

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 17

BY SENATORS DUPLESSIS, HENRY, BOUIE AND CARTER

A RESOLUTION

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

WHEREAS, Tulane University President Michael A. Fitts is marking his tenth year as leader of one of the nation's foremost research universities which is the ninth-oldest private university in the prestigious 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 his leadership Tulane has achieved an unprecedented level of success on every measure of academic excellence; and

WHEREAS, research funding has increased by 70 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 diseases, 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 re-purposing of the Tulane Medical Center building; and

WHEREAS, these efforts will transform the downtown campus into a thriving center of cutting-edge research and innovation featuring a new nursing program, the Tulane Innovation Institute and more, and will create thousands of jobs while re-imagining 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 including 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 he 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 to Louisiana's economy; the university also directly employs over eight thousand people and indirectly supports an additional 5,310 jobs; and

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

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

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

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

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE