace technology program; and

1	Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center is the first
2	HBCU to launch its own CBC and THC medical marijuana lines; and
3	Southern University Law Center (SULC) counts 104 of its alumni as judges
4	currently serving; and
5	Xavier University of Louisiana (XULA) is nationally recognized for the number
6	of black graduates who go on to complete medical school according to the 2020 report of the
7	Medical School Association of American Medical Colleges, and with plans to open its own
8	medical school and graduate school of health sciences, it will be the fifth HBCU medical
9	school in the nation; and
10	WHEREAS, it is appropriate to commend Louisiana's eight Historically Black
11	Colleges and Universities for their outstanding achievements and their numerous alumni for
12	their contributions to their local communities, the state, and the world.
13	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
14	does hereby recognize Tuesday, May 24, 2022, as HBCU Day at the Capitol and does hereby
15	especially acknowledge Louisiana's HBCUs' invaluable contributions to our residents and
16	state.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Celeste D. Ellis.

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DIGEST 2022 Regular Session

Boudreaux

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