

2024 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 17

BY SENATORS DUPLESSIS, HENRY, BOUIE AND CARTER

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Michael A. Fitts on his ten years as president of the Tulane University of Louisiana and designates March 20th as Tulane Day at the State Capitol.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Michael A. Fitts on his ten years as president of the Tulane University of
3 Louisiana and designate March 20, 2024, as Tulane Day at the State Capitol.

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

9 WHEREAS, under his leadership Tulane has achieved an unprecedented level of
10 success on every measure of academic excellence; and

11 WHEREAS, research funding has increased by 70 percent in the last six years alone,
12 bringing hundreds of millions of dollars each year in external funding to Louisiana for the
13 study of infectious diseases, aging, brain health, and many other fields including preserving
14 and protecting Louisiana's coastlands; and

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

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

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

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

11 WHEREAS, in the decade he has led the university, growing percentages of Tulane
12 graduates have stayed in Louisiana after graduation; and

13 WHEREAS, Tulane is an economic driver in Louisiana with an annual economic
14 impact of more than \$3.1 billion to Louisiana's economy; the university also directly
15 employs over eight thousand people and indirectly supports an additional 5,310 jobs; and

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

18 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
19 does hereby commend Tulane President Michael A. Fitts for his incredible ten years as
20 leader of the Tulane University of Louisiana and wish him and the university continued
21 success in bettering life for all Louisianians by educating the leaders and discovering the
22 cures of tomorrow.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Wednesday, March 20, 2024, is hereby
24 designated as Tulane Day at the State Capitol.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
26 president of Tulane University, Michael A. Fitts.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Dawn Romero Watson.

SR 17 Original	DIGEST 2024 Regular Session	Duplessis
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