

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 32

BY REPRESENTATIVES FREEMAN AND BILLINGS

A RESOLUTION

To commend Michael A. Fitts for his ten years of service as president of Tulane University.

WHEREAS, Tulane University president, Michael A. Fitts, is marking his tenth year as leader of Tulane University; Tulane is one of the nation's foremost research universities; it is the ninth-oldest private university in the Association of American Universities and includes the nation's twelfth-oldest law school, the nation's fifteenth-oldest medical school, and one of only seven federally funded National Primate Research Centers in the country; and

WHEREAS, under President Fitts's leadership, Tulane has achieved an unprecedented level of success on every measure of academic excellence; and

WHEREAS, research funding has increased by seventy percent in the last six years alone, bringing hundreds of millions of dollars each year in external funding to Louisiana for the study of infectious disease, aging, brain health, and many other fields including preserving and protecting Louisiana's coastlands; and

WHEREAS, President Fitts is leading Tulane on a period of historic physical growth including a once-in-a-generation expansion of its downtown campus that will be anchored by the revitalization of the Charity Hospital building and the repurposing of the Tulane Medical Center building; and

WHEREAS, these efforts will transform Tulane's downtown campus into a thriving center of cutting-edge research and innovation featuring a new nursing program, the Tulane Innovation Institute, and more; it will create thousands of jobs while reimagining Louisiana as a healthcare destination and a hub for discovery in the biosciences; and

WHEREAS, President Fitts has launched initiatives to keep the best and brightest high school students in Louisiana; these initiatives include partnerships with local high schools and the Louisiana Promise Program, which meets the full financial need of attending Tulane for Louisiana students whose families make less than \$100,000 per year; and

WHEREAS, these initiatives complement such efforts as the Legislative Scholars Program and the Mayoral Scholars programs, which President Fitts recently expanded; and

WHEREAS, in the decade that President Fitts has led the university, growing percentages of Tulane graduates have stayed in Louisiana after graduation; and

WHEREAS, Tulane is an economic driver in Louisiana with an annual economic impact of more than \$3.1 billion; it directly employs over eight thousand people; and

WHEREAS, President Fitts is most deserving of the highest recognition for his long-running service to and incredible success at one of Louisiana's most treasured institutions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Tulane president, Michael A. Fitts, for his incredible ten years as leader of Tulane University and wish him and the university continued success in bettering life for all Louisianans by educating the leaders and discovering the cures of tomorrow.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES